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**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families had a wonderful summer break and that you are returning feeling refreshed and ready for the new academic year. It is a great pleasure to welcome all of our children and families back to school. To those who are joining our school community for the first time, a particularly warm welcome – we are so pleased to have you as part of our school family.

The children have made a fantastic start to the new school year. It has been lovely to see them return with such enthusiasm, positivity and a real eagerness to learn. Our classrooms have already been filled with energy, focus and excitement, and we are incredibly proud of how quickly the children have settled back into their routines.

During the summer break, we continued to invest in our school environment, with improvements made to our reception area and updates to our external signage. These changes help to create an even more welcoming entrance to our school, and we hope you like them. As always, please remember that we are here to support you and your family in any way we can.

As we look ahead to the year, we will continue to focus on providing high-quality teaching and learning, whilst developing the values that are central to our federation: respect, curiosity, aspiration, independence and resilience. These values underpin everything we do and help our children to grow both academically and personally. We are also keen to continue developing our partnership with you. We know that when school and home work together in a positive and supportive way, children are given the very best opportunities to succeed. As part of this, we are excited to be establishing a new Parent Forum this year, giving families an additional opportunity to share their views, ideas and suggestions. More information will follow soon – watch this space!

Attendance remains an important priority for us this year. Following the decrease in our overall attendance percentage last year, it is essential that we continue to work together to ensure that children attend school regularly and are able to make the most of every learning opportunity. We were pleased to finish last academic year with attendance close to 96%, which was above the national attendance figure for primary schools; however, we know that there is still room for improvement. The message remains clear: children whose attendance is above 97% achieve significantly higher academic outcomes. Please take some time to visit our [Attendance webpage](https://www.guillemont.org.uk/attendance) where you will find useful information and guidance.

We have lots to look forward to this year, and we are particularly excited about our upcoming Whole Federation Trip to the Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke on Thursday 10th December to see *Beauty and the Beast*! Please continue to check our newsletters and website regularly for important

information and updates. As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. A list of key reminders can be found below.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to welcoming you to school events throughout the year and working alongside you to make this a happy, successful and memorable year for every child.

Together, we will ensure that every child has **“The Roots to Grow, The Wings to Fly.”**

Warmest regards

*P. Shakespeare*

Paul Shakespeare

Executive Headteacher

#### **Autumn 2026 REMINDERS**

##### ➤ **Start of the School Day**

- The school gates will be open from **8:30am**. Registration will be **8:45am**. Your child must be in class by 8:45am for registration. Children enter through our pedestrian gates. All children, in all year groups, will go straight into class from 8:30am.
- Parents/Carers are welcome to walk onto the site to drop your child off at the year group door. Any quick message to an adult can be passed over; otherwise please go to reception to book an appointment. Parents are not allowed into the classroom/cloakrooms; the children are all capable of organising themselves independently.

##### ➤ **End of the School Day**

- The day finishes at **3:25pm**. Parents are welcome to collect their child from outside the year group doors; please enter through our pedestrian entrances (the gate will be unlocked around 3:05pm) to walk round to collect your child. **Yr3 parents: please spread out on the playground and find your own space for your child to walk over to you.**

##### ➤ **Reception/School Office**

- The school office will be open from 8:15am – 4:30pm (4:00pm on Fridays) for visitors.
- Any medication for your child must be brought into reception and the appropriate forms completed in order for us to administer it.

##### ➤ **BASC**

- This will continue as usual. Please ensure you book through Arbor. For further details visit our webpage [here](#).

##### ➤ **PE Kits, School Bags & Equipment**

- We would like your child to come into school wearing their PE kit on their specified PE days. During the colder months, your child will need to wear jogging bottoms and a jumper.
- On occasions the PE day may need to change. Where possible, we will ensure we notify you at least two days in advance.

##### ➤ **Clubs**

- Various clubs will be in place in the Autumn term. More information will follow soon. They do work on a first come first served basis so get in quick to not miss out!

##### ➤ **Parent helpers**

- Adults wishing to come into school to listen to children read, help in the library will be warmly welcomed! Please contact the school office should you wish to support us.

##### ➤ **Reading at home**

- Please ensure you listen to your child read at home at least 5 times each week – little and often is the most effective way! We will monitor the ‘Reading Bookmarks’ books on a Friday morning.