

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break. As we prepare to embark on another exciting academic year, I look forward to extending a warm welcome back to all our students, both returning and new. I am thrilled to see our school community come together again, filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to learning.

What's New This Year

This year, we are introducing several new initiatives to enhance the learning experience for all students. These include:

- Streamlined drop off and collection times to ensure the maximum learning opportunities can be accessed by all students - thank you in advance for your support with this. We acknowledge that there may be some initial challenges and families settle into the new routines, but a reminder that the gates for Years 1-6 will close at 8:30am. Reception students will have a slightly later drop off time to avoid congestion with our younger students.
- New playground equipment - We have been afforded the opportunity to enhance our outdoor playing area with the installation of an exciting Trim Trail, interactive wall play boards and playground markings to encourage the development of a wide range of social and physical skills during breaktimes.
- Staff - as detailed on the letter at the end of last term we are welcoming new teaching assistants; Mimi Yems, Louise Darcy, Daisy Kelleher, Lisa Jones, and a new member of the Primary senior leadership team, Miss Rebecca McGuiness

Curriculum evenings for each year group - as the term starts, we will be inviting you to come and find out all about the activities and expectations of your child's year group with your child's new class teacher - separate communication will be sent regarding these.

Specialist teaching - one of the advantages of attending an all-through school is the access to specialist subject teaching which enhances not only curriculum knowledge, but also builds successful relationships between Primary students and Secondary teachers which in turns aids smooth transition into the Secondary phase. This year our specialist teaching is outlined as follows:

- Reception - PE lessons from Sportitude
- Year 1 - PE lessons from Sportitude and Secondary PE staff, Music lessons from Mrs Osborne (our Primary music lead)
- Year 2 - PE lessons from Sportitude and Secondary PE staff, Music lessons from Create Music
- Years 3 & 4 - PE lessons from Sportitude and Secondary PE staff, Music lessons from Create Music, Computer Science lessons from Secondary Computing staff
- Year 5 & 6 - PE lessons from Sportitude and Secondary PE staff, Music lessons from Create Music, Computer Science lessons from Secondary Computing staff, French and Spanish lessons from Secondary Modern Foreign Language (MFL) teachers, Science lessons from Secondary Science teachers

Uniform

Wearing our uniform correctly and with pride is an essential part of belonging to Gildredge House. Most of our students have impeccable uniform, however we would like to remind you that we

will be contacting you as parents and carers if we feel your child is not wearing the correct uniform. Of note would be ensuring black shoes are worn, and on PE days black or white trainers. More information can be found on our website. Not forgetting that we have a comprehensive quality second hand uniform provision which will be running regular opening slots.

Communication

Our office staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have throughout the year, so please do contact them in the first instance if you have any queries or questions, they can be contacted on primaryoffice@gildredgehouse.org.uk. Class teachers have limited opportunities to check and reply to messages within the school day and so communication may feel smoother if you are able to speak to the office staff in the first instance. This is particularly important if you are needing to let us know about a change in collection arrangements, for example.

All ASPIRE and behaviour points will continue to be communicated via EDULINK. Please do make sure you have access to your account. We also have our fortnightly newsletter and Facebook to help you with dates and upcoming events. We are working to ensure that communication is timely and relevant.

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please notify the school **before 8.00 am** by using the 'Absence Reporting' link in the EduLink app, by sending an email to absences@gildredgehouse.org.uk or by telephoning 01323 400650. When leaving a message, please remember to include your child's full name, class and reason for absence. Please notify the school on each day of absence.

It just leaves me to say that it has been a pleasure to meet many of you during my first year at Gildredge, and I have enjoyed getting to know your children and seeing their progress both in their learning and their social development. I am keen to continue building and maintaining strong communication and partnership with you as parents and carers. I believe that education is a collaborative effort and encourage you to stay engaged with your child's learning throughout the year. Whether through parent-teacher meetings, school events, or regular updates, we look forward to working closely with you to support your child's success.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Helen Punter-Bruce