

NEWSLETTER

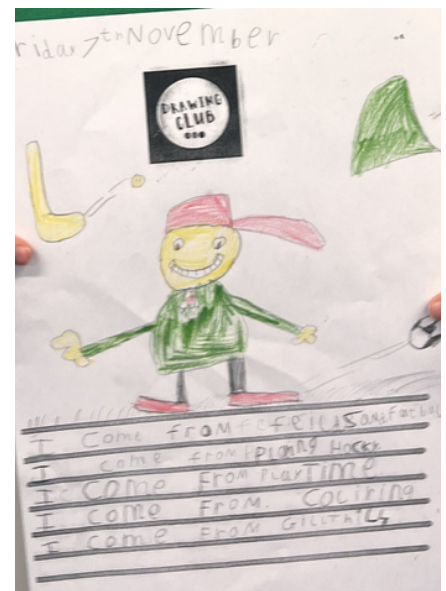
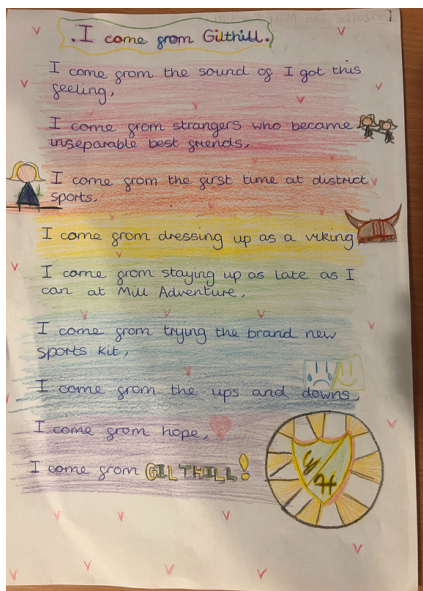
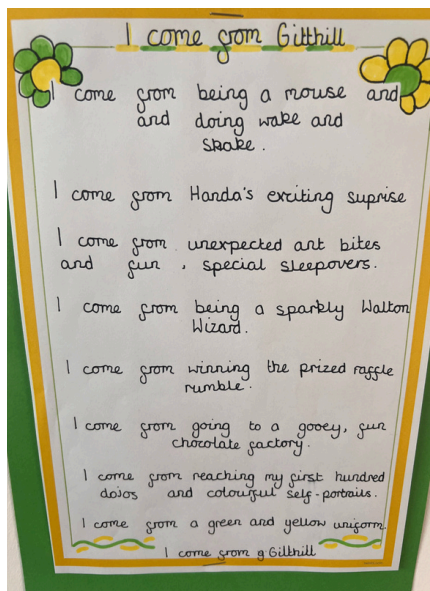


Headteacher Message

The second half of the Autumn term is flying by! This really is my favourite term of the year with the Christmas preparations and celebrations. The famous Gilthill Christmas tree has arrived and it won't be long until the tinsel is sparkling, the baubles are hanging and the festivities can begin! Please keep reading for more information about our Christmas celebrations.

The children have worked so hard this term. They've settled into their new classes wonderfully, and I have been nothing short of proud of the work they have produced. At the beginning of the half-term, we had a whole school writing event where every child wrote a poem titled "I Come From Gilthill." This was inspired by a BBC community project called "I Come From Hope," where children from a school in Bradford expressed their experiences of growing up in their area.

Every child in our school penned a poem reflecting what Gilthill and their home means to them, and we then shared them all during our ACE assembly. What a fantastic event it was! The children delighted us with their memories and feelings of belonging to Gilthill and the local community. From references to "Walton's Wizard" and "playtime and friends time", our children really showcased what it means to be part of a family. My favourite line was: **'I come from Green and Yellow, I come from Gilthill!'**



Governor Open Day

This month, we had a fantastic Governor Open Day, where our dedicated governors came into school to experience life at Gilthill firsthand. They visited classrooms, chatted with our pupils, and had the chance to look through their work. It was a joy to witness oracy in action, and many of our governors commented on how embedded our oracy development initiatives are within the school. The day was not only a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase all the hard work we've been doing, but it also strengthened the connection between our governors and the school community.

A huge thank you to our governors for giving their time to spend the day with us. We truly appreciate your support and involvement!

Christmas Events

As the festive season approaches, we are delighted to share all the exciting events happening across the school. Christmas is when our EYFS and KS1 children put on their Nativity performances. Our junior children put on performances throughout the year with our Year 3 and 4 children performing their show at the end of the Spring term and the Year 5 and 6 children having the final show of the year in July. This way, performances aren't always happening at the same time and are spread across the school year.

Mark your calendars for this year's Nativity dates:

- EYFS (Year R) Tuesday, 9th December at 9.30 am
- KS1 (Year 1 and 2) Wednesday, 10th December at 2.30 pm



Letters have already been sent to parents to book tickets for these memorable events, during which the PTA and office staff will be on hand to serve festive refreshments.

Friday, 12th December - Christmas jumper day. Children are invited to come to school in their favourite festive jumpers and enjoy a day of fun without the need for school uniform. We will be performing some traditional carols and recording them for parents to enjoy.

On Monday, 15th December, all children from Year R to Year 6 will be treated to a trip to the pantomime:

- Morning performance during the school day
- Please inform your child's class teacher as soon as possible if your child will not be attending
- Preferred payment method: ParentPay, but alternative arrangements can be made at the school office
- Children will receive a drink and a treat during the interval, courtesy of the PTA.

On Tuesday, 16th December, we will have:

- School Christmas dinner day

The autumn term will wrap up with celebrations on Friday, 19th December:

- Parents are warmly invited to join their children for Christmas songs in the classrooms starting at 2 pm.



As in previous years, if children would like to send Christmas cards, please could we ask that they send one card to their whole class? We've enjoyed this tradition for the past couple of years, and both children and teachers look forward to sharing those festive greetings! If your child wishes to send more cards, do feel free to distribute them in your own time.

Open Classroom Event

Back in October, we held our first Open Classroom event of the year in Year 6, and what a huge success it was! Last week, our Year 5 class hosted their Open Classroom event, which was also incredibly well attended. Parents have shown a keen interest in staying updated with their child's learning journey, and what better way to do so than by spending time in the classroom? It was delightful to hear the children discuss their learning and share their work with parents and carers. Next up is our Year 4 class, welcoming parents on Wednesday, 14th January 2026, from 2:45 PM. We look forward to seeing you there



Fundraising



So far this term, we have supported a number of wonderful charities at Gilthill School. In September, our Macmillan coffee afternoon was a lovely success, raising £119.75 for a great cause. We also collected food for the Eastwood foodbank during our Harvest Festival, bringing our community together to support those in need.

In November, we donned our spotty accessories and shared acts of kindness in support of Children In Need where we raised £91.28 for this charity. Our efforts for this year's Poppy Appeal were equally rewarding, and we can't wait to share the final amount raised once we hear back from the Royal British Legion.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all our parents who generously donated and supported these charitable events. At Gilthill, we truly believe in nurturing compassion and empathy in our children. By coming together and raising funds, our children have demonstrated that even the smallest gestures can create a significant impact!



Parent Survey

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents who took the time to complete the recent survey. Your feedback is invaluable to us as it provides crucial insights into how we are performing and identifies areas where we can make improvements. We truly appreciate all the comments and suggestions for enhancement, which reflect your commitment to our school community.

The survey results indicate a strong overall performance in several key areas at Gilthill. Notably, pupil happiness and emotional well-being received highly positive responses, showcasing our success in fostering a nurturing atmosphere. Parents feel assured about pupil safety, reflecting our robust safeguarding measures and supportive culture. Behaviour management is also rated positively, indicating effective discipline strategies that contribute to a well-managed learning environment. Communication regarding the curriculum is strong, ensuring parents are well-informed and engaged in their child's educational journey. While our support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was rated as good, there remains room for development in personal development programmes, which we will explore further based on your feedback.

Overall, we are delighted by the very positive responses and aim to continue prioritising what works while enhancing areas that can benefit from additional attention. Thank you once again for your participation and support!

New Parent Tours

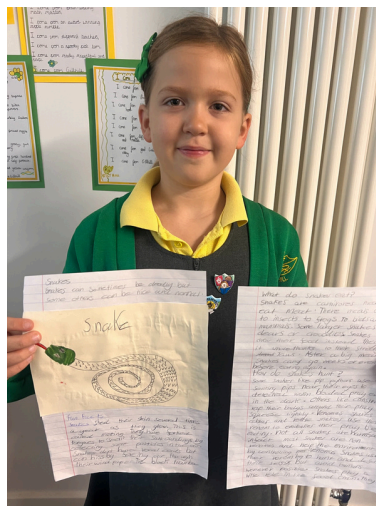
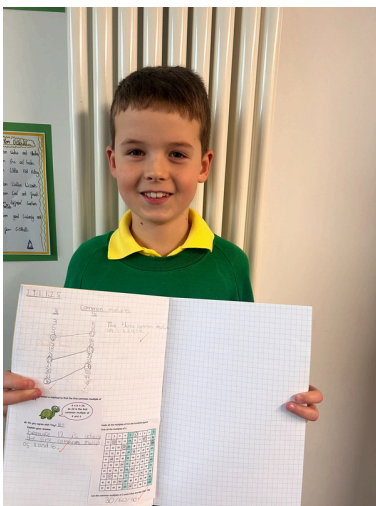
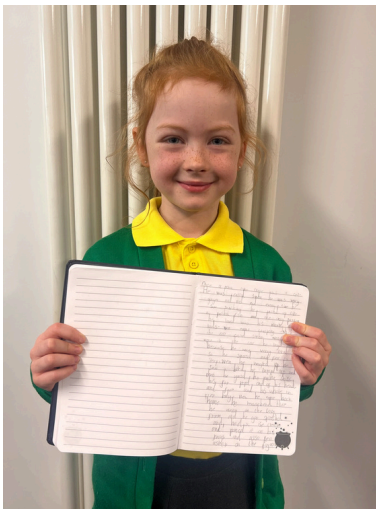
We are currently conducting school tours for prospective parents of children due to start primary school in September 2026. It's a true pleasure to showcase our wonderful school environment and share the fabulous work we do here at Gilthill. Last year, we were oversubscribed, which is fantastic and highlights how highly regarded we are in the local community.

So far, prospective parents have given us excellent feedback about our school and the amazing facilities we have on offer. If you happen to know any parents who are on the lookout for a Reception place next September, please encourage them to get in touch and book onto one of our tour dates. Please follow the QR code to our website where all the dates and times are listed. We'd absolutely love to welcome them and show off what makes our school truly special! Let's work together to spread the word and ensure every child has the opportunity to join our incredible community.



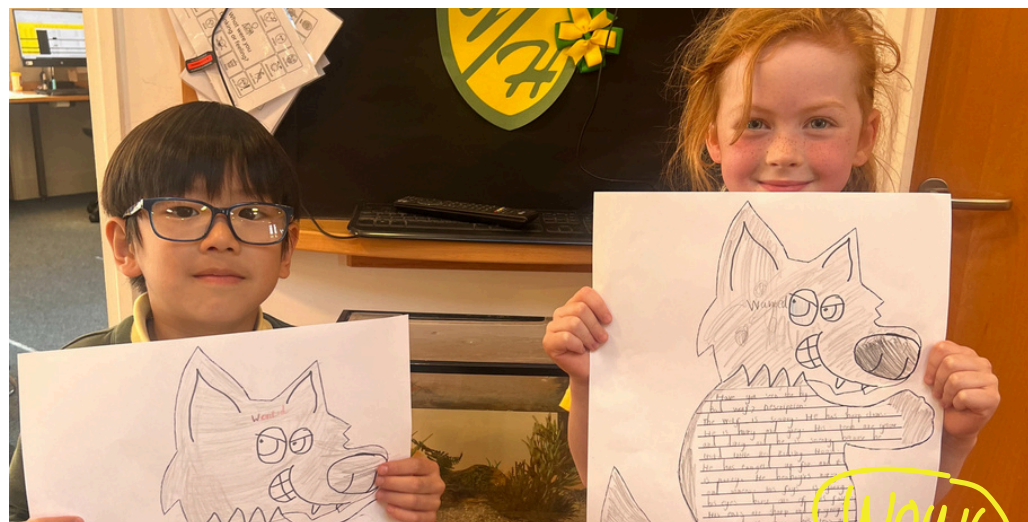
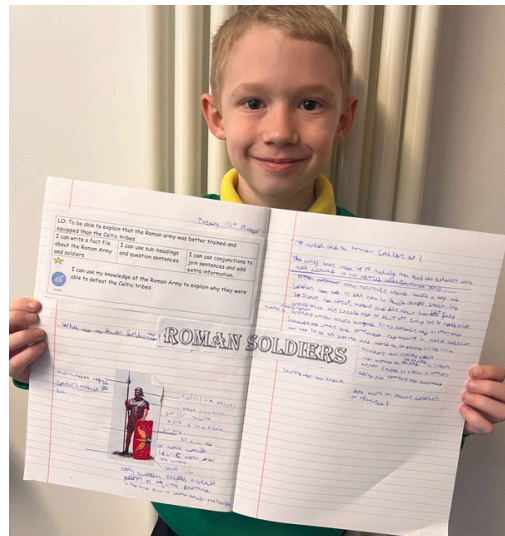
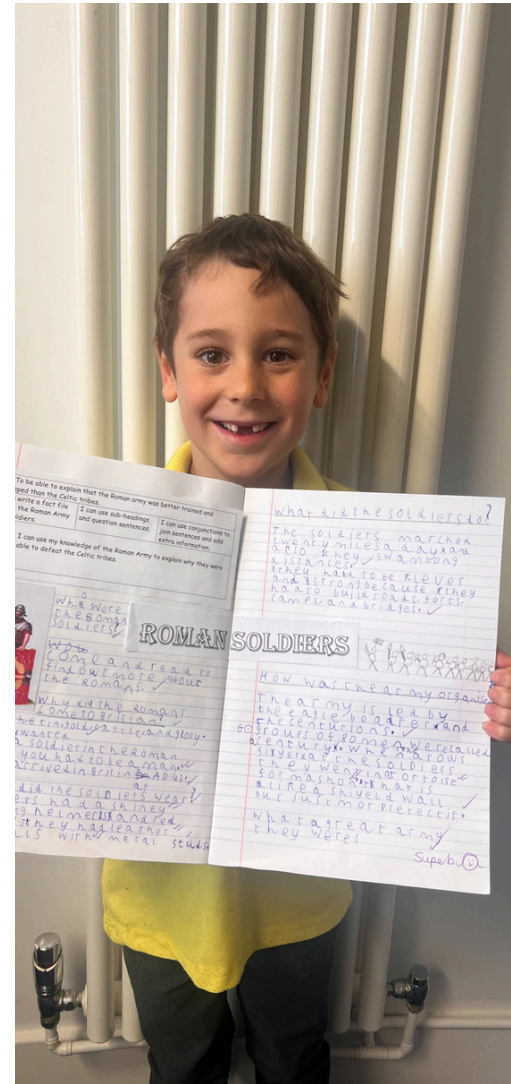
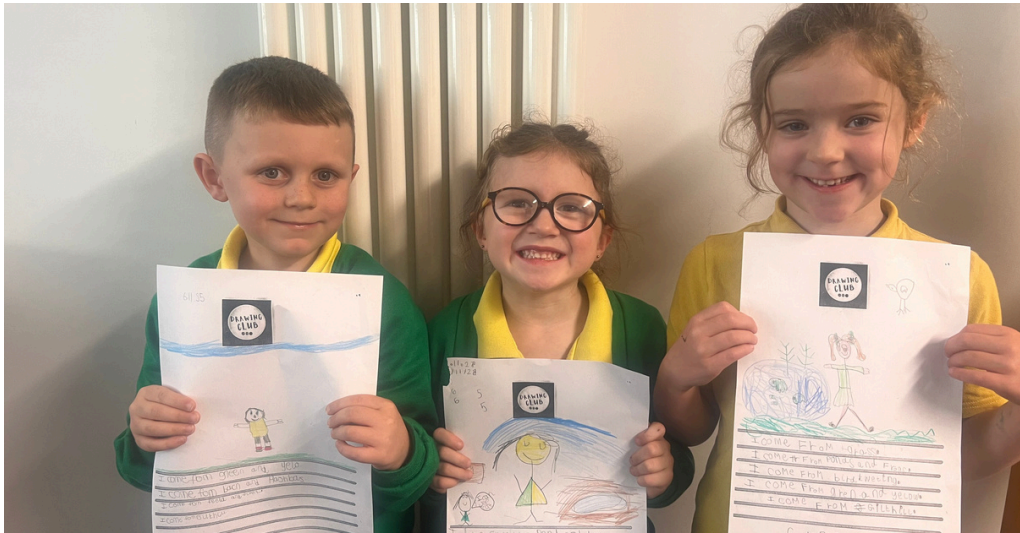
Wow Work

We've had so much wow work this month that we couldn't fit it all on one page! A huge well done to Olivia-Rose in Year 2, who wrote her own story at home. She was absolutely thrilled to come and share her literary skills with me – a true author in the making! Niamh in Year 4 is another star, creating her own booklet about her Year 4 experiences; simply beautiful work! And Lexi in Year 6 and Jesse in Year 3 wowed me with their "I Come From Gilthill" poems, sharing lovely memories from Gilthill and the local community. James in Year 5 produced some excellent maths work and Megan in Year 3 spent time creating her own snake fact file! Keep it up, everyone!



Wow Work

Another page full of Wow work! What more could we ask for? Well done to Harry, Daisy, and Marnie in Year 1, who wrote some exceptional "I come from Gilthill" poems—just magical! Primrose in Year 3 created a smashing model of her bedroom using a cardboard box, complete with pink bedding on her bed! Eli and Oliver in Year 4 worked diligently on their double-page spreads all about Roman soldiers. Great thinking like historians, boys! Finally, let's give a shout-out to Ethan and Olivia-Rose (she's having a fantastic month!) for producing some brilliant writing inspired by Little Red Riding Hood. Keep up the amazing work, everyone!



Superstars

We need to start off this month's sports superstars with a special mention for Isaac B in Year 3, who won his golf league championship trophy! This national award is a testament to how hard Isaac has worked to perfect his sport. He loves competing, and we are so proud of his achievements in his chosen activity.

The rest of us have gone Blue Peter Badge mad this month! It's absolutely wonderful to see so many of our children being awarded their Blue Peter badges for various accomplishments. A massive well done to Megan in Year 3, Abbie in Year 5, Jake in Year 3, Tabitha in Year 4, Poppy in Year 4, and Olivia in Year 4. Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!



SUPERSTAR

Superstars...continued

Even more superstars in this month's newsletter! A huge well done to Max in Year 3 for being awarded a top player award from his Rugby Club. So proud, Max. Isla in Year 5 was extremely proud to show me her Brownie badges, and I was equally proud to hear about her role in the Kimberley Remembrance Parade for Remembrance Sunday. What a fantastic accomplishment! Delilah in Year 2 was named Player of the Match in one of her recent football matches for her local team. And let's not forget Isabelle in Year 5, who wowed me with her gymnastics medal from a recent competition. They are all superstars, both in sport and beyond!



SUPERSTAR

Online Safety & Wellbeing

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Dates for your diary



Here are the dates for the diary for the remaining part of the Autumn Term 2025. Additional dates will be added, and some dates may be amended closer to the time if necessary. We will, of course, give parents plenty of notice of any date changes. Thank you for taking the time to read this month's newsletter. Your ongoing support is always very much appreciated.

Date	Event
28.11.25	PTA Christmas Cookie sale @3.30pm
9.12.25	EYFS Nativity 9.30am
10.12.25	KS1 Nativity 2.30pm
12.12.25	Christmas Jumper day
15.12.25	Whole school Panto trip
16.12.25	Christmas Dinner Day
19.12.25	Carols in the classrooms from 2pm
19.12.25	Last day of term.
5.1.26	INSET day
6.1.26	Children return to school
8.1.26	Dental Survey (5 year olds)
14.1.26	Open classroom event Year 4 @2.45pm
22.1.26	Maths Masters Event (after school)*selected children
26.1.26	Year 5 and 6 trip to Wollaton Hall
28.1.26	Open classroom event Year 3 @2.45pm
29.1.26	Yr R and 6 height and weight checks
6.2.26	Cross country competition at Wollaton Park
10.2.26	Parents Evening
11.2.26	Parents Evening
13.2.26	Break up for half term