

Friday 10th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Another New School Year!

As we reach the end of another memorable school year, and just a week on from returning from North Wales where 26 of our wonderful Year 6 pupils successfully summited Snowdon, I find myself reflecting on what an extraordinary community we have here at Gulval School. Experiences like that remind me just how fortunate we are to work with such resilient, determined and caring young people. They represented our school brilliantly and were a credit to themselves, their families and our staff team throughout the residential.



Having spent more than twenty years working in education across a variety of schools, leadership roles and phases, alongside my wider Trust responsibilities for pupil and staff wellbeing, I am continually reminded of just how special Gulval School is. The skill, commitment and compassion shown by our staff every single day make a genuine difference to the lives of children and families. Whether in classrooms, on the playground, during residential visits or behind the scenes, their dedication never wavers. It is a privilege to lead such a talented and hardworking team.

This has been another year packed with opportunities, achievements and memorable moments. Like any successful school, we have also faced challenges along the way, but each one has helped us learn, adapt and continue moving forward. Our ambition for the children of Gulval remains unwavering, and our school continues to go from strength to strength. Central to everything we do is a commitment to nurturing, supporting and championing every child and family in our community. While no school gets everything right all of the time, I can assure you that every decision we make is rooted in care, integrity and a determination to do the very best for your children. Thank you, as always, for the trust, encouragement and support you continue to show our school.



One of the strongest endorsements of our school continues to come from our families and the wider community. I am delighted to share that our Reception class for September is once again oversubscribed, with 43 families selecting Gulval School as their first-choice preference for just 25 available places. This is an incredible reflection of the reputation our school has built over many years and a tribute to the dedication, care and expertise of our staff team. Our pupil numbers are now the highest they have ever been, with only one school place remaining open. We are really looking forward to welcoming many new children and families into our school community in September, while continuing to work closely with those already part of it.

The influence of our staff extends far beyond our school gates. Across Truro and Penwith Academy Trust, members of our team continue to provide leadership and support that benefits children and colleagues throughout all 36 schools. Emily Shapland continues to share her expertise in Early Years, supporting other settings to strengthen their provision, while Mr Yates is progressing through his Trust-wide mathematics leadership development journey. Alongside my role as Headteacher, I remain

ADVENTURES





so with optimism, ambition and a clear sense of purpose. Whatever opportunities and challenges lie ahead, we will continue striving to provide the very best for every child, with the wellbeing, success and happiness of our children and families remaining at the centre of all that we do.



privileged to lead on pupil and staff wellbeing across the Trust, with an emphasis on embedding our own relational practices and behaviour policy in all Trust Primary schools. These opportunities are one of many wider examples that recognise the quality and expertise within our team.

What makes Gulval School such a special place is not only the knowledge, experience and talent of our staff, but also their relentless enthusiasm for learning, improvement and innovation. There is always another challenge to embrace, another idea to explore and another opportunity to make things even better for our children. Education is a profession that never stands still, and neither do we.

As we look ahead to the next academic year, we do

Recognising Parent Feedback

We are always grateful for the feedback we receive from families, and a number of parents have told us that they would welcome more opportunities to see and celebrate their children's work at the end of the school year. In response to this feedback, we will be holding an Open Afternoon on Thursday 16th July. This will provide an opportunity for children to share and celebrate their learning, while also giving parents and carers the chance to speak informally with class teachers. Further information will follow shortly, and we look forward to welcoming you into school.

One of the real strengths of Gulval School is the stability, experience and commitment of our staff team, and I am delighted that there will be no changes to our teaching team in September. We are also very pleased to welcome Miss Wise back from maternity leave in the coming days. While they don't know it yet, children have already begun spending time with their teacher for next year and there will be further opportunities over the coming days. We know how important a smooth and positive transition is, and our staff work hard to ensure that every child feels confident, supported and excited about the year ahead. Our 'moving up day' is on Wednesday 15th next week.

So, who will be your child's Class Teacher from September?

Class	Year Group	2025_26 Teacher / Manager	
Little Learners	Nursery	Emily Shapland and Lisa Leeds	This might look a little complicated but the good news is that all actual classrooms are staying in the same place. Diamond will still be next to Amethyst which is just down the road from Sapphire. Our current Reception children are already practicing those Citrine Class steps and Miss Wilsons Year 2 Class won't have to walk as far, entering their Emerald Classroom in September next to the school main entrance.
Big Explorers			
Ruby Class	Reception	Mrs Hutton!! (Miss Robertson)	
Citrine Class	Year 1	Miss Blyth	
Topaz Class	Year 2	Miss Wilson and Miss Warren	
Emerald Class	Year 3	Mrs Sherwood	
Amethyst Class	Year 4	Miss Roach	
Diamond Class	Year 5	Miss Wise and Miss Robinson	
Sapphire Class	Year 6	Mr Yates	

Every decision I make as Headteacher is guided by a simple principle: doing what is right for the children and families we serve. I feel immensely proud to lead Gulval School and to be part of such a special community. While school leadership brings its fair share of challenges, there is nowhere else I would

rather be. We have achieved so much together, but we are never complacent. There are exciting developments ahead, fresh opportunities to embrace and further improvements to make. As always, I remain fully committed to giving my very best to Gulval School, its children, families and staff. That commitment is as strong today as it has ever been.



School Uniform

As we look ahead to September, I would like to take the opportunity to remind families of our expectation that all children attend school in the correct school uniform. Uniform helps to create a sense of belonging, pride and identity within our school community, while ensuring children arrive ready to learn and participate fully in school life. Penny has well-stocked uniform wardrobes with items ready for the new academic year. An order form and current price list can be found on our school website [here](#), while full details of our uniform expectations are available in our [2026 Prospectus](#) and Uniform and Appearance Policy which you can find [here](#). We understand that there may occasionally be circumstances where a child is unable to wear the correct uniform. Should this happen, we will always work with families to find a solution. We keep a supply of good-quality second-hand uniform available and will do our best to ensure that any issues are addressed sensitively, with minimal disruption to children's learning and school experience. If you have any questions regarding sizing, availability or any aspect of school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact Penny in the school office. We are always happy to help and support families wherever we can.



Breakfast and Pirates Club

Our School House Breakfast Club and after school Pirates Club continue to provide a valuable service for families, offering childcare from 7:45am until 5:30pm each day, including for our Nursery-aged children. One of the many strengths of our wraparound provision is that it is staffed by adults who are already familiar and trusted figures within our school community. This consistency helps children feel safe, secure and confident, while ensuring that the routines, expectations and relationships they experience during the school day continue beyond it. Under the care of Mrs Markham, Miss Sweetman, Mrs Davy, Mrs Wallis and Nay, Breakfast and Pirates Club have become much more than childcare provision—they are welcoming, enjoyable and enriching parts of the school day for many of our children. If you would like to make use of this provision, entry to School House is via the black gate on School Lane, and sessions can be booked through Penny in the school office. As with all aspects of school life, we expect children attending Breakfast and Pirates Club to follow our school values and behavioural expectations. As this provision operates outside of the statutory school day, the school reserves the right to withdraw places where persistent behaviour concerns affect the safety, wellbeing or experience of others attending the club.



Our School Farm

Our School Farm remains one of the most unique and valued aspects of life at Gulval School. The animals bring so much to our school community, providing children with opportunities to develop responsibility, compassion and a deeper understanding of the natural world. They also contribute greatly to the calm and nurturing environment we work so hard to create. Whether children are feeding the animals, helping with their care or simply spending time observing them, the farm offers countless moments of learning, enjoyment and connection that enrich everyday school life. Of course, maintaining such a special resource is only possible because of the generosity and



ADVENTURES





commitment of our wider school community. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our wonderful Spond Farm volunteers, who give up their weekends to help care for our animals and ensure they receive the highest standards of welfare throughout the year. I am also incredibly grateful to the families who volunteer their time during school holidays to support the farm. Your contribution makes a genuine difference and allows this much-loved part of our school to continue thriving for all our children.

If you would be interested in becoming part of our farm volunteer team, please look out for my post on Spond and our school Facebook page, or speak to Mrs Davies or me directly. We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers and would love to hear from you.

Finally...

As we head into the final weeks of the academic year, it's hard to believe quite how much we have packed into the last ten months. It has been a year full of learning, laughter, challenge, success and countless memorable moments. Together—children, staff, our Local Monitoring Committee, FRoGS and families—we have continued to build a school community that is caring, ambitious and full of opportunity. I am incredibly grateful for the support, trust and encouragement that exists between home and school; it is one of the many things that makes Gulval such a special place.

Our school vision, "We believe, we matter; we can shine." remains at the heart of everything we do. Over the course of this year, I have seen those words brought to life every single day. I have seen children believe in themselves as they tackled new challenges, matter through the kindness, care and respect they show others, and shine through their achievements both inside and outside the classroom. It is a privilege to watch our pupils grow into confident, compassionate and capable young people.

Before we break up for the summer at 1:30pm on Friday 24th July, there is still plenty to look forward to. We have our Summer Fair, Year 6 leavers' celebrations, trips to Camel Creek, Shining Star assemblies, Stay and Play Fridays, the ever-competitive Year 6 versus Staff rounders match, our whole-school performance, an open afternoon and, of course, lots more great learning still to squeeze into the days ahead.

So, for one final push this year, let's continue to believe, remember that we matter, and give ourselves every opportunity to shine.

Hold on tight everyone—we're nearly there! ☀️

Yours Sincerely



Mr Paul Baker
Headteacher

ACHIEVEMENT
TUMBLING
ROUNDERS

