

An update from Mrs Edwards



I can't quite believe we have reached the end of Term 4! Where is the time going? It has been a term full of celebrating our fabulous team and community and what better way to end it than Cultural Appreciation Week and our first celebration assembly with families. It has been great to see pupils share their cultures with their classes and a huge thank you to those of you who were able to join us to share your traditions. Our pupils absolutely loved it and gained a lot from this experience as did we as staff.



This term's *Gillingstool Greatness* Winners!

Today, we have also recognised and celebrated World Autism Awareness Day with the goal of spreading kindness and inclusion - values that we are proud to see lived out by our pupils every day. We are incredibly proud of our school's diversity and recognise the importance of supporting our learners to embrace and celebrate one another's differences and create an environment where everyone feels welcomed and supported.

This term, it has been a joy to see the confidence of our team grow and their achievements flourish. Adaam in Year 6 brought home the Rotary Club trophy for his fantastic speech on the impact of smart phones. He was also joined at the event by Amelia who was shortlisted to the top 12! What an achievement! We have also seen a real increase in pupils sharing Out of School Achievements with us and seeking myself and Mrs Stimpson to celebrate their resilience across the curriculum. This brings us so much joy!

With spring now upon us, it has been lovely to enjoy brighter days and some much-needed sunshine. The excitement that the field was open was unmatched and with Dave from Pride in Play's music out there, it has been a magical place at playtimes.

We hope you have a well-deserved, restful break and get to spend some quality time together where possible and we will see you all in the summer term!

Mrs Edwards

Dates for your diaries:



Term Five

Monday 20th April

Term 5 begins.

Thursday 7th May

Class Photos

w/c Monday 11th May

Y6 SATs week

w/c Monday 18th May

Science Week

Monday 18th May

Y2 Class Assembly

Friday 22nd May

Term 5 ends

Term Five

Monday 1st June

Term 6 begins

Fortnight commencing 1st June

Year 4 Times Tables Check

w/c Monday 8th June

Phonics Screening Check

Monday 1st June

Term 6 begins

Monday 22nd June

Year 1 Class Assembly

w/c Monday 22nd June

Sports Week

Wednesday 24th June

Sports Day – am and weather dependent

Monday 6th July

Reception Class Assembly

6th and 8th July

Parent Evening

Tuesday 7th July

Shuffle Up Afternoon and New Reception
2026 Stay and Play

Thursday 9th July

Year 6 performance – 5pm

Monday 1st June

Term 6 begins

Friday 17th July

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and End of Year

A special send off!



The absolute end of an era with saying goodbye to Mrs Cooper and Mr Morris. We gave Mr Morris a special send off with one last, whole school fist bump in our celebration assembly. For Mrs Cooper, we stuck to her wishes of something lower key and delivered her certificate and card to the office with a cup of tea and some of her favourite biscuits. They will both leave a huge void in the team and will be missed but we wish them all the very best on their retirement adventures and know that they will always be members of Team Gillingstool!



Goodbye to members of our staff team

After a period of personal leave, Mrs Mitchinson has decided to leave her role as a Teacher at Gillingstool with effect from 2nd April 2026. We would like to thank Mrs Mitchinson for her contribution and commitment during her time with us and would like to take this opportunity to wish her well in the future.

Ensuring resources stay with their owners

Please note that this remains a standing item due to this continuing to be an issue in school:

Just a polite reminder that pupils should not bring personal items or toys from home into school unless they have been specifically requested by a member of staff as with our Cultural Appreciation request for example.

We know that many children have special belongings they are excited to share but bringing them into school can sometimes lead to them being misplaced, damaged, or causing distractions during learning time which none of us want for them.

We thank you in advance for your support with this.

Healthy lunches



As part of our commitment to being a Healthy School, we love sharing ideas and guidance with families about making healthy choices, including snacks.

Through our Jigsaw learning, we talk with the children about what makes a healthy snack, and we're delighted to be able to offer fruit and vegetables for our lower school thanks to the South Glos fruit and veg scheme.

Our school meals are carefully planned to meet healthy eating guidelines, and we know many families also provide packed lunches. If you're looking for inspiration or guidance, the Change4Life website offers some really helpful ideas for creating balanced, nutritious lunchboxes: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

You can also find great advice on healthy snacks for break times. The NHS recommends limiting snacks to two a day, with around 100 calories per snack:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids>

Just a polite reminder that we are a **nut free** school.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us encourage healthy habits for all our children.

Free School Meals



If you are receiving a qualifying benefit, you may be eligible for Free School Meals. If this is the case, we strongly encourage you to apply – it can make a real difference to your family and to our school community!

After a period of personal leave, Mrs Mitchinson has decided to leave her role as a Teacher at Gillingstool with effect from 2nd April 2026. We would like to thank Mrs Mitchinson for her contribution and commitment during her time with us and would like to take this opportunity to wish her well in the future. eligible, it may be that you could save over £400 per year, per child which could definitely help ease the added pressures of the cost of living. In addition, every successful application brings extra funding into school through Pupil Premium, which we use to further support children's learning and opportunities both within and outside of the classroom.

The application process is quick and straightforward, taking just a few minutes to complete. You can find out more and apply online here: www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Out of school opportunities:



Annual Town Meeting

All residents are warmly invited to Thornbury's Annual Town Meeting 2026. There will be a variety of stalls run by local groups who work with young people, a chance to try hands activities and experiences, exciting guest speakers and free refreshments. Whilst the pre-meeting has a youth focus the ATM is for all residents - this is your chance to raise matters you feel are important, hear the latest news and to share ideas.



When: Doors open at 6.30pm on Tuesday 28th April 2026.

Where: Main hall, The Castle School, Park Road, Thornbury, BS35 1HT



No need to book - just come along on the evening!

Please see agenda overleaf.



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