

GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher update



Wow – what a term! It has been an absolute pleasure to get to know each and every one of you as members of our school team and get to know what a fabulous and special place Gillingstool is.

My absolute highlight of the term was Decades Week and seeing all of the fabulous outfits from Oompa Loompas to Disco Superstars – what an incredible day and community spirit that was! A huge thank you to you as families and Miss Goddard for the organisation that went into it. School was buzzing with energy that week.

As we end our first term together, I just want to take the time to wish you a wonderful break. I very much look forward to what the year ahead holds and thank you all for your support so far!

Mrs Edwards



Remembrance Celebrations



To mark Remembrance Day on 11th November, Gillingstool will be completing a two-minute silence to show our respect.

On **Monday 3rd November (the first day back)**, we will be selling poppies and other accessories such as snap bands.

We would welcome a donation to raise money for the Royal British Legion:

- a minimum of 20p for a poppy
- a minimum of a £1 for other items.

Thank you in advance for any contribution you are able to give.

Important dates this term:



Tuesday 4th November

FoG Halloween Disco

w/c Monday 10th November

Anti-Bullying and Getting Along Week begin – an exciting chance to collaborate with New Siblands!

Monday 10th November

Odd Socks Day to celebrate raising awareness of Anti-Bullying. Your child is invited to wear odd socks on this day.

Monday 10th and Wednesday 12th November

Parents' Evening

Wednesday 12th November

Reception 2026/27 Open Day – 9:30am and 11am

Thursday 13th November

Individual photos

Friday 14th November

INSET Day

Monday 24th November

Year 6 Class Assembly

Tuesday 25th November

Reception 2026/27 Open Day – 2pm

Monday 1st December

Reception 2026/27 Open Day – 4pm

Thursday 11th December

Christmas Fayre after school

Tuesday 16th December

Lower School Nativity – 2pm

Friday 19th December

Whole School Carol Concert – 1:30pm and **End of Term 2.**

Staffing update:



Exciting news for the wonderful Miss Gibson! She has decided to take her maternity leave a little bit early and take the opportunity to relax before the arrival of her baby.

We wish her well and cannot wait to welcome her back and meet her lovely new addition.

We know that she will be missed whilst she is off – lots of the team raised their hands in her celebratory assembly to say how much she'd helped them. If your child is in Year 2, they will be supported by a familiar member of our team in the interim whilst we are recruiting.

Home Belongings



A few cheeky things from home have started to creep their way into school. We would ask for your support to keep these things safely at home. If your child needs a fiddle toy or something to support them, please let us know and we will provide this in line with our school offer to not only support your child but also to keep their special things safe and at home.

Online Safety



You may have seen my email regarding a book series by Andrew Corpe and a corrupted webpage at the back of the books that leads pupils to explicit content. It has also been brought to our attention that a number of games directed at primary age children, have inappropriate content. We therefore ask that you continue to check the sites that your child is accessing and monitor their online use to keep them safe. YouTube has a child-friendly site and guidance on age-recommendations for apps can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/>

Parental Conduct



As a school team, we will always listen to your concerns and help in any way we can. We will always aim to treat you with respect and kindness.

If ever you have a concern, we ask that you either email the school office on office@gillingstool.org.uk or speak to us at the **end** of the day. We may need time to investigate your concern and, if this is the case, we will always aim to respond to your query within three working days.

A polite reminder that when you are on school site, we do have a duty of care to our pupils and their families. Therefore, we ask that there is no swearing, shouting or abusive behaviour towards our school staff and other families in our school community. Anyone behaving in this way will be asked to leave the school premises as we want Gillingstool to be a safe place for all its members.

BBC Dance for Children in Need



We are over the moon to announce that one of our Year 6 pupils is one of ten children in the UK to star in the Children in Need Choir. The pupil's performing arts group, BALPA, has been in touch with us to see if we want to be part of the *Children in Need* celebrations and the BBC are coming to school to teach and film us all dancing to raise awareness of this fabulous cause.

Filming will take place on Thursday 13th November. A consent form will be sent home on the first Monday back for you to sign if you are happy for your child to be filmed and potentially aired on the BBC. Children without photo consent will take part in the dance practice but will automatically **not** be part of the filming.

On the Thursday of this week, pupils are welcome to bring in Children in Need accessories, but as it is Individual Photo Day, we have decided not to make this a non-school uniform day. Children will have the option to have their face painted with colourful spots for the filming should they wish. Please let us know if you **do not** wish for this to happen.

Preparing for the colder weather



As the weather starts to turn, please ensure your child has a named **coat** in school and appropriate outside weather clothing such as **hats**, **scarves** and **coats**. We encourage our pupils outside as much as possible and therefore want them to be appropriately dressed to maximise this opportunity.

Exciting half term adventure



2nd November
Half term!

Tickets £8
Under 2's free!

Thornbury

Featuring Lucas Jet & Jong Juggler plus special guests

Show times: 11am, 1pm & 3pm
Turnberries Community Centre,
BS35 2BB

Doors open 30 minutes before
with a free circus workshop to
get warmed up!

TICKETS circusextravaganza.co.uk
or text 07891374983