

GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher update



Can you believe that we are halfway through the first term? It has absolutely flown by but I guess it is true what they say – time does really fly when you're having fun. It has been an honour to get to know the school, its wonderful pupils and you all as families and I am really excited about the year ahead.

As I start to really get a feel for it all and understand what the school needs, I am keen to work with you as families to implement these changes. I will be in touch regarding family working groups and surveys soon - it would be great to hear your say! Having also met with the *Friends of Gillingstool* earlier today, I am looking forward to the community events they have planned. We have their AGM coming up and I am sure they would welcome all the support you can give them in any way you can.

Mrs Edwards



Hot Choc with the Head



When I was interviewing for this role, the question I got asked most by families, staff and pupils was: "Do you promise to keep 'Hot Choc with the Head' going. With Mrs Carter very kindly leaving her special mugs, this is a tradition that has continued and what a pleasure it is to celebrate our 'Over and Above' learners each week and hear how they have wowed their teachers!



Important dates this term:



Tuesday 7th October

Reception 2026/27 Open Day – 9:30am and 11am – please contact the school office to book.

Friday 10th October

World Mental Health Day – wear something yellow!

w/b Monday 13th October

Decades Week – further information to follow.

Monday 13th October

Harvest Assembly – 9:10am. Families welcome. Please sign in at the office.

Thursday 16th October

Reception 2026/27 Open Day – 2pm and 4pm – please contact the school office to book.

Friday 17th October

Friends of Gillingstool AGM at 3:15pm – children welcome.

w/b Monday 20th October

Year 6 Residential to Manor Adventure

Friday 24th October

INSET Day

Two uniform updates:



1. We have a lot of **unnamed** lost property in school that we are struggling to reunite with its owners. Please ensure your child's belongings are named to support us with this. We know how frustrating it can be when that jumper has gone missing! We have purchased/repurposed containers which are shared between Year 1 and 2, 3 and 4 and 5 and 6. Reception have their own box. From next Friday, any lost property found will be collected into these boxes throughout the week and put out onto the playground on a Friday for you to look through.
2. We are having a big push on pupils taking pride in and wearing the correct uniform. A reminder of our policy can be found on the school website here: <https://www.gillingstool.org.uk/school-information/school-uniform>. Class teachers will be in touch if your child is in the incorrect uniform to see how we can support.

Staffing update



Some of you may have noticed already but we are very excited to announce that Miss Gibson is expecting her first baby in January 2026. Over the coming months, she will continue to support Team Gillingstool in the classroom while preparing for this exciting transition. Please join us in congratulating her on this wonderful news. We are so thrilled for her and can't wait to welcome the newest little member of our extended school family! We'll be sure to keep everyone updated as the due date gets closer.

Harvest donations



As part of our harvest celebrations, the food bank have requested the following donations:

- ☐ Tinned Fruit
- ☐ Tinned Potatoes
- ☐ Instant Noodles
- ☐ Cooking Sauces
- ☐ Fruit Squash
- ☐ Toothbrushes
- ☐ Washing Up Liquid
- ☐ Deodorant



If you are able, please donate these on Monday 13th October.

Coffee afternoon



Our first coffee afternoon of the year was a huge success – we will need a much bigger space next time. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. Key items raised:

1. A short survey will be sent out to families for us to understand what would make these sessions useful to you. There will always also be time for a coffee and catch up too.
2. To understand what your children are learning each term, please head to your child's class page on our school website. Teachers are in the process of updating these for Term 2.
3. Reading: All pupils should be changing their books weekly. If this is not happening, please let your child's class teacher know who will ensure this is resolved.
4. *Friends of Gillingstool*: The FoG are holding their annual AGM. The team support us in fundraising for the school. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for upcoming events that you can support.

Academy Community Councillors



Our Academy Community Councillors are looking to expand their team and recruit a parent governor. They meet four times annually to strategically support the school and ensure it is striving to be the very best it can be. Keep your eyes peeled for a letter if you are interested in joining them.

Pride in Play



Our Forest School Club offers children the chance to enjoy outdoor adventures in a safe and supportive setting. From campfire cooking and fire lighting to den building, tree climbing and outdoor games, children are encouraged to explore, create and learn through play.

The club is child-led, so they can join in with activities or simply enjoy being outside. We run in all weathers, helping children build resilience and a love of nature.

Tuesdays | 3:20 – 5:00pm | £4.25 per session

To book, contact Dave on 07401 816839 or scan the QR code below. This flyer has also been put up around school to support with this.

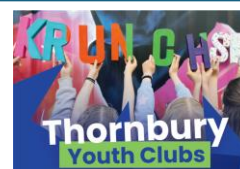
World Mental Health Day



On **Friday 10th October**, we will be celebrating World Mental Health Day. Pupils are invited to wear something yellow on this day to raise awareness - this could be as little as a yellow hair band or pair of socks to a yellow t-shirt. Please note, this is not a non-school uniform day, just a chance to wear something yellow with school uniform. In PHSE lessons this week, we will be completing activities associated with the cause.



Krunch South West Youth



As you may have seen from our Facebook post, *Krunch Southwest* are offering weekly youth clubs for just £1 at Turnberries Community Centre. Activities include a tuck shop, pool table and games console, arts and crafts, games and sports, snacks and a space to chill and chat. There is no need to book in advance!

When?

Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm

Wednesday evenings - school years 6 to 8

Thursday evening school years - 9 to 11

PRIDE in PLAY

From Year 1 - Year 6

After School Club

**Forest Skills • Tree Climbing • Outdoor Games
Den Building • Camp Fire Cooking • Sports**



**Every Tuesday
3:15pm - 5:00pm
£4.25 per day**

**To book, contact Dave
on 07401 816839 or
scan the QR code**



@prideinplay



facebook.com/prideinplay