

An update from Mrs Edwards



And somehow, just like that, we have reached the middle of Term 5! It feels like only yesterday we were on our Easter Holidays enjoying lots of chocolate treats for those who celebrate and now the weeks are absolutely flying by. Despite the rain, it is definitely warming up and we can't wait for more memory-making as the sun begins to shine. In only a short space of time, Year 3/4 have been on a trip to Cardiff Castle, Year 1 have learned to play the recorder and have filled the halls with their tunes and Reception have planted sunflowers to brighten our gardens!

Today, we have celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday. We've hunted bugs, learned about his accolades and found out that there are over 57 species named after him. Funny enough, Attenborough house won the house point competition today in assembly. What a coincidence!

There's still plenty to look forward to with Science Week and continuing our visits to Grace Care Home. We cannot wait.

As next week approaches, we are wishing all of our fabulous Year 6s the very best of luck as with their SATs week. Rest up team and we will see you all on Monday morning ready to show everyone just how hard you have been working.

Year 3/4 Trip to Cardiff Castle



What a fantastic time Team Puffin and Team Osprey had at Cardiff Castle. A huge thank you to our volunteers who were able to support! The teams ventured across the Prince of Wales bridge to strengthen their learning all about World War II. During their visit, they met an ARP warden, explored the keep, and even stepped inside real-life air raid shelters — which were very cold and a little bit scary! We know the opportunity really brought their learning to life and were greeted with lots of exciting recounts upon their return!



Dates for your diaries:



Term Five

w/c Monday 11th May
Y6 SATs week

w/c Monday 18th May
Science Week

Monday 18th May
Y2 Class Assembly – 9am

Monday 18th May
EYFS 'Meet the Teacher' event 9am – 9:45am

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 15th June
Year 1 Class Assembly – **Please note change of date**

Thursday 19th June
Year 6 Family Coffee Afternoon. See further information below.

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

Staffing updates



We are delighted to announce that Mrs Stephens has given birth to her beautiful baby girl: Marlowe Violet. The family are safely home and enjoying some quality time together.

We would like to welcome Mrs Cessford who will be joining our team as Reception Teacher and Mrs Ferns who will be joining Mrs Bowering in the office. I am sure they will appreciate a friendly Gillingstool greeting over the next few weeks.

After a whopping 17 years on the team, Mrs King has made the difficult decision to leave Gillingstool and take some time to consider next career steps. We are looking forward to seeing her on the team from time to time as she is keen to volunteer as and when she can to support our fabulous learners.

After a long period of absence, Mrs Wilson is rightfully enjoying early retirement. She is a bit of a legend among the staff team and we wish her all the best.

Home learning reminder



Just a reminder of our home learning expectations. Each week, children are expected to read, practise their number bots/times tables on Times Table Rockstars and spellings on EdShed five times a week. If your child has misplaced their logins, please let their class teacher know. We are aware that Reading Records are no more but we really welcome posts to Dojo portfolios – bonus points for creative reading locations. For instructions on how to post to your child's portfolios, please follow the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XCXSBHbMl0>

We will also begin celebrating our most improved/above and beyond Readers, Writers and Mathematicians in our weekly celebration assemblies as we know this has been missed!



ClassDojo

Ensuring resources stay with their owners



We are accumulating a lot of lost property which is unnamed and therefore we are unable to reunite with your child if it has been misplaced. Please can you check that your child's uniform is clearly named and if you have anything that does not belong to your child, please return it to school.

We will be placing our pre-loved and misplaced uniform out at the end of term so please come take a look to see if anything belongs to you. If you would like to swap uniform to upgrade to a larger size, there will be an opportunity to do so.

Just a polite reminder that pupils should not bring personal items or toys from home into school unless this has been agreed by your child's class teacher or our SENCo. 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 or damaged and we therefore ask that these are saved to enjoy at the weekends and after school.

Lateness matters!



Good attendance remains a key priority for us as a school - every minute of learning really does matter! Even being a few minutes late can mean that your child misses important parts of the school day and key information that they need to be successful in their lessons. Reading and phonics are how we start our day on Team Gillingstool. Both are subjects that open the rest of the curriculum for us and therefore even being 15 minutes late means we miss half of these lessons.

Some key statistics:

- 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days of lost learning across the school year.
- 10 minutes late each day can mean more than a week of missed learning time.

Please support us by:

- Ensuring children arrive at school by 8:45am at the latest. Registers close at 9am.
- Establishing consistent morning routines
- Allowing extra travel time where possible – especially with all the roadworks in the area at the moment!

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child make the most of their time in school.



Parent & Carer Coffee Afternoon: Transition to Secondary School

I'm Ella, the Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) at Gillingstool Primary. I'm usually here every Thursday.

I will be running a free parent/carers coffee afternoon on the theme of transition & change. You can expect to:

Join Us

**Thursday 18th June
2pm**

**Please come to the main
office**



Refreshments will be provided!

Learn ways to support & prepare your child for moving to secondary school

Learn about anxiety and its affects

Share and hear tips about children's wellbeing

Meet other parents & carers

Hear about support available from our team



MHST
Tools to thrive