

GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

An update from Mrs Edwards



What a busy and magical end to the festive term we've had!

I particularly enjoyed our joint assembly with New Siblands and seeing the two schools come together to dance; watching our fabulous Lower School Team smash their nativity and celebrating true party-style at our carol concert. I hope pupils also enjoyed their class parties and all the festive celebrations!

Thank you to our dedicated and committed staff and to you, our families for your continued support throughout the term.

I hope the holiday brings you time to rest, celebrate and enjoy precious moments with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, refreshed and ready for an exciting spring term ahead.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Mrs Edwards

iSingPop



Year 3 completed a joyful Christmas concert held at St. Mary's Church to kickstart this festive season. The team sang with enthusiasm and confidence, retelling the Nativity story through upbeat songs, catchy tunes and lively actions. The team's bravery, teamwork and enjoyment shone through and we couldn't be prouder!

A big thank you to the staff who supported, team at St. Mary's Church, iSing Pop and families who attended.



Important dates this term:



Monday 5th January

Term 3 starts

Wednesday 7th January

1. Final Open Day of the year! 2-3pm
2. SEN Support Plan meetings – invites sent if relevant to your family

Monday 19th January

Year 5 Class Assembly at 9am

w/c Monday 9th February

Book Week begins

Tuesday 10th February

FoG Movie Night after school

Friday 13th February

Term 3 ends

Monday 23rd February

Term 4 starts

Monday 2nd March

Year 4 Class Assembly at 9am

Monday 9th March

Parents Evening Night One

Wednesday 11th March

Parents Evening Night Two

Monday 23rd March

Year 3 Class Assembly at 9am

w/c Monday 30th March

Cultural Appreciation Week

Thursday 2nd April

Term 4 ends

Christmas Dinner Day



Christmas Dinner Day was a huge success! Pupils had a fantastic time enjoying a deliciously festive lunch, complete with all the trimmings – even if the sprouts didn't go down so well. More for Mrs Edwards! There were plenty of smiles, cracker jokes and everyone become Kings and Queens for the afternoon with their festive crowns. My favourite joke was: What did the one snowman say to the other? Can you smell carrots?

It was lovely to see everyone sitting together, sharing the Christmas spirit and enjoying this special tradition. A big thank you to our amazing kitchen staff for working so hard and rustling up over 190 dinners!



Exciting Christmas Opportunities



Just a reminder of some festive events this holiday:

1. Grace Care home, who we will be working closely with this year, have a colouring competition and opportunity to meet a festive animal on Tuesday 30th December.
2. WEMA are running two fun holiday Singing Days for young people; a KS2 day on Monday 22nd December, and a Secondary session on Tuesday 23rd December.



Monday 22 December: KS2 Singing Day
Tuesday 23 December: Secondary Singing Day

More Information:
wema.org.uk/music-activities-and-workshops



Lower School Nativity



The Lower School children were absolute stars in their nativity performance. From confident narrators to enthusiastic shepherds and angels, everyone did a fantastic job. The children sang their hearts out and brought the Christmas story to life beautifully. We are incredibly proud of how brave and confident they were on stage – and we know there were a few happy (and emotional!) parents in the audience too.

Carol Concert



Our Carol Concert was a wonderful way to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. Everyone sang so clearly and confidently, filling the hall with festive joy. Thank you to everyone who joined us – it was lovely to see so many families coming together to celebrate this special time of year and a special shout out for those who joined us for the actions to *The Twelve Days of Christmas* – this one is always great fun!

Car park update:



Just a polite reminder that the school car park is for staff and New Siblands School families only and should not be used for Gillingstool pupil drop-off or pick-up. We appreciate that parking around the site is limited and thank you for your patience while we continue to work with the council to explore ways to support our school community.

Attendance Update



Regular school attendance is really important for children's learning, social interactions and wellbeing.

We would like to remind families that, in line with local authority guidance, holidays should not be taken during term time. Unauthorised term-time holidays may result in a fine being issued by the local authority.

We have restarted our work with our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to support good attendance for all pupils and ensure they get the most from their educational experience.

From **Term 3**, attendance letters and meetings will begin for families where attendance is a concern so that we can work together early and provide support where needed. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school every day and on time.

Out of school opportunities:



Our Mission: To empower young people and families to overcome the impact of childhood or community adversity by building resilience through positive relationships with trauma-informed adults in safe community spaces.

What We Do

- We enhance grassroots rugby coaches and volunteers' understanding of trauma, so that they are more skilled in bringing adversity-experienced communities into the rugby family.
- We provide a variety of rugby experiences in community settings, including local schools, to get young people active and excited about playing the sport.
- We reduce barriers such as arranging transport to clubs, sourcing kit and equipment and subscriptions as well as connecting families with community services such as the police, social services, NHS and outreach programmes.
- We train coaches and volunteers in trauma-informed approaches to equip them to better support adversity-experienced young people when they arrive at the club.

The Impact

For the young people involved in star*, we see, and they and their families tell us, that they become more happy, confident and resilient. Opportunities open up for them as they become more settled on and off the rugby pitch. At club level, a heightened awareness of trauma-informed coaching increases capacity and capability, helping to build even stronger rugby communities.



To refer a young person please scan the QR code

To find out more contact Natalie Jones
natalie@starscheme.co.uk
07817997821



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