

GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

An update from Mrs Edwards



As we reach the mid-point of Term 3, it is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the academic year. There have been so many brilliant moments and it has been marvellous to get to know your wonderful children. They really do make Gillingstool such a fun and brilliant place to be.

A new year marks a time of reflection and as I sit here typing this issue of our newsletter, I feel immensely proud of what a special place Gillingstool is and all of the exciting things yet to come to really showcase that within our community.

As always, thank you for being a part of school community. Your support makes all the difference and we love working with you to make Gillingstool the place it absolutely deserves to be.

Mrs Edwards

Gillingstool Greatness



By far my favourite part of the week is a Friday. There is always such a warm and celebratory atmosphere in our weekly celebration assembly. Pupils and staff dance to our welcome and exit song: "Celebration by Kool and The Gang" and cheer on their peers. So many pupils have been keen to share out of school achievements with us. We've heard about Brownie sleepovers, swimming achievements, potentially the highest scoring football match of all time along with many more. This week's 'Star of the Week' winners were Joshua (YR), Jack (Y1), Beauden (Y2), Sophia (Y3), Carol (Y4), Sinead (Y5) and James (Y6). We enjoyed a delicious hot chocolate together. We will announce winners weekly on Dojo from next week.

Our winning houses were Thunberg and Attenborough. We've had two draws in a row – who will reign victorious next week?

Important dates this term:



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

We make an egg-cellent team!



To increase our sense of belonging within our class team, we have decided to name our classes after birds. This will be launched with pupils in Week 6 where all member of the class team will research their chosen bird and create an individual piece of artwork to form part of a team display within their classes. Teachers have carefully selected the following names. Drum roll please:

Reception: Wrens

Year 1: Robins

Year 2: Kingfishers

Year 3: Puffins

Year 4: Ospreys

Year 5: Buzzards

Year 6: Sanderlings

Exciting staffing updates



We are delighted to share that Mrs Stephens is expecting her first baby and will be leaving us in May to embark on this exciting new chapter. We know the children and families will join us in wishing her every happiness. We are currently recruiting for her replacement and will ensure a strong and supportive handover to minimise disruption and maintain continuity for the class and all pupils for whom she is a trusted adult.



You may have noticed a new face around the school site. Mrs Turner has joined the school team to add capacity to the inclusion team. She is an experienced SENCo from within the Trust and is currently supporting us on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



After a whopping 15 years on the Gillingstool Team, Mrs Gould has made the difficult decision to embark on a new adventure. We are extremely grateful for her dedication to the school community over many years – I know she has fond memories of many of you, and we wish her every success in whatever she decides to do next.



Respectful conduct



We have recently seen an increase in inappropriate behaviour from a small number of pupils, including the use of swearing and inappropriate gestures. We would like to remind families that this behaviour is not in line with our school behaviour policy or our high expectations for conduct.

At school, we work hard to promote respect, kindness, and positive behaviour, and we expect all pupils to demonstrate this at all times. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home and in discussing the importance of using appropriate language and behaviour.

Thank you for working with us to maintain a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all children.

Life Skills Trip (Year 6):

Our Year 6 children recently had a fantastic and educational trip to Lifeskills Centre who have created a realistic, interactive village within the Create Centre that helps children learn how to deal with potentially dangerous or difficult situations in a safe and supportive environment. During their visit, the children experienced a variety of real-life scenarios, including road and railway safety, dealing with hazards in kitchens and living rooms, and learning about electrical safety at a substation. They also practiced making emergency phone calls and were introduced to some basic first aid techniques. A big thank you to Lifeskills for providing such an important opportunity to help prepare our pupils for life beyond Gillingstool.

Attendance reminder



Regular attendance remains a key priority for us, as it has a significant impact on children's learning, progress, and wellbeing. We are pleased to see many pupils attending consistently and on time, and we thank families for supporting this. We kindly remind parents and carers that holidays during term time should be avoided wherever possible and that children should attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. We have also noticed an increase in pupils arriving to school late which often means that they are missing their reading or phonics sessions which makes the rest of the curriculum accessible to them. Please let us know if there is any way we can support your family with this.

School Uniform:



We would also like to take this opportunity to remind families of our school uniform expectations. Wearing the correct uniform helps promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school community. Please ensure that children arrive in full school uniform each day, including appropriate footwear. Thank you for your support in maintaining our high standards. If ever you need support with this, please let us know as we have a large amount of donations from families that we can provide.

<https://www.gillingstool.org.uk/school-information/school-uniform>

Car park update:



A polite reminder that the school car park should not be used by parents and carers for drop-off or pick-up. As we share our site with New Siblands, it is essential that the car park remains clear to ensure the safety and accessibility of the site for pupils, families, and staff who need it most. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

Out of school opportunities:

future
talent



BRISTOL CREATE DAY

With Siobhan Clough

Sunday 8th February 2026

10:30am-3:30pm

Future Talent & West of England
Music and Arts

SIGN UP HERE

This Create Day will focus on **Open Scores** - a flexible, creative way of making music that welcomes all instruments and experience levels. Young musicians from **Future Talent** and **WEMA** will join together to explore ideas, experiment, meet new friends, and create new music as a group.

Trinity Academy
Romney Avenue
Lockleaze
Bristol
BS7



THORBURY TOWN COUNCIL NEST BOX BUILDING



FREE EVENTS FOR ALL THE
FAMILY AT THE TOWN HALL!

SUITABLE FOR 11 YEARS +

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY

10.30AM TO 12PM & 12.30PM TO 2PM



SUITABLE FOR 5-11 YEARS

MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY

10.30AM TO 12PM & 12.30PM TO 2PM



BOOK ONLINE OR CALL 01454 412103

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

11+ YEARS:



5-11 YEARS:



