



GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

An update from Mrs Edwards



What a super term it has been at Gillingstool! Despite the rain seeming determined to follow us everywhere, Term 3 has been packed full of fun with visits, trips and memorable experiences including Book Week most recently!

A particular highlight of mine is the team building that naming our classes has allowed. It has been wonderful to see how passionate they are about sharing this with any visitors to their classes. We have also revisited our “USP” – what makes Gillingstool great and which values we believe make a great team. We would love to hear your ideas – please write in and share these with us. Some of our ideas included: Kindness at the heart of all we do, taking risks to be our best selves, celebrating who we are as individuals, being bold and brave!

As we look ahead, I am very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back to brighter, warmer days (and hopefully a little less rain!) for another exciting term of learning and fun.

Wishing you all a wonderful break and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Edwards

Gillingstool Greatness



Pupils were over the moon to have a single house reigning victorious over the last two weeks. Congratulations to Attenborough for receiving the most house points two weeks in a row and for ending the streak of houses drawing. I wonder who the next house to reign victorious will be?

It continues to blow me away with just how much greatness fills our school. 210 superstars have been celebrated this term with our daily house point winners. Keep your eyes peeled on our School Dojo page for our weekly ‘Gillingstool Greatness’ winners.

From next term, we really want to build on the successes of our new behaviour routines in school. Families, keep your eyes peeled for more information of our plans to celebrate those learners who go above and beyond consistently with a special termly assembly which identified pupils’ families are invited to! All other superstars will continue to be celebrated in the same way.

Important dates this term:



Term Four

Monday 23rd February

Term 4 begins

Monday 23rd February

Residential 2026/27 Meeting at 3.30pm (Year 5 families)

Monday 2nd March

Y4 Class Assembly

Friday 6th March

Reception visit the library for a Supertato experience

Monday 9th and Wednesday 9th March

Parents Evening – booking live in Term 4, Week 1

Friday 20th March

Red Nose Day – wear something red. This year’s theme is “Take yourself funny for money” so bring your best joke to entertain your class.

Monday 23rd March

Y3 Class Assembly

Monday 30th March

Cultural Appreciation Week

Term Five

Thursday 7th May

Class Photos

w/c Monday 11th May

Y6 SATs week

w/c Monday 18th May

Science Week

Monday 18th May

Y2 Class Assembly

Young Voices:



Ten pupils from our school choir joined our twelve Mosaic Partnership schools for an unforgettable experience this term when they travelled to the BP Pulse in Birmingham to take part in **Young Voices**. What a day it was! Singing alongside thousands of other children in such a huge arena was truly inspiring and something we hope our pupils will remember for years to come.

The energy, excitement and sheer joy on their faces said it all—an incredible musical experience and a real highlight of the term. We are so proud of our team for representing Gillingstool so brilliantly. This is an experience we are definitely seeking to extend next year.



FoG Movie Night



A huge thank you to the **Friends of Gillingstool** for hosting a fantastic movie night this term. Events like these not only bring our community together but also play a vital role in helping us raise funds to improve our school grounds for the children. We are incredibly grateful for all your hard work and support.

There were balloon arches, decorations, a selection of yummy snacks and the effort that had gone on behind the scenes was top notch! I know that hard work is already taking place to create a super summer fayre so watch this space and as always, if you would like to volunteer at any of their events, please let the office know and we will put you in touch with a member of the small but mighty FoG team.

Mark Thompson's Spectacular Science Show

Thornbury Arts Festival Trust is delighted to bring Mark Thompson's Spectacular Science Show to the young people of Thornbury, at 2 pm Friday 17th April in Cossesham Hall, The Armstrong, Chapel Street. For ages 5 upwards (those younger than 14 must be accompanied by an adult) this show, which was awarded the best children's show at the Edinburgh Festival in 2025, will enthrall, amaze and inspire. There will be fizzes, colours, the odd bang maybe, exploding elephant's toothpaste, howling jelly babies and lots more. Who said science was boring? Tickets are subsidised by the Trust and are £5 each whether adult or child, and will be available from March 2nd on www.thornburyartsfestival.org.uk

Book Week Bonanza



Book Week was another huge success and a real celebration of reading across the school. Pupils were wowed by the **Wonderdome experience** and it was great to hear the 'wows' and enjoyment as I walked past the school hall. The **staff panto** was met with plenty of laughter, and the **bedtime story sessions** created a calm and cosy atmosphere that everyone loved.

Friday's costume day was the icing on the cake, with some absolutely incredible outfits on display. Thank you to families for the time, effort and creativity that went into making the week so special and a special thank you to Miss Elsbury for arranging a top week!



Working together on attendance



We are incredibly proud of our Gillingstool children and community. As you know from previous newsletters, one area we're focusing on is attendance, which is currently below the national average. Under the new Ofsted framework, this could impact how our school is judged, even where the quality of education remains strong.

Every day in school matters — children learn more, stay connected with friends, and build confidence. We never expect unwell children to attend, but when possible, getting children through the door makes a real difference. We will always prioritise your child's happiness and wellbeing above all else.

Need Support? We are always here to help and not judge. If you are struggling to get your child to school, please talk to us. Thank you for your trust and support.

Book swapping



We are reviewing our book swap systems in school to ensure that children are bringing home a new book to read and enjoy with you at home. In doing so, we have noticed that a significant number of books have not been returned. Therefore, we would like to politely remind you that our fee for non-returned books is £5 to ensure we can restock. Until previous books are returned, children will not have their books swapped. If by the second week, it remains unreturned, a fine will be issued.

We also politely ask families to check their bookshelves at home and return any Gillingstool stamped or coded books.

Out of school opportunities:



2026

10 - 19 April

BOOK NOW



ALFIE MOORE £22
Friday 10th April, 7.30pm.



MARK THOMPSON'S SPECTACULAR
SCIENCE SHOW £5
Friday 17th April, 2pm.



NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: THE
AUDIENCE £16
Friday 17th April, 7pm.



CHURCHFITTERS £18
Saturday 18th April, 7.30pm.

