



# Gillingstool Primary School



# NEWSLETTER

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## WELCOME BACK

Dear Parents and Carers

I am so pleased to welcome everyone back to school. I hope you were able to make the most of the summer break, although the weather was a little disappointing. It was just nice to have some quality time together as a family without the pressure of lockdown and home learning.

As we return to school, our staggered starts and bubbles are gone and life at school, at the moment, is becoming more normal. We have an exciting year to look forward to with our smaller classes and new staff.

Most important is that we all know **how we can help** each other to keep our children and families safe.

This is the **key information** that everyone needs to follow:

**Children must attend school unless they are ill.**

**From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under 18 and double-vaccinated adults do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact has COVID.**

**Instead they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school as long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.**

**If your child develops COVID symptoms (continuous cough, temperature above 37.8 degrees or loss of taste/smell) they must stay home and get a PCR test (not a Lateral Flow Test).**

**If your child develops these symptoms whilst at school, they will be sent home and again they will need to get a PCR test.**

**If a child tests positive for COVID they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated but instead need to get a PCR test.**

In school we are maintaining a number of measures to ensure that we keep our whole school community as safe as possible. This newsletter will explain some of the things we are doing to minimise the risk for children and how things may change if case numbers rise over the coming weeks.

I hope you and your loved ones have stayed well over the break and I look forward to working alongside you again to ensure your children have the best possible year at Gillingstool.

*Mrs C Carter*

# KEEPING SAFE AT GILLINGSTOOL

**Below are some of the measures we are going to take to keep everybody as safe as possible whilst case rates of COVID are still high:**

- Maximising ventilation in the classroom and learning outside where possible
- Regular handwashing throughout the day
- Regular cleaning of touch points and surfaces
- Minimising sharing of equipment and equipment to be cleaned after use
- Minimising mixing between key stages at playtime and lunchtime
- Minimising mixing between classes in the dinner hall for lunch with cleaning in between groups
- Maximising spacing between classes during assemblies
- Ensuring visitors to school follow hygiene standards
- Ensuring staff and visitors carry out regular Lateral Flow Testing



## HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

- Check your family for symptoms every day.
- **Do not send children in with symptoms - instead arrange a PCR test if they have any.**
- Arrive on time (not early or late).
- One adult to drop off and pick up and leave the premises as soon as you can.
- **Make sure we have 2 emergency contacts (in case your child develops symptoms throughout the day).**
- **Answer the phone if we call. If a children develops symptoms, they must go home as soon as possible.**
- Minimise entry to school - contact school by phone or email/pay for lunches in bulk, by cheque.



# IF CASES IN SCHOOL RISE?

The school has an Outbreak Contingency Plan detailing steps to be taken should we see COVID cases in our community.

	<b>Possible Actions</b>
<b>If cases in the locality rise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increase ventilation and handwashing</li><li>• reduce audience numbers to events</li><li>• hold smaller assemblies rather than whole school</li></ul>
<b>A single child tests positive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the child self-isolates for 10 days</li><li>• parents are contacted by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts</li><li>• likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace and advised book a PCR.</li><li>• school will contact parents to advise this if contacts are known.</li></ul>
<b>5 children or staff within a year group test positive within 10 days of each other</b>	<p><b><u>As above for each positive case</u></b></p> <p>School will discuss the outbreak with South Glos Public Health and agree strengthening protective measures for 10 days such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reintroducing staff face masks in communal areas</li><li>• limiting events, trips and performances</li><li>• assemblies on Zoom</li><li>• minimising staff movement between classes</li><li>• moving some learning outside</li></ul>
<b>COVID cases continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes impacted</b>	<p><b><u>As above for each positive case</u></b></p> <p>Incident Management Team meeting held school and South Glos Public Health to agree further measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• re-introducing class bubbles</li><li>• re-introduce staggered starts</li><li>• reverting to class based lunches</li><li>• limit mixing of staff in meetings and staffroom</li><li>• limiting non-essential visitors</li><li>• postponing non-essential events</li><li>• re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for a limited time</li></ul>

We will of course keep parents informed should we need to take any of these steps. If you have any questions do stop me for a chat on the playground or send an email to [office@gillingstool.org.uk](mailto:office@gillingstool.org.uk)

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are having a big focus on uniform this year so please ensure your children return wearing the appropriate clothing and shoes.

### What your child needs for school

#### Standard Uniform

Royal Blue school cardigan, sweatshirt or fleece with school logo.

White or royal blue blouse, shirt or polo shirt

Black or grey trousers, shirt or dress

Black or grey tights or socks

Black shoes or black trainers with no coloured logos/laces.



#### Summer Uniform

Royal blue gingham summer dress

Black or grey shorts



#### PE Kit

White t-shirt

Black, navy or royal blue shorts

Black daps or trainers



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*Inspire,  
Believe,  
Achieve*

