



Gillingstool Primary School



NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents and Carers

It was a sad start to term to have to keep our restrictions in place for a few more weeks as children can't safely mix indoors. We were very disappointed to have to postpone our Y1/2 trip and cancel our cinema visit. However, we do understand that the most important priority is keeping our children as safe as can possibly be.

We are doing our best to maintain elements of normality. It is great to know that children are safe to mix in the fresh air so at least they get to play together outside. We have resumed any extra-curricular clubs that take place outside and any that don't involve different classes mingling. We have also funded an extra coach so that the Y1/2 Cardiff trip can go ahead no matter what, with the two classes travelling separately and spending the day walking outside.

Thank you to everyone who picked up the phone for Parents' Evening last week. It was great to share with you how well your children are doing and teachers were pleased with the feedback we received. Our Open Days will go ahead but visitors will not be able to enter classrooms and will be asked to wear face coverings where social distancing can't be maintained.

The Friends of Gillingstool committee (FOG) have also continued to keep up their hard work online. They have planned a number of events for the Christmas period and are striving to raise funds for new screens in classes 3, 4 and Reception. They are keen for new parents and carers to join – take a look later in the newsletter for more information if you would like to help.

We will make the best of the coming term – COVID restrictions or not! Thank you again for all your support.

Mrs C Carter

IMPORTANT DATES

~~15th November 9.10am Year 6 Class Assembly Rescheduled~~ **POSTPONED**

17th November Open Day for Reception 2022 (COVID permitting)

~~22nd November 9.10am Year 5 Class Assembly~~ **POSTPONED**

7th December Open Day for Reception 2022 (COVID permitting)

10th December Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

17th December Carol Concert (COVID permitting) & Last Day of Term

24th January 9.10am Year 4 Class Assembly

13th February 9.10am Year 3 Class Assembly

14th March 9.10am Year 2 Class Assembly

16th May 9.10am Year 1 Class Assembly

20th June 9.10am Reception Class Assembly

COVID - HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

- Check your family for symptoms every day: **cough, temperature above 37.8 degrees, loss of taste or smell**
- **Do not send children in with symptoms - instead arrange a PCR test if they have any of them.**
- 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 child 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.



SCHOOL MEALS

Is your child(ren) entitled to a Free School Meal?

Don't miss out on the benefit related Free School Meal offer, you can quickly check if you are eligible and apply at

www.southglos.gov.uk/schoolmeals

A hot, freshly prepared meal at lunchtime can help with learning, concentration, and positive behaviour.

PARENT PICK UPS

In order to safeguard our children, teachers will only let children go at the end of the day with a different adult if we know in advance they will be collected by someone new. So if you are held up please notify the office of any changes to plans.

If you have a long-standing child-care arrangement with a friend please put it in writing to the office so we know we have your permission to release your child to that particular person.

If we are unsure we will phone for confirmation before letting a child leave.

OPEN DAYS

If you or your friends are looking for a school place in Reception for September 2022 then come along to one of our many Open Days. You'll get a chance to meet the governors, have a chat with me and take tour of the school with some Year 6 pupils.

Open Day Dates

17th November 9.30am and 11.00am
7th December 2.00pm and 4.00pm
11th January 11am

To book in advance contact the office on 01454 866527 or office@gillingstool.org.uk or just join us on the day.

COP 26 – SCHOOLS’ SUMMIT

Pupils in Y5 and 6 had an amazing educational experience last week when they participated in the first COP26 Schools’ Summit, which was based in Thornbury, and hosted at Gillingstool Primary School.

Children in Mr Olver and Miss Elsbury’s classes have been learning about the importance of taking action against climate change through their Geographical Unit on Energy this term. It was great for the children to share their new knowledge with other schools through the virtual conference on Zoom.

Each school had prepared a video link presentation and had agreed a school-wide pledge to help the environment. At Gillingstool we have pledged to set up an Environmental Team to monitor energy use and recycling, alongside planting some bee and butterfly friendly areas around the school.

A highlight of the Schools’ Summit was a socially-distance visit from Metro-Mayor for the West of England, Dan Norris. He chatted with Year 6 pupils about their entries into an Environmental Poster competition and then stayed to speak with children about environmental awareness before taking questions. An official photographer was present but we are still awaiting the professional pictures.



Gillingstool was also proud to have a poster competition winner – Vincent from Y5 was proud to receive this honour and a prize from the summit will follow soon. Well done Vincent! 😊

FOG – Friends of Gillingstool

COVID isn’t stopping Christmas coming to Gillingstool. FOG have planned to hold an outdoor **Christmas Market** on the playground between **3-4pm on the 8th, 9th and 10th of December**. There will be Christmas bits and bobs to buy, Christmas arts and crafts to make and you can try your luck on the tombola.

During November and December children will have two opportunities to win a prize by guessing **‘The Number of Sweets in the Jar’**.

It will be 50p a go for the smaller November competition and £1 a go for the special Christmas edition.

Start bringing in those 50ps and the jar will make its way to your class.

Winners announced at the end of November and December.

Miss Sale will be organising her traditional Christmas Colouring competition. More information to follow.



CLASS REPRESENTATIVES ... FOG HELPER??

FOG are looking for a parent in each class to communicate information with the parents in that group. If you would like to be the link with school for your child’s class see Mrs Carter or Mrs Sayce.

We appreciate not everyone has time to join the committee but we need a band of willing helpers for events – again let Mrs Carter or Mrs Sayce know if you are able to assist.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCY



We have a vacancy for a lunchbreak supervisor.
This entails aiding and supporting the children during lunchtime both in the hall and the playground.

The hours are from 12.00 to 1.15pm each day.

If you are interested in this post and would like more information please contact the office.



HOT CHOC HEROES



Our Over and Above Superstars ...

Week One

Clementine
Arwyn
Isaac
Laura
Aysi
Miley
Layla

Week Two

Emsly
Mia
Romany
Clarke
Ollie
Vincent
Lauren



15th November
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*Inspire,
Believe,
Achieve*

