



Gillingstool Primary School



NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents and Carers



Christmas began at Gillingstool last week with two splendid performances from Year 1 and 2 of Christmas songs retelling the nativity story. The children put on a wonderful show. Thanks to all the parents who followed all our precautions whilst attending. Despite the social distancing, lateral flow tests and hand sanitiser it certainly filled me with the Christmas spirit.

We also enjoyed the Christmas Market arranged by FOG. Don't forget, Friday will be FOG's Break the Xmas Rules day and there will also be a small selection of items to purchase after school on the playground. The rest of our week will be full of Christmas events for the children. On Monday we are joining a South Gloucestershire Virtual Christmas Maths day, and later in the week there will be Christmas Dinner and Parties to look forward to.

As this is the last newsletter of 2021, I would like to say an enormous thank you to all our families for your support this past year. From lockdown in January, to our restrictions this December, you have been nothing but supportive. I hope you enjoy a fabulous Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all for a healthy and happy New Year.

Mrs C Carter

IMPORTANT DATES

15th December Christmas Dinner

16th December 10am YR nativity for YR parents (COVID permitting) & Christmas parties

17th December —Last Day of Term and Xmas Break the Rules day

4th January – INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

5th January – TERM 3 BEGINS

11th January – Open Day 11am

FOOTBALL, FUN AND FUNDRAISING

Inspired by the purchase of the outdoor gym and the changes to the playground environment, Year 6 pupil Freddie, who is a keen footballer, decided to organise a fund raising activity to purchase some new football goals.

Freddie organised a team of friends to hold a sponsored penalty shoot out for the whole school. It was a fabulous day and they raised over £300. Our new goals will be on the school field ready for the spring and our football club can not wait to get scoring.



We are so proud of Freddie and his team of goalkeepers. They are a great example for the children at Gillingstool. It wonderful to see such initiative from one of our young people and in a way that benefits the whole school.

LOCAL AUTHORITY REVIEW – 2ND DECEMBER

As you may already know, Gillingstool is due at any time due to have an OFSTED inspection. We were last visited in September 2018 and I am sure you can tell that a lot has changed at Gillingstool over those three and a bit years.

Whilst we await the return of the inspectors, we have regular Local Authority reviews by a team led by the Head of Education, Learning and Skills for South Gloucestershire. One of these ‘mini-inspections’ occurred last week and we are incredibly pleased with the outcome of the visit.

I wanted to share some quotes from the report with our community.

The overall quality of education in the school is secure and there is an improving picture.

The school now has a strong curriculum.

In respect of more contemporary issues, pupils ‘ooze’ with knowledge and understanding about the impact of climate change.

Much effort and thought has been taken when designing learning environments.

Pupils are knowing more and remembering more as a result of effective teaching over time.

Behaviour across the school is strong, this is largely based upon strong relationships that exist between adults and pupils and pupils and pupils.

Pupils talk about how they are expected to converse with one another in a respectful manner.

Governance is strong.

This really reflects the hard work and commitment of the team at Gillingstool and we would like to thank you, our families, for supporting us and sharing in that hard work along the way. Hopefully, next year we will get the opportunity to share our wonderful school with OFSTED too.

SCHOOL MEALS

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

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

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.



Gillingstool Primary School raised **£75** for Save the Children this year.

Thanks to everyone who was able to make a contribution.

RECEPTION 2022 OPEN DAY

Parents of children needing places for September 2022 only have until January 15th to make their application.

We have a last minute Open Day on **11th January 2022 at 11am.**

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.

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

CARETAKER VACANCY

Those of you who have spotted me unlocking the gates and sweeping the leaves will know that we are currently recruiting for a school caretaker. If you now someone who would like to become part of our amazing team please let them know about the vacancy.

Caretaker required 15 hours a week 7.30am– 10.30am

£10.01 per hour

Duties:

- **open the building every morning**
 - **Compliance checks**
 - **Small repair/DIY jobs**

All necessary training will be provided

Contact school office for further information



LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCY



We also 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 1.00pm 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 Five

Hugo
Harry
Rylee-Jay
Betty
Kacey
Amy
Aiden

Week Six

Connor
Arwyn
Rian
Sophia-Rose
Josie
Miley
Jenny

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.



13th December
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*Inspire,
Believe,
Achieve*

