

Gillingstool Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Inspire, Believe, Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

The seasons are definitely changing and there was a real chill on the playground this morning. Autumn is arriving and the children are spending their playtimes and forest school sessions hunting for conkers on the school field.



Today we welcome the Bristol North Foodbank to school to hold an assembly for our children in readiness for our Harvest Celebrations. The children will learn all about how the Foodbank can help those in need. I hope that many of you are able to join us for Monday's special assembly as all our classes are contributing to the performance.

We are asking for donations on Monday for our Harvest collections but I do appreciate that this year finances are tight. We are all coping with the impact of increased costs and it can be hard to make ends meet. With that in mind we do understand if making a donation is difficult this year.

As a school we are able to make referrals to the Foodbank should a family need some extra help. We can also help with providing some pre-loved uniform if that might be useful. If you need any assistance or would like to request a Foodbank voucher please just have a quiet word on the playground or contact me through the office. We want to support our families as much as we can during the coming months.

Mrs C Carter

THANK YOU

We would like to say an enormous thank you to **Whitebridge Limited** for a generous donation to the school to support our learning in Science and Technology. Whitebridge Limited have given us £250 towards STEM resources .



Mrs Stimpson, our Science Lead, is planning on buying some microscopes for the children to utilise in their scientific investigations and experiments.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM ONE

3rd October 9.10am – Harvest Assembly
5th October 9.30am and 11.00am - Open Day Tours for Reception 2023
10th October 9.10am – Year 6 Class Assembly
Week Beginning 10th October – Decades Week
13th October 2.00pm and 4.00pm - Open Day Tours for Reception 2023
Friday 14th October – Dressing Up Day for Decades Week
17th October – Y6 Residential to Manor Adventure
21st October – Last day of Term One
31st October – Term Two begins: children return

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

If your child is starting primary school or moving on to secondary school in September 2023 then the application window is now open.

Parents need to apply for both primary and secondary places via the South Glos website
www.southglos.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Applications must be made by the given deadline in order to maximise the potential of getting your chosen school.

The deadline for secondary places is October 31st 2022 and primary is January 15th 2023.

PARKING



Parents and visitors are reminded that the school car park is for staff of both schools,

those with Blue Badges for disabilities and New Siblands students only.

Please do not park in the streets opposite the entrances to the school on Gillingstool or Bath Road as residents then struggle to access their driveways and you may be blocking access for emergency vehicles.

Parents driving to school should park in the Rock Street car park.

OPEN DAYS

If you or your friends are looking for a place in a 'Good' school for Reception for September 2023 then come along to one of our many Open Days.

You'll get a chance to meet the governors, have a chat with the Headteacher and take a tour of the school with some Year 6 pupils.

Open Day Dates

5th October 9.30am and 11.00am
13th October 2.00pm and 4.00pm
8th November 9.30am and 11.00am
22nd November 2.00pm
5th December 4.00pm
11th January 2pm

Due to increased interest, we recommend booking in advance – please contact the office on 01454 866527 or office@gillingstool.org.uk.

POSTAGE STAMP APPEAL



Thanks to all our families who have collected an amazing quantity of bottle tops last year.

From September Gloucester hospital have asked that we support them with their new challenge of collecting used stamps instead. Please start snipping them off your envelopes and bring them in to school. This will help to support fundraising for patients with Lymphoma. It is a very worthwhile charity and we would like to contribute as much as possible.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

South Glos Council's Schools' Mental Health service offer regular support and training for families.

The next parent/ carer course is on Tuesday 6 December (evening course) parents can book on here:



[Parent Carer Mental Health Awareness Dec 22](#)

HOT CHOC HEROES



Our children joining me for Hot Choc with the Head this week were chosen for outstanding efforts in class, great behaviour and being good friends to others.



Our Over and Above Superstars ...



Week 2

Vincent
Ruby
Laura
Oba
Poppy
Hugo

Week 3

Louie
Kacey
Cleopatra
Hassan
Ben L
Rebeca

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The government have recently published a paper 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance'.

This recognises that in line with the approach of living with COVID it is important that children attend school as often as possible.
Excellent attendance is fundamental to ensuring that children reach their full potential and have the best life chances and opportunities in their future lives.

Prior to the pandemic, we had a target for attendance of 96% as the government understood that there may be occasions when children are not well enough to attend.

Our overall attendance for the first three weeks of the year currently stands at 91.41%

We appreciate that children who have COVID will need to isolate for 3 days and if they have sickness or diarrhoea need to stay home for 48 hours but please make sure they return to school **as soon as they are well enough**.

Colds are common at this time of year but most children with colds are still well enough to be in school.

Please **call in everyday** if you child is not well enough to attend.

We would also like to remind parents that **holidays will not be authorised during term time** and taking holiday may incur a fixed penalty fine.

To encourage good attendance we share weekly attendance data with the children. The class with the best attendance each term gets a treat as a reward.

This Term's Attendance Data

	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 1		99%	97%	96%	93%	98%	97%
Week 2		95%	97%	98%	99%	93%	92%
Week 3		79%	94%	94%	96%	91%	98%

This term's attendance race is hotting up – we have a number of classes hoping for a pizza delivery 😊

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCIES



We have a vacancy for two lunchbreak supervisors.
One post entails aiding and supporting a child with additional needs requiring 1:1 support during lunchtime both in the hall and the playground. The other is a general post supporting across the school
The hours are from 12.00 to 1.00pm each day.

If you are interested in these vacancies and would like more information please contact the office.

COVID REMINDER

The following are regarded as of COVID in children (NHS England): a **high temperature, continuous cough, a headache, a sore throat, a blocked or runny nose, diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick.**



The Local Authority anticipate that in most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with these key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.

If a **child** has a **positive COVID-19 test result** they should **stay at home** and avoid contact with other people for **3 days** after the day they took the test. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature they may return to school.

If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, the headteacher can take the decision to refuse the pupil if it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.



26th September
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