

Gillingstool Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Inspire, Believe, Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

I'd like to open this newsletter with an enormous thank you to everyone who made some kind of contribution to our Harvest Celebrations this year.

Last Monday our main hall was jam-packed with adults who joined us to listen to some wonderful performances from across the school. Our new Reception children kicked off proceedings with the cutest version of the Dingle-Dangle Scarecrow ever seen. Thank you to parents for providing such amazing costumes – they certainly looked the part.



The rest of the school wowed us with songs, poetry recitals and jokes from around the world. It was such a varied mix and the children all performed and listened beautifully.

We received bags and bags of food donations for the North Bristol Food Bank. Again, can I say a huge thank you to those who generously donated. We know times are tough at the moment and your donations will be vital to families locally.

Please, don't forget that school can make referrals to the Food Bank if your family could do with that little extra help at the moment. Just contact the office or have a quiet chat on the playground and we can sort out a voucher for you.

Mrs C Carter

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

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

HOUSE SYSTEM

This year has seen the launch of Houses at Gillingstool. Inspired by Harry Potter, Mrs Stimpson has worked with the school council to identify figureheads for our four Gillingstool Houses. All the children across the school have now been sorted into one of Sir David Attenborough, Marcus Rashford, Greta Thunberg or Malorie Blackman house. Each week in Celebration Assembly we will review House Points that have been awarded.



Each house has a Year 6 House Captain as a role model to work with Mrs Mitchinson who will be leading the house system going forward. The House Captains are Summer, Louie, Vincent and Joshua and they will be involved in events which are planned throughout the school year.

Our first event will be a House Decades Week disco which will take place in school time on Friday to celebrate the end of Decades Week.

Other House events will follow throughout the year – keep checking the newsletter for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM ONE AND TWO

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
2nd November – Individual Photos
7th and 9th November – Parent Consultation Meetings
8th November 9.30am and 11.00am - Open Day Tours for Reception 2023
14th November – Getting Along Week
16th November – Y4, 5, and 6 Cinema Visit
21st November – Y5 Class Assembly – Y5 parents invited
22nd November 2pm - Open Day Tours for Reception 2023

Christmas events to be confirmed soon

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.

REMINDERS

Please ensure that all uniform is named with permanent marker or a name tape.

We have had a huge amount of lost property in the first few weeks of term and without names we can't return it to its rightful owner.

Please ensure children do not wear jewellery to school.

Watches and stud earrings are the only acceptable items for health and safety reasons.

Please ensure children bring only water in their water bottles, fruit for a break time snack and no fizzy drinks or chocolate bars in their packed lunches.

We are a healthy school and we promote a healthy diet during school hours.

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.



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 4

Ethan
Josh
Kian
Lily-Mae
Freddie
Milne
Grace

Week 5

Miley
Theo
Keira
Daniel
Amelia
Carter
Mariama

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.

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.

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 weeks of the year currently stands at **94.7%**

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%
Week 4		88%	96%	97%	92%	97%	98%
Week 5	98%	93%	92%	99%	95%	99%	95%

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



10th October
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