

# Gillingstool Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



*Inspire, Believe, Achieve*

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## *Dear Parents and Carers*

It is hard to believe that another year is drawing to a close. Looking back over the past two Christmases, it seems like a different world. Gone (thank goodness) are the video performances, Christmas dinners in bubbles and socially distanced nativities. We have lots of events planned to celebrate the coming festivities and it is so nice to be joining together in celebration and opening our school to parents once again. I do hope you will be able to join us for one of our events over the next two weeks.

2022 has been a pivotal year for Gillingstool Primary School. The huge progress we have made as a school has finally been recognised in our 'Good' OFSTED judgement and our reputation in Thornbury is going from strength to strength. This is entirely down to the efforts of our community as we continue to work together. So as the year draws to a close, I would like to say an enormous 'Thank You' to all our stakeholders for their help and support: parents, staff, governors and, of course, our amazing children - the heart of Gillingstool.

I wish you and your families a happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to our continuing success together in the New Year.

*Mrs C Carter*

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM TWO AND THREE

5<sup>th</sup> December 4pm - Open Day Tours for Reception 2023

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day (bottom half school uniform)**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2pm – Y1 and 2 Christmas performance for parents

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch for children**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - 2pm Reception Nativity performance for parents**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – class Christmas parties

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm – Carol Concert – parents invited**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – School Closed Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – School Closed INSET training day

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Children Return TERM BEGINS

## A SPECIAL VISITOR TO RECEPTION

Last Friday morning began in an unusual way as our observant Reception class spotted an unexpected visitor in their garden.



Kim, the caretaker, was called to investigate and quickly identified the stranger as an urban fox, who sadly didn't seem at all well.

The poorly fox was having difficulty moving and had become cold and wet. When we approached, he hid under the bench in the Reception Mud Kitchen.



After multiple calls to the RSPCA and local vets, a team from Rowe Veterinary Group in Thornbury came to the rescue. They gently scooped up the fox and took him back to the surgery to take care of him.

## SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

If your child is starting primary school in September 2023 then the application window is now open.

Parents need to apply for primary places via the South Glos website  
[www.southglos.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://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 primary applications is January 15<sup>th</sup> 2023.**

## 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.

### Open Day Dates

**5<sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm**  
**11<sup>th</sup> January 2pm**

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.

## UNIFORM DONATIONS

With the cost of living crisis hitting us all, school are really grateful of any donations of school uniform that we might be able to pass on to families in need.

If you have any 'pre-loved' uniform that your children have outgrown, please pass it on via the school office, Mrs Carter or Miss Vokes.

## 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.

## 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.

## LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCIES



**We have vacancies for three lunchbreak supervisors.**

Two posts entail aiding and supporting children 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.



## 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

Rohan  
Alfie  
Clarke  
Jaxon  
Ellie  
Juan  
Jesse

#### Week 5

KaylaMay  
Jake  
Sarina  
Amelia  
Ella-Mae  
Dexter  
Bianca

## HEALTH REMINDERS

### Strep A symptoms

UK parents have been told to look out for signs of strep A in their children after six deaths

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- Fine, pink or red body rash
- Rash with 'sandpapery feel'

- According to the UK Health Security Agency

BirminghamLive

Strep A has been featured in the news this weekend. These are the symptoms to be aware of.

Please be assured of we have any concerns in school, parents will be contacted immediately.

Please ensure all your emergency contacts are up-to-date in the school office – we do need at least two contacts for your child.

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.



# 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 currently stands at 92.6%

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	96%	93%	91%	95%	89%	99%	99%
Week 2	94%	92%	95%	96%	84%	92%	98%
Week 3	97%	94%	93%	95%	91%	95%	100%
Week 4	87%	77%	87%	93%	93%	93%	95%
Week 5	85%	95%	91%	95%	87%	82%	92%
Week 6							
Week 7							

This term's attendance race is back on. Where is the pizza heading this term? 😊



5<sup>th</sup> December  
Issue 6 2022



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