

# Gillingstool Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



*Inspire, Believe, Achieve*

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## *Dear Parents and Carers*

An enormous Happy New Year to all our families and friends. The return to school has been a very busy but positive one. Our community is going from strength to strength as we welcomed another seven new students during our first week. Our pupil numbers have risen considerably over this academic year and it is lovely to see our classes flourishing and filling up. Our established pupils have done a fabulous job of welcoming and mentoring our new children.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January will see our first Coffee Morning of 2023. Our Coffee Mornings are a great opportunity for our new families to come into school and meet some of the staff and other parents and carers but all parents are welcome and encouraged to join. It's highly recommended and Miss Vokes always makes sure she has some quality biscuits on offer.

Later in the term there will be further Community Learning opportunities on offer to the Gillingstool families. Miss Vokes will keep you posted about these as they arise.

We look forward to working alongside you as the new year progresses.

*Mrs C Carter*

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM THREE AND FOUR

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 3.30pm Manor Adventure Briefing for current Y5 Parents

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2pm – Final Open Day Tour for Reception 2023

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Y4 Class Assembly 9.10am parents invited

Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February – BOOK WEEK

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February – TERM THREE ENDS**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – TERM BEGINS CHILDREN RETURN**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Y3 Class Assembly 9.10am parents invited

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Y2 Class Assembly 9.10am parents invited

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – TERM FOUR ENDS**

## FOG – Friends of Gillingstool

Thanks to all at FOG for organising the Christmas Market at the end of term. We had a fabulous evening and even got to meet with Santa.

We raised a grand total of £749.78 which will be spent on children across the school.

Congratulations to Melody who won our giant Bear and Frankie who was the lucky winner of the Pot of Gold.

We look forward to more FOG events in the coming year.



## Children in Need

Thanks for all your contributions.

We raised a £175.40 for Children in Need.



## CLOSING DATE FOR 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

**Open Day Dates**

**11<sup>th</sup> January 2pm**

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.

## 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



**Are you looking for some part time work? 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 6

Vincent  
Eva  
James  
Aadam  
Daniel  
Kristobelle  
Courtney

### Week 7

Summer  
Kye  
Sophia-Rose  
Jason  
Mia  
Peter

### Week 1

Rohan  
Josh  
Cleopatra  
Elena  
Paige  
Clementine  
Reggie

## 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 if we have any concerns in school, parents will be contacted immediately.

**Any child with a fever should not be in school.**

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 **91%**

We appreciate that children who have COVID will need to isolate for 3 days, those with a fever must remain at home 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 and those pupils who meet the national average have the chance to win a prize.

Congratulations to Year 6 on winning last term's Pizza treat and to Isaac and Reggie who were the Attendance Raffle winners.

## This Term's Attendance Data

	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 1	92%	92%	94%	84%	91%	95%	97%
Week 2							
Week 3							
Week 4							
Week 5							
Week 6							
Week 7							

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



9<sup>th</sup> January  
Issue 7 2023



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