

Gillingstool Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Inspire, Believe, Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

As Christmas drifts into the distant past the term seems to be galloping along at a busy pace. Last Monday the 16th of January is officially known as Blue Monday but at Gillingstool we felt anything but blue as one member of staff greeted us with some exciting news.



I am pleased to be able to share that Miss Elsbury and her partner, Ben, are expecting a baby in 2023. Miss Elsbury has been part of our Gillingstool family since her days as a student teacher and we are incredibly pleased to hear that her family is expanding.

Miss Elsbury's baby is due in July so she hopes to be with us for the majority of the school year. We will confirm arrangements for the year end and the new academic year once they are in place.

I am sure you will join with the staff and governors in wishing Miss Elsbury and Ben all the best for the coming months.

Mrs C Carter

PICK UP AND DROP OFF TO SCHOOL

It is lovely to have life on the playground at pickup times back to normal following all our pandemic restrictions. However, it does get a rather crowded around the entrances to the Reception, Year 1 and 2 classrooms and we have received some complaints that this makes it difficult for our parents to see their children coming out at pick up time.

Please can we request that parents stand back from the door ways to make it easier for parents and teachers to spot each other. We obviously want to ensure that children are safely handed over to the appropriate adult as swiftly as possible.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM THREE AND FOUR

Monday 23rd January – Y4 Class Assembly 9.10am parents invited

Wednesday 1st February – NEU Industrial Action – see separate letter

Week beginning 6th February – BOOK WEEK

Friday 10th February – TERM THREE ENDS

Monday 20th February – INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 21st February – TERM BEGINS CHILDREN RETURN

Monday 27th February – Y3 Class Assembly 9.10am parents invited

Monday 27th March – Y2 Class Assembly 9.10am parents invited

Friday 31st March – TERM FOUR ENDS



PE UNIFORM

With our change to PE changing procedures we are now offering a school PE hoodie as part of our uniform range.

On PE days children now come to school wearing their kit to minimise time wasted in changing. The current expectation is that they still wear their school cardigan or jumper so that we maintain our consistent smart appearance. The new hoodie is an alternative which makes this even easier.

They are available for just £12 if delivered to school or £13.50 if bought online.

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.

THORNBURY MOTHERS' UNION

Thornbury Mothers' Union is looking to open up their meetings to new members so that other people can come and enjoy their talks. Subjects covered this year include, Drugs within families, The Matthew Trust, My Life as a Woman within the Islamic Faith and The Julian Trust Night Shelter for the Homeless.

Meetings are held at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm.

The subject Drugs Within families:

Tea or coffee are available and you are all welcome. For more information please contact:
Monica 01454 413975

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 2

Summer
Ollie
Max and Kaiden
Lily-Mae
Blaze
Otis
Alexia

Week 3

Miley
Pollyanna
Laura
Jason
Mischa
Tim
Isla

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 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 **91.3%**

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	92%	91%	95%	94%	94%	92%	98%
Week 3	95%	92%	95%	98%	91%	88%	99%
Week 4							
Week 5							
Week 6							
Week 7							

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



23rd January
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