

# Gillingstool Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



*Inspire, Believe, Achieve*

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## *Dear Parents and Carers*

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you with the situation regarding school dinners.

As you already know we buy in our school dinners from Integra Catering. Integra is the trading arm of South Gloucestershire Council. Integra are having difficulties recruiting staff at the moment and sadly our cook resigned earlier in the term. Integra have been unable to supply a replacement cook at Gillingstool and this is why they are unable to provide hot school meals at the present time.

As approximately a third of our children are entitled to free school meals, I have raised this as a concern both with the Integra Catering Area Manager and Service Director. I requested that with such high numbers of free school meals Gillingstool should be a priority for staffing.

Unfortunately, the response from Integra has not been in our favour. As a consequence the children are still being offered just a sandwich, fruit and yoghurt or a jacket potato. Thanks to the remaining staff in the kitchen they are providing fish fingers on a Friday.

As a school we are not satisfied with the situation as it stands. As the response from Integra was so disappointing, both myself and the governing body have contacted Luke Hall, the local MP, to ask for his support. We are also in the process of seeking a new catering provider. Mrs Cooper, as our School Business Manager, has made this a priority but sadly the process of changing catering company will take many months to complete.

I know many parents share my frustration with the situation as it stands. I wanted you to be aware of the steps we have taken in attempting to resolve the problem and that it remains a matter of urgency for us.

*Mrs C Carter*

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM THREE AND FOUR

**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**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Parents' Evening Consultations**

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

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

## ARBOR



# Arbor

Our office would like to remind parents to ensure they have downloaded the Arbor app in order to make the most of using the online systems now available to parents.

The majority of communications are now sent via Arbor (including this newsletter).

Appointments for Parents' Evening are also made through Arbor. These will be released after half term ready for meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Payments are also being transferred to Arbor including those for school dinners. It is vital for parents to make the move to Arbor as the office intend for us to become a cashless school over the coming months.

Please see Sarah in the office if you require any assistance with the app or any of its functions.

## 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 two lunchbreak supervisors.

One post entails 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

Ethan D  
Bella  
Dinu  
Charlie  
Arwyn  
Daniel  
Rosa

#### Week 5

KaylaMay  
Ema  
Betty  
Jason  
Skye  
Jack  
Iris

# 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 **91.5%**

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.

## 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	93%	92%	96%	93%	94%	96%	95%
Week 5	93%	91%	87%	92%	88%	94%	98%
Week 6							
Week 7							

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



6<sup>th</sup> February  
Issue 9 2023



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Believe,  
Achieve







# Friends of Gillingstool Newsletter

PTA of Gillingstool Primary School

## Welcome to our latest news update – February 2023

Friends of Gillingstool (FOG) are a registered charity and our organising committee plan a mix of fundraising and social events throughout the year for our school's pupils, their families and the local community. Money raised helps our school to buy additional equipment and resources for all our children attending the school. Thanks to everyone for your support – together we can do so much!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates for your diary!

#### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Discos

Reception and KS1

3:30pm – 4.30pm

KS2

5:00pm – 6:00pm

### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Through your support  
the Christmas Market  
Event in 2022 raised  
**£749.78**

#### Our next fundraising target

Each class has created a  
'wish list' for items they want.  
This includes a wish for an  
iPad (or tablet) for each class.

### Plans for Spring / Summer Events

The FOG committee members regularly hold FOG committee meetings with Mrs Carter. On 23<sup>rd</sup> January we discussed planning a Disco, Easter Competition, a sponsored read and a Summer Fair.

We also arrange other FOG meetings and invite parents/carers to attend. Your ideas are welcome! Future meetings are planned – details coming soon!

### How we spend money raised

The money raised from the FOG Christmas Market of £749.78 will likely be spent on musical instruments for the children – more details will be shared soon!

Last academic year the money raised was spent on outdoor play equipment which was chosen by the children for all classes and indoor games for rainy day play time.

### Interested in getting involved?

The different ways to get involved are:

FOG Committee: responsible for a specific role

FOG Member: support and help organise and run events

FOG helper: happy to be asked if you are available to help set-up or run events for on the day of an event?

You can offer to help as and when you are free.

Please contact us to find out more!



Email us: [friendsofgillingstool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgillingstool@gmail.com)



Join our Facebook Group: [Friends of Gillingstool](#)

You can message us through Facebook