

# Gillingstool Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



*Inspire, Believe, Achieve*

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## *Dear Parents and Carers*

Welcome back to Term 4 – it's lovely to see some sunny days at last as spring is in the air.

With the weather improving I would like to encourage families to walk to school rather than driving and to take this opportunity to remind parents and visitors of the importance of parking appropriately and safely around school.

**The school car park is not for use by parents** unless they have been provided with a permit due to a family member having additional needs.

We have over 30 staff and 170 children at Gillingstool and there is just not the room for everyone to park on site.

Sadly, we have had recent incidents involving parents ignoring this rule, which has in turn led to adults arguing in the car park. This is not at all nice for our children to witness. Please avoid this by parking at Rock Street and walking to school.

I would also ask parents to park and drive with care in the streets surrounding the rear of the school. We had a near-miss involving one of our students last week. If you must park on the streets please drive carefully and be aware of children crossing the roads as you go.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

*Mrs C Carter*

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM FOUR

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

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – School Closed NEU strike action

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – FOG disco after school

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

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day (see separate section)

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

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

## RED NOSE DAY – 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of March is Comic Relief's Red Nose Day.

Gillingstool is a regular supporter of this event, however, this year we have made the decision not to sell the official red noses as we have been informed that they are not safe for children under 7 years due to small parts.



As an alternative we will be holding a 'Wear Something Red' non-uniform day and offering to face paint children a red nose instead. Please let us know if you do not wish for your child to have their face painted.

We would ask for a donation of £1 towards Comic Relief so our children will still be able to make a contribution towards the charity.

### CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Well done to Year 5 and 6 pupils who raised over £170 for The Salvation Army through their end of term sale of sweet cones. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.



### 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.

### 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.

## POSTAGE STAMP APPEAL



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 VACANCY



**Are you looking for some part time work? We have a vacancy for an SEN lunchbreak supervisor.**

The post entails aiding and supporting children with additional needs requiring 1:1 support during lunchtime both in the hall and the playground.

The hours are from 12.00 to 1.00pm each day.

If you are interested in this vacancy 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**

**Logan  
Nicoleta  
Avaleigh  
Frankie  
Mischa  
Denys  
Manah**

#### **Week 1**

**Logan  
Tyler  
Sarina  
Rylee-Jay  
Sinead  
Emmie-May  
Arlo**

# 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 **91.8%**

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	YI	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	95%	91%	97%	98%	97%	99%	98%
Week 7							
Week 1	87%	98%	91%	97%	96%	85%	95%

Congratulations to Y6 for a T3 win but this term's attendance race is back on with Y1 taking a lead.  
Where is the pizza heading this term? 😊



27<sup>th</sup> February  
Issue 10 2023



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Believe,  
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# 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