

Gillingstool Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Inspire, Believe, Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

I thought I would take this opportunity to update you all regarding the provision of school meals at Gillingstool.

Sadly, despite our exposure on the local news and myself and governors writing repeatedly to our local councillors and Member of Parliament, as yet there has been no improvement in the meals provided for our children.

On a positive note, Integra Catering have been in touch to say that they have employed a new cook for Gillingstool. However, the new cook can't begin work until their security checks have been completed. So there is still no confirmed date for the return to hot meals as yet.

In the meantime Mrs Cooper has begun work with a group of other local schools to find a new contractor to provide our school meals from September. We will keep you updated with the progress surrounding this and will provide further information once a supplier is in place.

Having the ability to provide a nutritional, hot meal for all our children remains a priority for us and we will continue to do all we can to ensure this is available as soon as possible.

Mrs C Carter

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM FOUR

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

Tuesday 14th March – 2.15pm Y2 Phonics Meeting

Wednesday 15th March – School Closed NEU strike action

Thursday 16th March – School Partially Closed NEU strike action

Friday 17th March – Red Nose Day (see separate section)

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

Friday 31st March – TERM FOUR ENDS

COFFEE MORNING

Thanks to everyone who attended our Coffee Morning today. It's a lovely way to start the week and get to know each other a little better.

Today our families shared low cost ideas about how to keep children occupied during the holidays and weekends.

Recommendations were:

Alpaca Farm and Café at Alveston	Nature Walk by new houses Morton Way
St Mary's Centre Soft Play	Krunch Youth Club
Almondsbury Creative	Lego Club at Thornbury Library
Mundy Playing Fields	Jump Soft Play Cribbs Causeway
Eastwood Carden Centre	Air Hop Trampoline Park Cribbs Causeway
Thornbury Baptist Church Soft Play Café	Thornbury Castle outdoor walk
Leisure Centre for swimming	Blaise Castle wlk and park
Nature Walk Filmore Woods nr Leisure Centre	Dobbies Garden Centre soft play and café
Oldown Country Park	Wild Place project

NEXT COFFEE MORNING – THURSDAY 4TH MAY

RED NOSE DAY – 17TH MARCH

Friday 17th 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.

SAFARI ROCK

Safari Rock are holding an exotic animal encounter day Easter Monday.



This Easter, we have Oreo the Meerkat making a guest appearance along with some of his friends including armadillos, foxes, skunks, tortoises, snakes, tarantulas and many more... Including your ticket will be free softplay during your hour slot, meet and greet with each of the animals, talks about each creature and possibly, the opportunity to hold some of them! If some of our younger guests prefer to play in the softplay it will be open throughout along with our café for refreshments. (Please note all hot drinks will be served in take away cups during the event.)

This link is for tickets. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/animal-encounter-day-tickets-575854364907>

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 2

Vincent
Kacey
Clarke
Keeley
Raven-Rose
Dexter
Alexia

Week 3

Rohan
Cameron
Riley
Ocean
Carly
Jessica
Rosa

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 **91.9%**

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	87%	98%	91%	97%	96%	85%	95%
Week 2	96%	93%	95%	93%	96%	96%	98%
Week 3	91%	90%	92%	91%	93%	95%	93%

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



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Friends of Gillingstool Newsletter

PTA of Gillingstool Primary School

Welcome to our latest news update – March 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!

Role of FOG chair

Are you confident?

Friendly and Approachable?

Organised?

This role involves organising and chairing our FOG committee meetings and leading on organising events. **To ease into the role it will start off as being a co-chair role with our interim FOG Chair Matt.**

Interested?

Please contact us for more details

Interested in being the next FOG chair?

The FOG committee members include a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Marketing Officer.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the friendly FOG committee and volunteer your time for a rewarding role. Do you want to develop your skills, meet lots of new people, help fundraise for the school to benefit the pupils and have some fun?

We would love to hear from you!

Thanks to our FOG Chair Jessica

Jessica has been our FOG Chair for the last three years and due to changing circumstances is stepping back from this role.

A BIG THANK YOU Jessica for all your hard work and many hours you have dedicated to FOG. You have been amazing at bringing everyone together to organise a range of fun events over the last 3 years, helping to raise hundreds of pounds!



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Through your support the Disco Event in March 2023 raised £162.36 - thank you!

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.

Details of next event coming soon!

Interested in being part of FOG?

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



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

You can message us through Facebook