

Gillingstool Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Inspire, Believe, Achieve

Gillingstool, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire, BS35 2EG Tel. 01454 866527

E-mail: office@gillingstool.org.uk Website: www.gillingstool.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term Five – it seems this year is flying by – it's unbelievable that we have already arrived at the summer term. However, it's lovely to be back in school with lighter mornings and, on occasions, better weather which allows the children to play together on the school field.

The children have settled back in after the Easter break beautifully. We were proud to host a Peer Review on the first day of term in which we were visited by our Local Authority Challenge and Support Partner and two other Headteachers. They were very impressed by the teaching and learning they saw at Gillingstool. They were particularly complimentary about the attitudes towards learning the children displayed in class and how articulate our children were when talking about their learning. I was very proud and I am sure you are too.

As we head towards the final terms of this academic year, I have some news to share about staffing changes that we anticipate from September.

As you know, Miss Elsbury will be beginning her maternity leave towards the end of the summer. I am pleased to say that Mrs Harries will cover Year 6 for the remainder of this school year.

In other news, from September Mrs Stimpson will be stepping away from her class teacher role in order to be our SENCo, Deputy Head and Inclusion Lead on a fulltime basis. Alongside this Mrs Portergill has also decided to move away from her permanent role at Gillingstool and return to supply teaching instead. I would like to thank her for her work over the past three years and wish her well in the future.

Consequently, we are currently advertising for two class teachers to join our team to cover these changes. Once those teachers have been appointed we will be in a position to confirm which teachers will be in which classes from September. I will keep you informed as the situation progresses.

Mrs C Carter

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM FIVE AND SIX

Thursday 27th April – NEU strike (Y4 only)

Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 2nd May – NEU strike (Y6 in school)

Monday 8th May – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 9th May – Y6 SATs Week

Monday 15th May – Y1 Class Assembly 9.10am

Friday 26th May – TERM FIVE ENDS

Monday 5th June – SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY

Tuesday 6th June – TERM SIX BEGINS

Week Beginning 26th June – Sports Week

Tuesday 27th June - Sports Day – 1pm

Thursday 29th June – Back Up Sports Day – 1pm

PLEASE NOTE: SPORTS DAY WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE AFTERNOON THIS YEAR

SMART WATCHES

PLEASE CAN PARENTS BE AWARE THAT SMART WATCHES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL.

The reasoning behind this is two-fold.

Firstly, Smart Watches are a safeguarding concern. Children are able to access internet but we are unable to monitor the content of what is sent and received.

Secondly, Smart Watches are hugely expensive and school can not be accountable for any cost incurred if they become damaged.

PLEASE ENSURE SMART WATCHES STAY AT HOME



E-SAFETY REMINDERS

We have recently had a few incidents involving our older children mis-using What's App outside of school time. Although this is not technically a school matter, fallings out and upsets between children do spill over into school time and have an impact on relationships and learning.

In addition to our regular lessons on internet safety, we are sharing the poster below with our older children. You may find this useful to support any discussions you have about safe internet use at home.



COFFEE MORNING

Thanks to everyone who has attended our regular Coffee Mornings.

It's a lovely way to start the week and get to know each other a little better but we know Monday morning doesn't work for everyone. Our next date is a Thursday instead so do come along and have a coffee and a natter.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING – THURSDAY 4TH MAY

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 1

Josh
Elsa
Jethro
Dawson
Mischa
Jaidon
Grace

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. These are the symptoms to be aware of.

Please be assured of 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 91.9%

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.

Last 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%
Week 4	91%	82%	92%	90%	91%	84%	98%
Week 5	90%	96%	94%	96%	92%	89%	91%
Week 6	91%	93%	94%	93%	86%	93%	95%

Congratulations to Y6 for another T4 win but this term's attendance race is back.

This Term's Attendance Data

	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 1	95%	85%	96%	92%	97%	98%	98%

It's been a really positive start back. Where is the pizza heading this term? 😊



24th April
Issue 13 2023



Inspire,
Believe,
Achieve



