

Gislingham C of E Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr Richard Benstock MA
www.gislingham.suffolk.gov.uk



Monday 19th September – School Closed

16th September 2022

September Newsletter

Message from Mr. Benstock

This is the first newsletter for the new school year and you will receive one monthly to give information on what has been happening in school as well as useful reminders of future events.

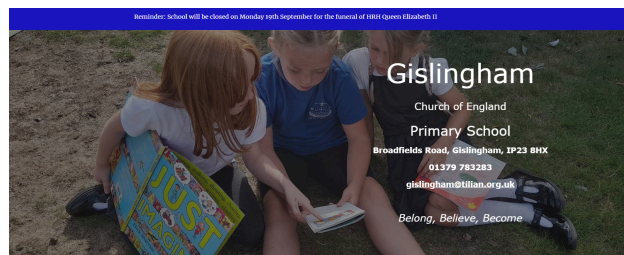
I would like to start by saying a big thank you to the whole school community (children, parents, extended family, governors and staff) for making me feel so welcome as I start my new journey here at Gislingham. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support that has already been extended to me as I learn all about our school and begin making plans for how to continue the superb opportunities offered to all our children as well as extend these even further. Children deserve a happy and safe environment where they can achieve to their fullest potential, whilst having a wonderful time! This has always been a feature of Gislingham Primary and I intend to continue to make this our priority.

Please remember to come and see me if you have any questions, concerns, comments or just need a bit of help with anything. Have a good weekend and I will see you all bright and early on Tuesday morning.

School Website

Please remember that all information about the school can be found on our school website – updated calendar dates,

policies and procedures, copies of letters etc...

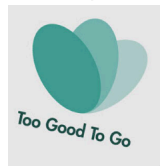


I am in the process of updating the website visuals and am intending to use more photos of school life. If you do not want your child's photo on the website and have not already informed us of this, please let the office staff know ASAP.

<https://sites.google.com/tilian.org.uk/gislingham/home>

Cost of Living

As you are all aware, we are entering a challenging time for us all. Everyone will be feeling the pinch right now and there will be many people within our school community who are worrying about money matters! We would like to help wherever possible, so please see the list below, which may be useful to you all...



- There are a couple of useful 'apps' which may be of use to some of you: "OLIO" <https://olioex.com/> and "Too

Good To Go"

<https://toogoodtogo.co.uk/en-gb/> .

These apps are free to download and can be a way of receiving groceries at a reduced rate or even free. It's well worth a look!

- If you have any old uniform that is no longer needed and you would be willing to donate to a "Swap Shop", please bring it in to school now. At the start of October, we will have all donated uniform on the playground for you to take if you can use it. We are not asking for any payment unless you want to donate what you can.
- I want to remind you that school uniform is compulsory, **but logos are not**. As long as you are colour matching... that's fine with me. You may also wish for your child to wear a blue polo shirt instead of a white one – this is fine as well.
- Please can I reiterate again that if you have any worries, please come and speak to us. We are here to help you if we can.

Beginning of the Day

I have had some questions regarding the beginning of the school day. So, let me clarify...

Gates will open at 8.50am and close at 9.00am.



Where possible, please drop your child at the gate and allow them the independence to walk into school alone.

If your child likes you to come on to the playground, this is fine, but please, say your goodbyes and go so that the teachers can organise their classes and get them in to class quickly and efficiently. If your child insists on you being there until they go in to class, may I recommend you arrive at 8.58am!

We will always welcome parents on to the school site, but we simply want to help the children prepare for their day.

If you want to speak to a teacher, please make an appointment. If it's just a quick message, speak to me and I will pass it on. Thanks for your cooperation.

Volunteers in School

Now we are through COVID restrictions, we would like to welcome volunteer helpers back in to school. As a volunteer, you will be helping the children with their reading, art, design technology, science etc... I would usually ask volunteer helpers to work in classes where their children are NOT based! If you are interested, please contact the school office and fill in a volunteer application form.

Attendance

Statutory attendance is 9.00am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday. If your child is not attending school it is imperative that you contact school to let us know. We have absence request forms to be filled in if you know an absence is coming up. If your child is absent, please call or email the school office before 9.30am on the first day of absence.

School Meals

Please see the school website for links to the school meal menus and allergen advice.



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<http://www.eats-catering.co.uk/>

Please ensure your 'Arbor' account is topped up in order to cover school meal payments.

If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), please use the link below to apply for them. It is well worth trying because you could save yourself money by receiving FSM. Families who receive FSM also create more income to the school through Pupil Premium, so FSM saves **YOU** money and also provides more money for the school. If you are in any doubt, please apply, because they can only say no and the whole process is confidential.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Message from Gill Watson (Lead SENCO for Tilian)

Here are some YouTube videos and free parent webinars for parents in Suffolk, covering a wide range of mental health issues for children and young people including anxiety, low mood and managing big feelings.

[Parent workshops - Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust](https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/parent-workshops)

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If you have any SEN concerns, please contact the school who will pass on messages for me and I will get back to you ASAP.

Harvest Assembly

We will be inviting Reverend Debbie in to school on Friday 14th October to lead us in a Harvest Festival. This will be in the school hall at 2.45pm and will finish with a procession into the playground at 3.15pm followed by a closing hymn (acapella style!) Parents are invited to join us on the playground at 3.15pm (gates will open at 3.10pm).

If you are able to send in some food for us to make a collection to be donated to the local Foodbank, please bring it in to school on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th October. Thank you!

Coffee Morning



Thursday 29th September – Coffee Morning 9.15am – 10.30am.

You are all invited to join Mr Benstock and other school staff for a coffee and a biscuit. This is not formal, but offers you the chance to chat to the Headteacher about anything and everything, as well as just spending an hour or so in a warm building with friends.

Vacancies



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We are seeking to appoint two new members of staff for our planned After School Club Provision. If you are interested, please look on our website for the advertisement. Thank you.