Gislingham C of E Primary School

Broadfields Road, Gislingham, Suffolk, IP23 8HX
Email: gislingham@tilian.org.uk Tel: 01379 7832
Head Teacher: Mr Richard Benstock MA
www.gislingham.suffolk.gov.uk

'Belong, Believe, Become'

Just to let you know that the filming that Year 3 class (last year) were involved in will be released in April. They will show the trailer, which is now fully approved, from 5th April and the programme will be available on iPlayer from 9th April. Wild Isles with David Attenborough.

31st March 2023

March Newsletter

Message from Mr. Benstock

Dear Families,

Where has this term gone? It seems like only yesterday I was wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, and now I am writing to say that I hope you all have a magical Easter break and enjoy some well earned rest and relaxation time with your families.

As is typical in education we have a few staff changes to let you know about:

Miss Ruddock has been teaching at Gislingham for the past 4 years and is well liked and respected by all children, parents, staff and governors. She is a conscientious and dedicated teacher both to the children in her own class, but also to the wider aspects of school life - she leads the school council, coordinates RE and PSHE and has been actively involved in school wide events. Miss Ruddock will be leaving us at Easter as she has secured a new teaching position much closer to her home. We wish her the very best of luck for the future and thank her on behalf of the whole school community for the impact she has made on the lives of the children here at Gislingham.

Miss Ruddock will be temporarily replaced by two teachers, job-sharing the role of Year 1 teacher in the summer term - Miss Elizabeth Jones and Mrs Jo Stevenson.

We are also very happy to welcome two new members of permanent staff:

Kelsey Holden has joined the office team as an office administrator and has already settled in brilliantly. She will be the first port of call for all parent queries and calls on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Hannah Austin is a new Midday Supervisor and has, again, made a great start. We still have a vacancy for one more Midday Supervisor, so please let me know if you are interested. Click HERE for the advert.

We are also pleased to welcome back our student teacher, Mrs DuToit, who is completing her final teaching placement here in Year 2 prior to her graduation in July. She is a fantastic teacher and will be a great addition to the Year 2 team!

Have a wonderful and well-earned Easter break and we look forward to seeing you back here on **Tuesday 18th April**.



Meet and Greet New Year 1 Teachers

On Tuesday 18th April, Year 1 parents are invited into school for a meet and greet with Miss Jones (new Year 1 teacher on Mondays and Tuesdays).

On Wednesday 19th April, Year 1 parents are invited into school to meet and greet Mrs Stevenson (new Year 1 teacher on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays).

Mental Health

15 to 21 May 2023
Mental Health Awareness Week
Mental Health Foundation

Each month, we will have a section in the newsletter with support for Mental Health. These are collated by our Mental Health and Wellbeing lead teacher, Mrs Schultheiss. Please also look on the school website for more guidance and information.

Anxiety
Anxiety can be a thought (mental) or feeling (physical) that can feel very scary. Anxiety is actually not dangerous and can sometimes be helpful in certain situations. Everybody experiences anxious feelings sometimes, it is a normal.

This link will take you to a guide for parents. It explains in more detail what anxiety is, offers ways to talk to children about it and suggests practical coping strategies.
https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/anxiety/

Anger
Anger is a normal and healthy reaction when things don't go the way we expected, life feels unfair or people upset or hurt us. It can be a helpful thing - letting us know that something is wrong or not okay with us.
It's normal for children and young people to find it difficult to manage their angry feelings sometimes, and it's helpful to remember that the part of our brain that helps us do this doesn't fully develop until we're in our mid-20s.
If you need support to respond to your child's anger or aggression, click on this link:
https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/anger/

Year 1 Trip to Framlingham Castle

The Year 1 children enhanced their interest in their Castles unit of work with a visit to Framlingham Castle. They had a fantastic time and learnt so much more by immersing themselves in the reality of history. School visits are so good!

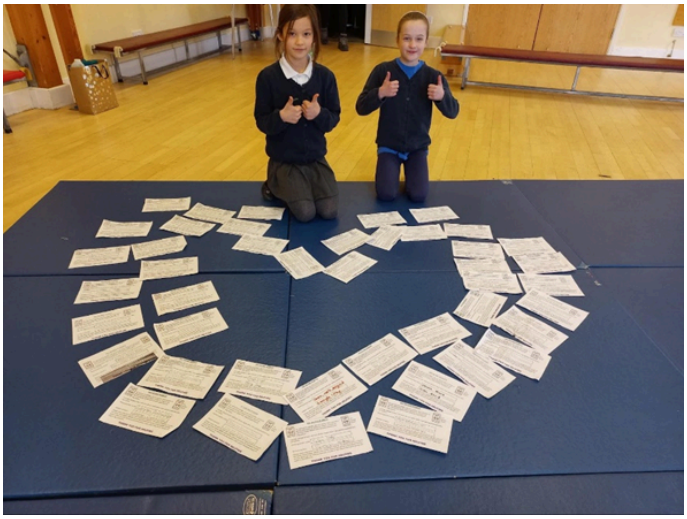
Roman Day



On the 10th March, Year 4 had a Roman Day. They were visited by a Roman soldier and an Iceni Warrior who led a series of activities, helping bring their Romans topic

to life. These immersive events are imperative to children's love of learning and we will continue to encourage special days such as these. The children are looking forward to sharing their writing with parents on 19th April at 9.10am, when parents will also learn more about the upcoming residential to Bawdsey Manor.

No Idling... Yes Please!



On behalf of the Eco Council we would like to thank all the families who have made the pledge to turn off their engines anytime they are waiting near our school. Approximately two thirds of our family have made this commitment – below are just some of the returns we received. Officially, our policy starts from the beginning of the summer term but perhaps we can all start now? We really will make a difference to the quality of the air in and around our school. Thank you.

Idling Policy Update: The Eco Council teamed up with the JRSOs to write to the Parish Council about this policy. Although the minutes of this meeting are not available as I write, I can confirm that the Parish Council have agreed to support this policy so hopefully, more people in our village will hear about no idling and decide to join in too.

Egyptian Day



On 23rd March, Year 3 were engaged all day in a series of activities to enhance their knowledge and understanding of their Ancient Egyptians unit of work. Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Berry worked tirelessly in the planning, organisation and delivery of this exciting day. This is yet another example of how the staff here at Gislingham go over and beyond to make education fun, motivating and exciting. The children were treated to a fabulous day which culminated in a 'parent share' afternoon.







Cost of Living

Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

If you are a family on low income and currently do not claim Free School Meals, please fill out the form in this link, as we can then access further funding for your child in school to help towards school trips, uniform, resources and school meals. Please complete this even if your child is in KS1 and receives free meals anyway, as there is so much more available to you if you are successful. If you need any help with these forms, please ask a member of staff.

Grand Opening of the Running Track

SportsAid Eastern

Thank you to all those who attended the Grand Opening of the school running track. We were pleased to receive some Press attention from this event as well. We have been able to make a donation of £250 to Sports Aid thanks to the generosity of families during the sponsored run. I am proud to say that we are now one of only a handful of schools in the country with an all weather running track on the school grounds. This shows clearly that keeping children physically active is one of our key priorities here at Gislingham. Please enjoy a few photos from the day on pages 7 & 8 of this newsletter, kindly donated by Jenifer Ashwell, who took time out from her photography business to help us out voluntarily!

Sporting Achievements

As you all know, our PE lead, Mrs Beards, has been very busy this term with several competitions across the Hartismere pyramid as part of the Omnibus Games. We have had some super success regarding the effort levels from children, their willingness to compete, their perseverance in participation and, in some cases, some excellent achievements. The successful children will receive their certificates and medals in assembly, but here are a few photos of the recent events. Congratulations to everyone

who was selected to take part in these events!







YOU SAID... WE DID!

This section is highlighting areas where we have listened to children and parent views and made changes in school as a result of these conversations! Please keep talking to me and together we can adapt and change where necessary for the better.

You said - We are worried about being 'run over' by children who ride their bikes and scooters on the school playground before and after school.

We did - After Easter we will have a strict '**NO BIKES OR SCOOTERS ON THE PLAYGROUND**' rule. Please respect the safety of others and ensure your children walk their bikes or scooters when on the playground. Thank you.

You said - Communication is much better than it was, but could we have LESS emails and be communicated in an alternative way using the website or social media?

We did - We make sure the school calendar is up-to-date on a daily basis. This is accessible through the HOME PAGE of the school website. Please note that changes to the menu for school dinners; school and class events; changes to a curriculum lesson; cancelled clubs etc… will be on the school calendar. We will also be opening an information based Facebook account for you to follow during the Easter break.

You said - Lessons need to be fun and interactive!

We did - Hopefully, as you can see from this newsletter, we have increased the emphasis on a holistic education experience, where learning outside of the four walls of the classroom is a priority.

Communication regarding school meals

The new MENU is available on the school website. If there are any discrepancies to the menu, we will inform you via Facebook and on the homepage of the school website. We will no longer be sending emails to inform of week by week changes, so it is your responsibility to access the website regularly to see if there is anything new.
The HOME PAGE looks like this:



Important news will be added to the scroll bar at the top or as a clickable button on the HOME SCREEN picture (as shown in the picture above.)

Next Coffee Morning



Thursday 20th April 2023 – Coffee Morning 9.00am – 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.

School Website

Don't forget, you can get more information about school with links to policies, governance etc… on the school website.

Dates for your Diaries

Here are some key dates for you, but remember, you can access all key dates on the home page of the school website:

April:
17th - Staff Training Day
18th - Pupils return to school
18th - Omnibus Swimming event
20th - Coffee Morning
26th - FairTrade Fayre
28th - Class 5 trip to Euston Farm

May:
1st - Bank Holiday
2nd - 3rd - Year 4 Residential Bawdsey Manor
4th - Coffee Morning
8th - Bank Holiday
9th - 12th - SATS Week for Year 6
9th - Full SGC Governors Meeting @ 9.30
18th - Coffee Morning
22nd - Omnibus Tennis Event Yrs 1-6
26th - Break up for Half term

FairTrade Fayre

Fairtrade Fayre Wednesday 26th April 3pm
Please click HERE to see the letter.

Running Track Opening Photos



















RHINO CAKE SALE

Wednesday 19th April

3:30pm



Come and support the Eco Council and raise money for endangered Rhinos. Donations of cakes are very welcome. Cakes will be 50p/ £1 for bigger cakes.

Please buy cakes for the Rhinos!

NEWS FROM GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Carpet Bowls sessions have been running successfully for the last 20 weeks achieving an average of 16 people attending each week. It has been so successful that we have had to purchase a second set of equipment and extend the length of the session.

The level of interest has exceeded our expectations! It is great because it has given people in the village another activity for them to go to.



As the participants explained 'It's very relaxing and a lot of fun!' and 'It's a great way of meeting people'.

Anyone interested in trying it out simply turn up on Mondays at 2.15pm - the cost is £3.00 per session.

Pictured above right are some of the participants with the coach, Malcolm Bailey.