

Gislingham C of E Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr Richard Benstock MA

www.gislingham.suffolk.gov.uk



Just to let you know that the filming that Year 3 class (last year) were involved in has been released. The trailer, and the programme itself is available on iPlayer. Wild Isles with David Attenborough.

21st April 2023

April Newsletter

Message from Mr. Benstock

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new term! I am always excited for the summer months as the children have more access to outdoor learning opportunities. It is so rewarding to see the children engaged, motivated and learning in the fresh air and sunshine!

I hope we can match the efforts made last term by children and staff. One of the standout moments was the Year 6 Schools Shakespeare Production - please see a selection of photos at the end of this letter and a review by clicking on this link - [REVIEW](#).

One key quote from Ben Vardy at the SSF sums up Gislingham children to a T -

"... we have been so impressed by your commitment, bravery and resilience!"

Yet again, I am immensely proud to be a part of this wonderful school community.

Please remember that if you need anything or have any comments / concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Have a good weekend.

Teacher Strike

I have sent out an email to explain the next teacher strike days. Please complete [this form](#) to let me know if your child will be in school or not. Thank you.

Closed classes are: Year Reception, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6.

Year 1, 3 and Year 4 are open.

Mental Health

15 to 21 May 2023

Mental Health Awareness Week



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.

Divorce and Separation

Every child and young person's experience with the loss of their known family unit will be unique, but it can sometimes cause emotional distress and



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if this is the case it is good to know more and have access to support.

In the immediate aftermath of a break-up, children's early responses can involve a number of defence behaviours, including: denial, disbelief, dissociation, hyperactivity, irritability and protest, alarm and panic. Over time, children may experience grief and display behaviours and emotions that indicate yearning and pining, sadness and depression, anger and hostility, anxiety, guilt, shame and despair. Even if children feel relieved at a family break-up where violence is a significant factor, most children will still feel some loss and grief.

At school we can offer a number of ways to support your child including time to talk and a listening ear. This link also offers a number of things you can do to improve the way your child copes with the changes going on around them.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/divorce/>

opportunities as we aim to improve the mental health and well-being of the families of Gislingham and beyond! They have also offered some FREE courses for parents! This is on a first come, first served basis, so if you are interested, please contact me at the school urgently to book your place! See this flyer for details - [FLYER](#)

Course dates

The Essentials	Tuesday 9 May 2023 9.30am - 1.30pm
The Essentials	Tuesday 13 June 2023 9.30am - 1.30pm
The Essentials	Tuesday 11 July 2023 9.30am - 1.30pm
The Essentials	Thursday 28 Sept 2023 9.30am - 1.30pm
The Essentials	Wednesday 18 Oct 2023 9.30am - 1.30pm
The Essentials	Monday 6 November 2023 9.30am - 1.30pm
Sleep Well, Work Well	Monday 5 June 2023 3:30pm - 5pm
Sleep Well, Work Well	Wednesday 5 July 2023 3:30pm - 5pm

Year 3+4 Visit to Suffolk Farm Fair

Please look for photos of this fantastic day coming soon!

Well-Being Courses for Parents



Suffolk Mind have been working with us in school, supporting and training staff. They will be leading a 90 minute session with each class during the summer term, full of fun activities and learning

Cost of Living

**Free
School
Meals**

A stylized orange fork and red knife icon positioned to the right of the text.

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



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successful. If you need any help with these forms, please ask a member of staff.

Feedback on a Contentious Issue

Last month we put this in the 'You said...we did' section:

"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.

Since this went out, I have been inundated with concerns that we will not be emailing enough information! It seems we will not please everyone, so with that in mind, the coffee morning parents today had an excellent compromise... urgent emails will still happen, emails will be sent if they are deemed a priority and we will try and collate these together so you do not receive too many. Any non-urgent information will be updated on the website calendar for you to check weekly. The Facebook page is planned, but not operational just yet.

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 - Could we have a newsletter more regularly?

We did - I will aim to get an information letter out weekly, just to let you know what is happening the following week and any other urgent information. Once per month, there will be a newsletter in this format with pictures and celebrations.

You said - When is Sports Day?

We did - Sports Day will be Tuesday 4th July 2023. It will be a whole day event, with team relays / activities in the morning and competitive races in the afternoon!

Next Coffee Morning



Thursday 18th May 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 with friends.

School Website

Don't forget, you can get more information about school with links to the calendar, policies, menus, 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:

26th - FairTrade Fayre
27th - Teacher Strike Day
28th - Class 5 trip to Euston Farm

May:

1st - Bank Holiday



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2nd - Teacher Strike Day
 2nd - 3rd - Year 4 Residential Bawdsey Manor
 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.



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