

Newsletter 26-27 - Autumn 1 - 16th October

The Week Ahead

Monday 19th October:

PE: 1 Donaldson and 5 Leonard

Clubs: Mini-Athletics, Football Squad (Invite Only), Monday Club (Invite Only)

Events: Year 3 Trip to Stonehenge

Tuesday 20th October:

PE: 2 Jeffers, 4 Morpurgo, 6 Anderson

Clubs: Artikids

Events: Parents' Evening Night 2

Wednesday 21st October:

PE: Reception Ladybirds, 1 Donaldson, 3 Dahl, 5 Leonard

Clubs: Minecraft Club, **NO COOKSTARS**

Events: Harvest Festival (pupils only) - donations for Gillingham Food Bank greatly appreciated

Thursday 22nd October:

PE: 2 Jeffers, 4 Morpurgo

Clubs: Prime Sports Coaching - Football

Friday 23rd October:

PE: 3 Dahl, 6 Anderson

Events: Last day before half term, Great Wood Residential Trip slips and deposit due

In This Edition

Welcome to our weekly school newsletter.

In this edition:

- **Awards and Certificates**
- **Harvest Festival**
- **Gillingham Pupils Represent!**
- **Flower Donation**
- **OPAL Play Areas**
- **Mere Literary Festival**

- **Dates For Your Diary**
- **Safeguarding at Gillingham Primary School**
- **Resources and Information**
- **Community News and Events**
- **Contact Us**

Awards and Certificates



Values Awards

Poppy H, Amelia M, Annabelle P, Leo R, Olivia R, Esme H, John W, Nicole P, Eloise B, Elliott M, Amber-Louise C, Lylah B, Leila U, Reetisha B, Poppy M, Wynter O, Zeke L, Sophie P-H, Leja W, Kellan H, Jan K, Luiza K

PE Stars

Rainn A, Nicole P, Edwin B, Ava B, Shelby C, Ivy C

Handwriting Awards

Autumn H

Attendance Award

Reception Ladybirds and **5 Leonard** with 98%

House Points

Yellow Eagles - 353

Green Falcons - 347

Blue Hawks - 316

Red Kestrels - 314

Congratulations to **Yellow Eagles** who are this week's winners!

Harvest Festival

Just a reminder that on Wednesday 21st October we are holding our Harvest Festival in school. Unfortunately we are unable to invite parents and carers to attend this event. Any donations for Gillingham Food Bank will be gratefully received!

Gillingham Pupils Represent!








I3
SECOND PRIZE




Gillingham Carnival
Saturday 10th October 2026
Certificate awarded for taking part in the
Children's


Rainbows













We are so proud of all of the Gillingham Primary School pupils who took part in Gillingham Carnival over the last week! A huge thank you to the parents and carers who have contacted the school to show us their involvement!

We'd also like to say a big well done to Harper in Year 2 for her gymnastics competition achievements!

Flower Donation









We have loved the addition of flowers to our mud kitchen this week, very generously donated by Sue at Old Chapel Flowers in East Stour. The children have been busy whipping up flower milkshakes, petal cupcakes and even a floral birthday cake!

OPAL Play Areas



















This week, we were delighted to open two exciting new OPAL play areas: our **sandpit** and **small world area**! The children have absolutely loved digging, building sandcastles, creating roads and tunnels, and working together in imaginative play. The small world area has also been a huge hit, with children enjoying adventures involving dinosaurs, farm animals, cars and much more.

A huge thank you to all the parents who have kindly donated toys and resources so far. Your generosity is helping us create even more engaging play opportunities for our children. If you have any unwanted small world toys, vehicles, figures or sand toys at home, we would be very

grateful for any further donations. Every contribution helps to make playtimes even more exciting and enriching for our pupils!

Mere Literary Festival

Families are invited to a free storytelling session at Mere Literary Festival on Saturday. The event is free but a booking is required.

[Sharon Jacksties Session One | Mere Literary Festival]

Dates For Your Diary



Here you will find information regarding upcoming dates to be aware of. Further dates for later in the year can be found on our website calendar.

- Monday 19th October - Year 3 Trip - Stonehenge
- Tuesday 20th October - 3:30pm - 6:30pm - Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 21st October - Harvest Festival - please bring donations for the food bank on the morning
- **Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October - Autumn Half Term**

- **Monday 2nd November - INSET DAY**
- Friday 13th November - Children In Need
- Thursday 10th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 17th December - Class Christmas Parties
- **Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January - Christmas Holidays**
- Tuesday 9th February - Parents' Evening Night 1
- Thursday 11th February - Parents' Evening Night 2
- **Friday 12th February - INSET DAY**
- **Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February - Spring Half Term**
- Wednesday 3rd March - Friday 5th March - Year 5 Residential to Great Wood
- Wednesday 17th March - Year 6 London Theatre Trip
- **Friday 26th March - Bank Holiday**
- **Monday 29th March - Friday 9th April - Easter Holidays**
- **Monday 12th April - INSET Day**
- **Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday**
- **Friday 28th May - INSET Day**
- **Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June - Summer Half Term**
- Wednesday 21st July - Last day of school year

Safeguarding at Gillingham Primary School



Gillingham Primary school is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for children, staff and visitors and promoting a climate where children and adults will feel confident about sharing any concerns, which they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our school is the responsibility of the whole school community. All adults working in this School (including visiting staff, volunteers and students on placement) are required to report instances of actual or suspected child abuse or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is a member of the school's leadership team.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs Sue Preston (Headteacher)

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mrs Ashlee Honeybourne (Co-Headteacher, Deputy Head) Mrs Cathryn Cosh (Parent Support Worker) and Mrs Tamar Shanks (SENCO, Assistant Headteacher)

Resources and Information

Access Wellbeing

supporting your mental health

Come and meet us !

New Access Wellbeing drop-in spaces are open in North Dorset offering free mental health and wellbeing support to anyone aged 18 and over, with no appointment needed.

The new drop-in services in North Dorset are provided by Dorset Mind, as part of a collaborative partnership with other charities and the NHS. Visit: Access Wellbeing Dorset

Whether you are looking for support or simply an informal chat, drop in and see how we can help you improve your wellbeing – completely free of charge. You can find us at the following venues:

Blandford - Contact Kat on mob: 07367 449737
Blandford Leisure Centre, Milldown Road DT11 7DB
Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am till 3pm

Gillingham - Contact Clare on mob: 07366 686096
RiversMeet Leisure Centre, Hardings Lane SP8 4XH
Every Monday from 10am till 4pm
And at the Citizens Advice, Newbury Court SP8 4QX
Every Thursday from 10am till 4pm

Shaftesbury - Contact Laura on mob: 07367 465944
St Peter's Church Hall, 5 Gold Hill, Shaftesbury SP7 8LY
Every Wednesday from 10am till 4pm

Sherborne - Contact Alex on mob: 07366 687333
Digby Hall, Hound Street DT9 3AA
Every Tuesday from 10am till 4pm
Every Thursday from 10am till 1pm

Sturminster Newton - Contact Millie on mob: 07307 318124
The Vale Family Hub, 22a Butts Pond Industrial Estate DT10 1AZ
Every Tuesday from 10am till 4pm

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You are the expert of your child

You Are Not Alone - Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers



The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.

In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



Here's what parents have said:

*' My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned **so much more about autism and PDA** than he has over the last year'*

Jo (parent)

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I **really do feel less alone** and more validated. My hope is back'*

Louise (parent)

*'**Thank you so much for your support**. I nearly chicken out in speaking but I'm glad I did. These sessions have been really helpful and I don't feel so alone'*

Emma (parent)

If you would like to join the **next drop-in on Tuesday 6th January**, please send an email to sallywagter@gmail and we will send you the **Zoom** link.

AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE
YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by FACE, separate from the school membership.
Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month
Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



Building Emotional Resilience

Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



Facing Defiance

A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



You & Your Teen

A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Online Courses for Parents page
info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

FAMILY ADVICE · COMMUNICATION · EDUCATION

Gillingham
Family Hub
Network Point

northchildrenscentres@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/find-a-family-hub



From 7th September term time only
Book in advance
FREE - donations welcome
Gillingham Library SP8 4UA
Riversmeet SP8 4HX

Autumn Term Programme

Tuesday
10am - 11.30am

Learning Together for 0 - 5's drop in at Gillingham Library
A play-based group based on PEEP principles, focusing on social interaction and school readiness, including language and speech development. Access to the building is via the garden through the car park at the back of the building.

Wednesday
1.30pm - 2.30pm

New Baby group for 0 - 6 months at Riversmeet
If this is your first baby or your third, come along, meet other parents/carers and learn about different topics each week to support you and your little one. Email us with your phone number to book a place.

BEST START IN LIFE

Part of Dorset's **Family Hub** network

North Dorset Locality

News - Updates - Support

Dorset Parenting Support Service

Action for Children

"Behaviours that challenge us" Information Session

Free one-off session for parent/carer(s) living in BCP and Dorset with children aged between 5 and 11 years

Join our one-off information session to find out more about how you can support and understand your child's challenges and difficulties. Session is delivered by a Child Clinical Psychologist.

Tuesday 2nd June 2026
10:00am - 12:00pm
Face to Face session, venue in BCP area

Wednesday 1st July 2026
10:00am - 12:00pm
Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 22nd September 2026
07:00pm - 09:00pm
Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 3rd November 2026
10:00am - 12:00pm
Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 19th January 2027
10:00am - 12:00pm
Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

To book your place, please visit our website: actionforchildren.org.uk/dorset or scan the QR code

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: NHS Dorset | Oasis Psychology | The Incredible Years

Action For Children, registered at 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford WD18 8AG and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales under number 04764232. Registered charity numbers 1097940/SC038092.

Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools

WATCH DORSET MHST WEBINARS ON DEMAND



Can't make a live session? No problem. Access our recorded webinars in 3 simple steps:

1. Complete the form
2. Select your webinar
3. Get the link by email

Parent/Carer link:

bit.ly/3URzbTP

Community News and Events






COME AND...
HAVE-A-GO!
Try out a range of musical instruments with the Dorset Music Service team
Open to all school-age children and young people
No booking necessary - just drop in and have-a-go!
VENUE: SHILLINGSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Tuesday 10th November 2026
3:45pm to 4:45pm
www.dorsetmusicservice.org.uk
dorsetmusicservice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
01305 225770
DORSET MUSIC SERVICE
Dorset Council
OCTAGON MUSIC HUB
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND


Halloween Ghost Trains
30 & 31 October
Step aboard for spooky surprises, mysterious encounters and family fun.
SWANAGE RAILWAY
OR IF YOU DARE...
STEAM & SCREAMS | 31 OCTOBER ONLY



GAMECHANGERS CRICKET CAMP

26-28 OCT

10AM - 1PM
Drop off from 9:45 AM

£25 per day

BOYS & GIRLS
7 - 13 YEARS

Hardball and Softball available



Camp Manager

Sam Dudley

Wiltshire CCC
Coach & Analyst

REGISTRATION LINK
https://gamechangerscoaching.co.uk

Port Regis School
Shaftesbury, SP7 9NS

More Information
Call 07599 317 461 sam.dudley@wiltshirecricket.co.uk

Fangtastic spooky crafts



Join us making some freaky, silly and spooktacular creations to take home. Bring your imagination and let's create something frightfully fangtastic!

Gillingham Library

Booking available via eventbrite

Friday 30 October
2:30pm to 3:30pm

Suitable for ages 5 and above.

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information

gillinghamlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

01747 822180

@DorsetLibraries DorsetLibraries

Dorset Council

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries

Half term Lego club

Come and join in the fun and get creative with our great selection of Lego.



Gillingham Library

Tuesday 27 October
2:30pm to 4:30pm

Drop in session suitable for families.

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

gillinghamlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

01747 822180

@DorsetLibraries DorsetLibraries

Dorset Council

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries

Fun with fossils



GANG

GILLINGHAM ACTION FOR NATURE GROUP

A free half term activity for families. Hands on - sort, match, identify and draw fossils. How old is it? What did the animal look like? Two drop in sessions.

Gillingham Library

Thursday 29 October
10am to midday and 2pm to 4pm

Suitable for families

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information
01747 822180
gillinghamlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
@DorsetLibraries DorsetLibraries

Dorset Council | dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries

Messy Church

ALL SAINTS



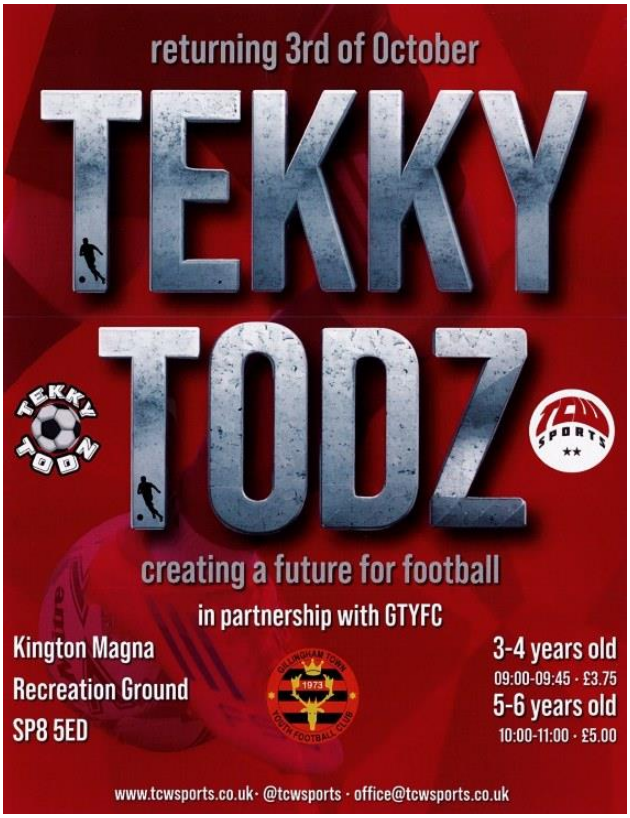
St Mary's
Messy Church
All Saints!
October 25th
3pm @VSR

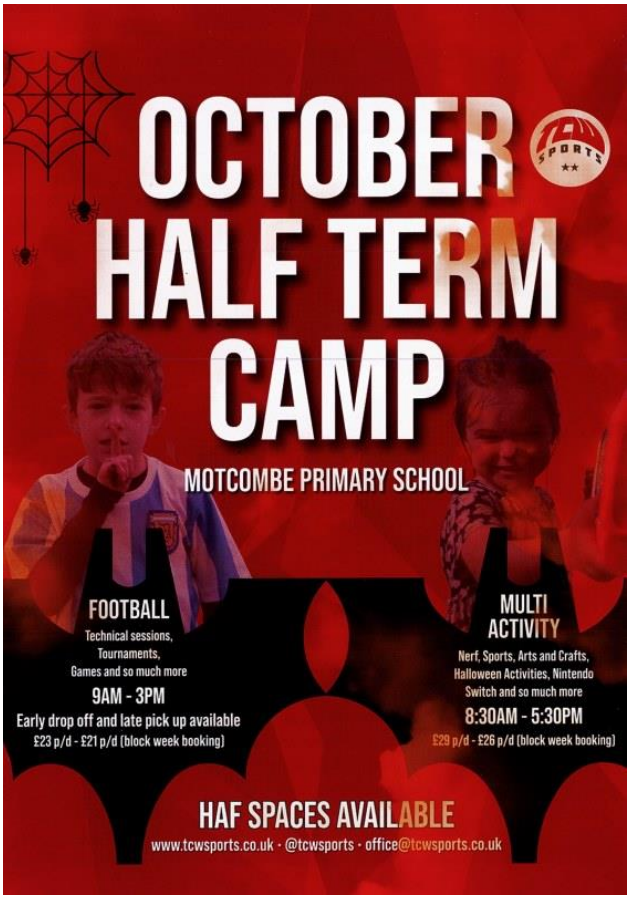
A fun afternoon of crafts and activities on the theme of the Saints and living in the light! Free of charge, all welcome (please bring an adult.) Picky tea and refreshments provided!




CHILDREN WITH CANCER UK
TEAM TORRI
Childhood Cancer Fund for local families
HALLOWEEN KIDS DISCO
ALL ARE WELCOMING!
FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER
4:30PM - 6:30PM
NORTH DORSET RUGBY CLUB
Slaughtergate, Longbury Hill Lane, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5SY.
FANCY DRESS ENCOURAGED!
£5 A TICKET
DJ FRASER
AND TWO SOFT DRINK TOKENS
TUCK SHOP
We'll also be running a tuck shop to get all the sweets and goodies you need!
WE WILL ALSO BE SELLING GLOW STICKS!
ALL PROCEEDS ARE GOING TOWARDS TEAM TORRI
Supporting children with cancer and local families
Together we can make a difference


BOO!
BOO!
All ingredients included!
HALLOWEEN COOKING WORKSHOP
30th OCTOBER 3-5pm
MILTON ON STOUR SCOUT HUT
SAND ART & POTTERY PAINTING TOO!
Delicious spooky biscuits
Marlowe's Mini Makers
Make, bake and decorate a Spooky Selection of Halloween biscuits.
Join in with our Halloween crafts - make your own scary mask, create your own mummy and personalise a Halloween bag. Best dressed wins a prize!
Cooking, crafts, plus a recipe card to take home!
BOO!
BOO!
Cook Stars
cookstars.co.uk


returning 3rd of October
TEKKY
TODZ
creating a future for football
in partnership with GTYFC
Kington Magna
Recreation Ground
SP8 5ED
3-4 years old
09:00-09:45 - £3.75
5-6 years old
10:00-11:00 - £5.00
www.tcwsports.co.uk - @tcwsports - office@tcwsports.co.uk


OCTOBER
HALF TERM
CAMP
MOTCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL
FOOTBALL
Technical sessions,
Tournaments,
Games and so much more
9AM - 3PM
Early drop off and late pick up available
£23 p/d - £21 p/d (block week booking)
MULTI
ACTIVITY
Nerf, Sports, Arts and Crafts,
Halloween Activities, Nintendo
Switch and so much more
8:30AM - 5:30PM
£29 p/d - £26 p/d (block week booking)
HAF SPACES AVAILABLE
www.tcwsports.co.uk - @tcwsports - office@tcwsports.co.uk

Contact Us



If you need to contact the school, there are several ways to do so. You can drop into reception when you drop your child off in the morning, or you may find it easier to contact via phone or email as it can get busy at drop-off and pick-up.

Gillingham Primary School

School Road

Gillingham

Dorset

SP8 4QR

01747 823245

office@gillinghamprimary.dorset.sch.uk

Visit us on the web at www.gillinghamprimary.dorset.sch.uk