

150
years



Newsletter 26-27 - Autumn 1 - 2nd
October

The Week Ahead

Monday 5th October:

PE: 1 Donaldson and 5 Leonard

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

Tuesday 6th October:

PE: 2 Jeffers, 4 Morpurgo, 6 Anderson

Clubs: Artikids

Events: Open Day

Wednesday 7th October:

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

Clubs: Minecraft Club, Cookstars

Thursday 8th October:

PE: 2 Jeffers, 4 Morpurgo

Clubs: Prime Sports Coaching - Football

Friday 9th October:

PE: 3 Dahl, 6 Anderson

Events: Hello Yellow! Wear something yellow and raise funds for Young Minds

In This Edition

Welcome to our weekly school newsletter.

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Awards and Certificates



Values Awards

Yusuf A, Allannah H, Harlowe M, Maia M, Poppy M, Nell S, Dylan W

PE Stars

Colbie M, Jackson W, Colt W-H, Nora S, Poppy W, Luiza K

Handwriting Awards

John W

Attendance Award

5 Leonard with 99%!

House Points

Yellow Eagles - 77

Green Falcons - 48

Blue Hawks - 95

Red Kestrels - 96

Congratulations to **Red Kestrels** who are this week's winners!

Reminders



No Parking

For everyone's safety, please do not drive onto the school site at drop off/pickup. This includes the drop-off zones. Please park away from the school site and walk in.

Pick Up and Drop Off - Wraparound Care

If your child attends Planet Play or Breakfast Club please ensure you accompany them around to the Music and Drama Studio/walk around to collect them. No pupils should be arriving unaccompanied outside of normal school hours.

Netball Tournament



A huge well done to the Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who took part in the netball tournament at Gillingham School on Wednesday. Whilst we didn't win, the pupils represented the school excellently and worked as a team to make us proud!

Reception Open Day



GILLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
OPEN DAYS
2026

Come meet our amazing team, tour our buildings and grounds and experience the joy of learning at our school!

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER

 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

AND

 1.30PM – 3.00PM

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

If you're considering a place for your child, we warmly welcome you to attend. No need to book - just turn up during the times listed above.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call - 01747 823245
email: office@gillinghamprimary.dorset.sch.uk

Mobile Phone Policy



Mobile Phone Policy



Our priority is a safe, focused and distraction-free learning environment for every child

WHO CAN BRING A PHONE?

Only pupils in Year 5 or 6, who walk to/from school alone, are allowed to bring a phone to school.



WHY DO WE HAVE THIS POLICY?

- Keeps everyone safe
- Supports positive friendships and wellbeing
- Helps us stay focused on learning



WHAT ARE THE RULES IF A PHONE IS BEING BROUGHT TO SCHOOL?



1. The phone must be completely turned off before entering the school site.
2. The phone must be handed to the teacher (if entering a classroom first) or Breakfast Club staff (if attending).
3. The phone will be stored securely throughout the day and cannot be accessed until school has ended.
4. Phones must stay switched off and in bags/pockets until you have left the school gates.



CONSEQUENCES FOR PUPIL MISUSE

1st breach - phone removed & parent informed.
2nd Breach - phone removed and parent must collect & discuss.
Further breach(es) - no phone allowed.
Other sanctions may be applied.

PHONES AND ADULTS

Our school is a mobile-free zone.
We thank you for not using your phone at all whilst on site, unless you have express permission from the Headteacher.

Be Safe - Be Kind - Be a learner

Apply For A School Place

Is your child 3 or 4 years old ?

**If they were born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023,
you must apply by 15 January 2027 for your child's school place.**



Dorset residents apply online by
scanning in the QR code with your
smartphone or call 01305 221060



Scan here



Do you need to apply for your child's new school place?

Is your child due to leave their current school in July 2027
and transfer to the next school in September 2027?



Secondary applications - Closing date 31 October 2026

• Primary - Secondary School • Middle - Upper School

Primary applications - Closing date 15 January 2027

• Starting School • Infant - Junior School • First - Middle School



Dorset residents apply online at:
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place
or call 01305 221060



Scan here

Hello Yellow

YOUNGMINDS

Hello Yellow

Wear yellow and say hello as Young Minds celebrate 10 years of standing out, starting conversations and raising funds – so no young person feels alone with their mental health.

There are days when all of us struggle with how we are feeling. Things can get tough, and it can be difficult knowing how to cope. For so many young people, when this happens, they don't always get the help they need, when they need it. They don't know where to turn, who to talk to, or even if anyone else feels the same.

But we can change this. By taking part in Hello Yellow you're starting a conversation about mental health wherever you are. And by funding our support – you're ensuring we can be there to pick it up where you left off.

Stand out, wear yellow on 9 October and donate what you can. Together we can support young people's mental health, when they need it – no matter what.

Donations can be made online at <https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/s/11182/12282> or with cash in school on the day

Parents' Evening



We will be holding our Autumn Term parents' evenings on Thursday 15th October and Tuesday 20th October, from 3:30pm - 6:30pm on both nights. Bookings are now live on the Arbor app and will close on Sunday 11th October. If you would like to see Mrs Shanks (either with your child's class teacher or individually) she will be available on Tuesday 20th October. Please get in touch with the school office to make an appointment.

Year 5 Residential



Letters have now gone home to our Year 5 pupils regarding the residential trip to Great Wood Camp in March. Please do return the permission slip and make the deposit payment as soon as possible (or indicate otherwise on the form).

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.

- Tuesday 6th October - Reception Open Day
- Friday 9th October - Hello Yellow - mental health day

- Thursday 15th October - School Photos
- Thursday 15th October - 3:30pm-6:30pm - Parents' Evening
- 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**
- **Friday 12th February - INSET DAY**
- **Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February - Spring Half Term**
- Wednesday 3rd March - Friday 5th March - Year 5 Residential
- **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 (Deputy Head) Mrs Cathryn Cosh (Parent Support Worker) and Mrs Tamar Shanks (SENCO)

Resources and Information



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 SP6 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 well being
- 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.com and we will send you the Zoom link.



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



Gillingham
Family Hub
Network Point

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



📅 From 7th September term time only 📍 Gillingham Library SP8 4UA
📞 Book in advance FREE - donations welcome 📍 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.](#)



Part of Dorset's
Family Hub
network



Dorset Parenting Support
Service



“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:



Action for Children, registered at 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford WD18 5AG and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales under number 04764232. Registered charity numbers 1097940/SC038092.



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



PRIMARY SPORTS & EDUCATION

LEWESTON HAF CAMPS

HOLIDAY FUN FOR AGES 5-13

SWIMMING ON ALL DAYS!

FOOTBALL **LASER TAG** **GLOW SPORTS** **ARTS & CRAFTS** **INFLATABLE ASSAULT COURSE** **SWIMMING**

LOTS MORE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING...

- Nerf Wars
- Dodgeball
- Capture the Flag
- Street Dance
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Archery
- Gardening/Horse Grooming
- Baking & Pizza Making
- Board Games
- Silent Disco
- Film & Popcorn
- Team Games
- Arts & Crafts
- ...and much more!

HAF DAY
9:00am - 1:00pm
FREE
FUN, ACTIVE & INCLUSIVE SESSIONS FULLY FUNDED FOR ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

STANDARD DAY
9:00am - 3:30pm
£10
A FULL DAY OF ACTION-PACKED ACTIVITIES

EXTENDED DAY
8:00am - 5:30pm
£15
MORE TIME MORE ACTIVITIES MORE FUN!

CHILDREN WITH FREE SCHOOLS MEALS COME FOR FREE

BOOK NOW
<https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2026/10/26/leweston-ultimate-activity-haf-camps-october-half-term-2026>
07903 347412
ed.doble@primary-sports.co.uk

LEWESTON SCHOOL
Sherborne, Dorset
DT9 6EN

PLAY | LEARN | MAKE FRIENDS | BE ACTIVE



Award-Winning
Baby and Children's Nearly New Sales

Next Market

Shaftesbury Youth Club
Sunday 22nd November
10-11:30am

Shop with us without it costing the Earth!

Sell with us and keep great quality items in the
loop and out of landfill

Entry £1.50 per adult and Little Pickles are free

PRIME SPORTS COACHING

OCTOBER MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

BRAND NEW!! COLOUR RUN

BOOK EARLY FOR DISCOUNTS

ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:
SPORTS | ARTS | ZORBIING | MARIO KART RC | FACE PAINTING | SOFT PLAY | DISCO | GARDENING | DEN BUILDING | COOKING | COLOUR RUN

Activities for everyone, be sure not to miss out!
We offer Arts and Crafts & Sports everyday, with many other activities throughout the week!
A fun and safe environment for all.

26th - 30th OCTOBER
8:30AM - 5:30PM

GILLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

ORIGINAL PRICES
FULL DAY **£35**
HALF DAY **£25**

DISCOUNTS
25% OFF ALL BOOKINGS
15% OFF ALL BOOKINGS
10% OFF ALL BOOKINGS
PLUS 10% VOUCHER DISCOUNT

BOOK NOW

AVAILABLE FOR YEARS 1-6

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UPDATES ON OUR WEBSITE TAKING PLACE

ALL STAFF ARE FULLY DBS CHECKED AND FIRST AID TRAINED

prime-outofschool@outlook.com

**Dementia Friendly Gillingham invite
you along to enjoy an evening with the
wonderful**



**SATURDAY OCTOBER 3rd
6.30 pm.**

**St Marys Church, Gillingham
Raffle.**

**Entry £12 on the door
which includes interval drink and nibbles**

[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