

Newsletter 26-27 - Autumn 2 - 6th November

The Week Ahead

Monday 9th November:

PE: 1 Donaldson, 5 Leonard

Clubs: Mini-Athletics, Monday Club (invite only), Football Squad (invite only)

Tuesday 10th November:

PE: 2 Jeffers, 4 Morpurgo, 6 Anderson

Clubs: Artikids

Events: Year 6 NCMP (height and weight) check - please contact the school office if you wish to opt out

Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day:

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

Clubs: Minecraft Club, Cookstars

Events: Remembrance Assembly in school for pupils

Thursday 12th November:

PE: 2 Jeffers, 4 Morpurgo

Friday 13th November:

PE: 3 Dahl, 6 Anderson

Events: Children In Need

In This Edition

Welcome to our weekly school newsletter.

In this edition:

- **Awards and Certificates**

- **Remembrance Day**
- **PTFA School Discos**
- **Children In Need**
- **Key Stage 1 Festive Performance information**
- **School Lottery**
- **Dates For Your Diary**
- **Safeguarding at Gillingham Primary School**
- **Resources and Information**
- **Community News and Events**
- **Contact Us**

Awards and Certificates



Values Awards

Oliver B, Bella Ro, Kellan S, Ralph C, Joseph A

PE Stars

Finley, Jake I, Beau D, Beatrice R, Tharrak P

Handwriting Awards

Barnaby

Clubs Award

Attendance Award

2 Jeffers with 100%!

House Points

Yellow Eagles - 85

Green Falcons - 87

Blue Hawks - 99

Red Kestrels - 85

Congratulations to **BLUE HAWKS** who are this week's winners!

Remembrance Day - Wednesday 11th November



As is the case every year, we welcome members of Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Guides to come to school in their uniforms (if they wish) for our Remembrance Assembly.

We also have poppies, wrist bands, poppy zip pulls etc for sale at the school office in support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

PTFA School Discos - Thursday 26th November



Our PTFA are going to be holding 2 discos on Thursday 26th November. An email was sent with all the details and the form on Friday 6th November. If you would like a printed copy - please collect one from the school office at drop off or pick up times. All forms and correct money need to be returned by Tuesday 21st November if you want your child(ren) to go.

Children In Need



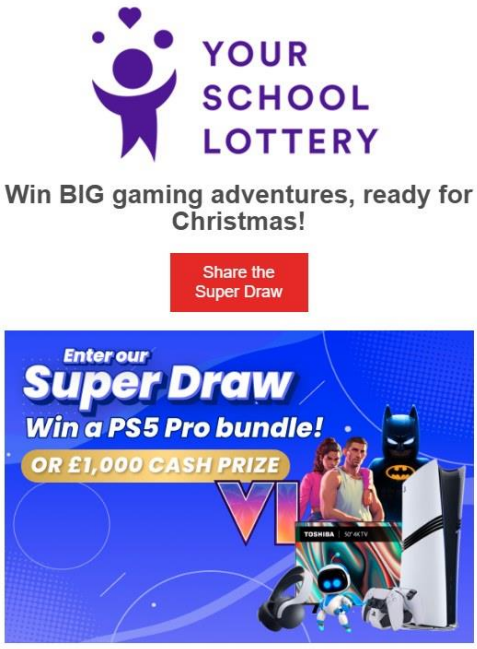
On **Friday 13th November**, we are fundraising for Children In Need! On this day, pupils are invited to wear something spotty or yellow in exchange for a donation. Donations can be made in cash or online at: https://challenge.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/fundraising/gillingham-primary-schools-fundraising-page

We will also be holding a challenge! Can you guess how many sweets are in our jar? This will cost 50p a guess, and will be available on the gate at the start of the day so that parents can join in. The closest guess will win all of the sweets!

Key Stage 1 Festive Performances for Parents and Carers

We are delighted to confirm that our festive performances for parents and carers by our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th December. Times and further information will be announced at a later date but we usually aim for an afternoon performance. ***Save the date in your diaries!***

School Lottery



Did you know we have a school lottery? This lottery has been set up specifically to raise money and make a difference for our children and at the moment, you could even win a Playstation 5 pro gaming bundle if you enter the super draw!

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/gillingham-primary-school?utm_campaign=cause-page-social-share&utm_source=cause-page&utm_medium=social&utm_content=Hyperlink

It's a fantastic way to bring Parents, Carers, Teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children - we aim to provide extra resources for the children, improve the school environment as well as run extra curricular activities such as music, art and sport.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck!

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 10th November - Year 6 NCMP check
- Friday 13th November - Children In Need - wear something with Pudsey or Blush, Yellow or Spotty in return for a donation.

- Thursday 26th November - PTFA School Discos - Forms available from the school office
- Thursday 10th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
- Tuesday 15th December - Key Stage 1 festive performance for parents (Years Reception, 1 and 2)
- Wednesday 16th December - Key Stage 1 festive performance for parents (Years Reception, 1 and 2)
- 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



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

Free Parent/ Carer session:

'An Introduction to Autism'



What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and how it may impact young people and families
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person
- Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children or schools

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

Who can attend?

Anyone from the community, this could include people:

- with an autistic child
- with a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- who are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?

Via **Teams** - There are two sessions a term and 50 spaces available for each session.

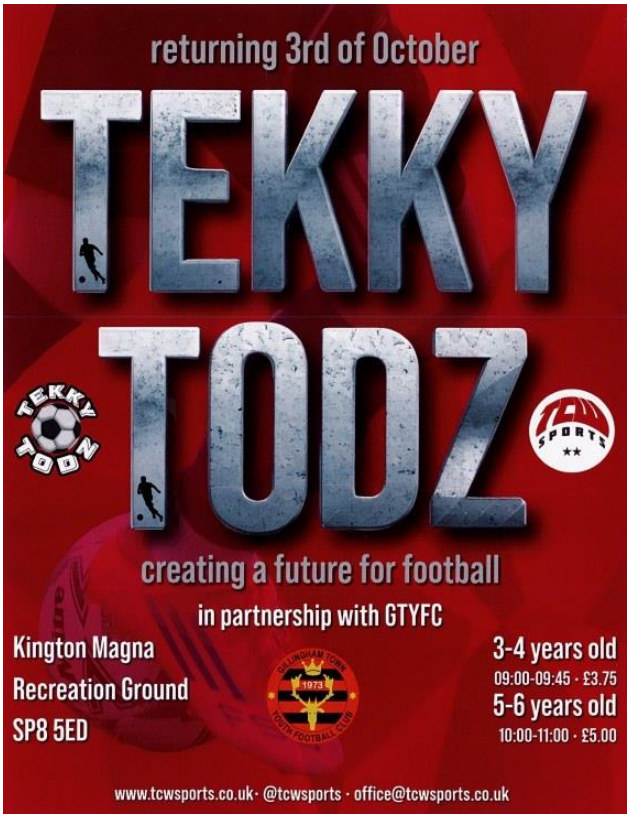
To book a place, please fill in this form and pick the session that suits you best:

An Introduction to Autism

Please click on this Link or scan the QR code above:

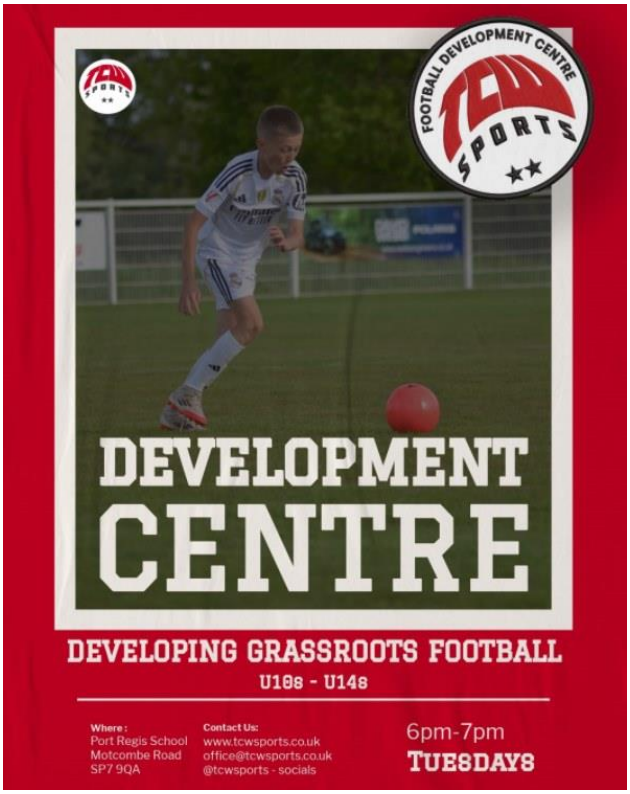
Community News and Events




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


JUST PLAY
'JUST PLAY'
PRESSURE FREE KICK AROUND
U7s - U11s
Where:
Port Regis School
Motcombe Road
SP7 9QA
Contact Us:
www.tcwsports.co.uk
office@tcwsports.co.uk
@tcwsports - socials
6pm-7pm
TUESDAYS


TCW GIRLS' GAME
GIRLS' GAME
LEARN, LOVE AND PLAY THE GAME
U7s - U12s
Where :
Port Regis School
Motcombe Road
SP7 9QA
Contact Us:
www.tcwsports.co.uk
office@tcwsports.co.uk
@tcwsports - socials
6pm-7pm
TUESDAYS


FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
TCW SPORTS
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
DEVELOPING GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL
U10s - U14s
Where :
Port Regis School
Motcombe Road
SP7 9QA
Contact Us:
www.tcwsports.co.uk
office@tcwsports.co.uk
@tcwsports - socials
6pm-7pm
TUESDAYS


ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Gillingham (Dorset)
Royal British Legion
Remembrance Parade
Sunday 8th November
Those taking part in the parade should muster outside the Town Hall in School Road by 10.15am.
10.15am – Parade
through the High Street, with a Remembrance Service at the War Memorial.
11.00am – Last Post
Following the service, the Parade will be marched down to
St. Mary's Parish Church
for a Remembrance Service.
Lest We Forget
REMEMBER SUPPORT TOGETHER

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