



Welcome to Gillingstool Primary School.

I am Mrs Carter the Headteacher.

I joined the Gillingstool family in September 2019 having taught across North Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire since 1995.

Inspire, Believe, Achieve



At Gillingstool, we understand what an important journey you are beginning today. Choosing the school that is the right fit for your child is one of the most crucial decisions that you ever have to make.

Whichever school you choose will become a partnership. We know that if we work together with you, your child will have the best possible start. That partnership will last for the next 7 years so you want to get it right.

You know your child the best and as you view different schools you will get a sense for the school that best suits your child and you. I hope that after today you will believe that that school is Gillingstool.



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Gillingstool Primary has been part of the Thornbury community for over 150 years.

As our school building had changed and Thornbury grows and develops, we remain a family orientated school, many parents and grandparents were once past pupils and now choose to send their children here.

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We are a relatively small school and that means we get to know our children very well.

We have a caring team of teachers and teaching partners who build strong relationships with the children and their families as they move through the school.

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At Gillingstool we strive for academic success but we know that children's emotional wellbeing is equally important.

We want children to feel safe and happy whilst at school and know that only then they will learn effectively.

We have a school Wellbeing Team who have an overview of the children's mental health and emotional needs. We have a dedicated Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) to help children with emotional issues and access to a school counsellor for those that need it.



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We have other specialist Teaching Partners who offer interventions and extra support for those children with educational needs.

This may be taking part in the Project X Code Book Club to support reading or individual Speech and Language support sessions.

Every class has Teaching Partner time and support is always available if it is needed.

I believe that at Gillingstool whatever a child's needs may be, we can provide the necessary help.



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Nearly ten years ago we moved into this spectacular new building. We are truly blessed with the learning environment we are able to provide for our children.

As you watch the video tour of the school you will have the opportunity to see the outstanding Early Years area. This space was purpose built to support children's development across the early years curriculum.



To look in more detail at the school building, take a look at photo tour on the school website.

<http://gillingstool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/School-photo-tour.pdf>

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The remaining classrooms are large, each with its own group room, water cooler, under-floor heating and sliding doors allowing access to the outdoor areas.

The playgrounds and field are large. We are currently reinvigorating our playground with a new playpod to encourage imaginative play. The development of Outdoor Learning and Forest School is part of the current school development plan.

We are also really proud of our newly refurbished and restocked library.



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We share our state of the art building New Siblands special school. Gillingstool Primary is a truly inclusive school.

In normal circumstances, we work closely together with New Siblands, sharing events throughout the school year, with classes buddying up and children meeting for assemblies each term.



We also have the benefit of accessing some of their specialist resources such as the sensory diet area and of course the swimming pool, which our children use regularly.

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Those of you who have read our most recent OFSTED report will know that Gillingstool has been on a rapid journey of school improvement recently. We are confident that this positive change will be recognised when inspectors return.

We are now a school with high expectations, a school with a culture of continuous improvement – a reflective, outward looking team – who strive to do the very best for our children. This improvement has been recognised in Local Authority Reviews.

Recent visitors to our school have commented on excellent behaviour for learning, that children are obviously enjoying their lessons and the strong relationships between teachers and children.

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Gillingsstool Primary School was an early adopter of the new framework for Early Years.

Those children joining us in Reception in 2021 will experience a play based curriculum based upon 7 areas of learning from the new EYFS framework:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design



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During the last academic year, we re-structured our curriculum offer to ensure that children throughout the school have the opportunity to develop the ability to articulate their speaking and listening skills, develop an awareness of global issues and experience a curriculum that reflects their local community.

See the curriculum tab on our website for more detail.

<http://gillingstool.org.uk/curriculum/gillingstool-curriculum/>



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Normally it is at this point that I would invite you to have a guided tour of Gilllingstool Primary School led by our Year 6 pupils. Gilllingstool is a very special place and our pupils are an absolute credit to our school but sadly we are unable to offer face-to-face tours this year.

However, we do want the chance to meet with you and answer any questions you may have. So we have arranged some virtual question and answer sessions online. The dates and times are:

Thursday 15th October – 10am and 11am

Wednesday 21st October – 2pm and 4pm

Thursday 12th November – 10am and 11am

Please email office@gillingstool.org.uk to receive a link to join a meeting.

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The Gillingsstool Vision

At Gillingsstool, integrity and inclusivity are at the heart of everything we do for our children.

In partnership with our parents and the wider community, we provide a unique environment within a vibrant and caring school - inspiring our children's passion for ambitious, life-long learning. This is delivered through consistently high standards in teaching, learning and behaviour.

By working together with respect, enthusiasm and care towards all others, we at Gillingsstool promote happiness, kindness and honesty.

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