GILLINGHAM PRIMARY ACADEMY

20th November 2026

Class Updates

Skylarks

We have had lots of fun creating our Hungate Christmas tree crafts for our very special Space Tree! We can't wait for you to see the finished creation. Make sure you look out for it (and vote for us!) next weekend at the Hungate Christmas Tree Festival. We would love your support!

There has been lots of storytelling happening across Skylarks this week. Reception have been busy making up their own imaginative stories, Year 1 have been designing exciting new characters, and Year 2 have been enjoying retelling and acting out familiar stories. We have loved seeing everyone's creativity and imagination shine through!

In maths, we have been doing lots of counting and working hard to develop our number sense, exploring numbers from 1 to 100. We are becoming more confident with recognising, understanding and working with numbers.

A big well done to everyone who has been joining in with our home challenge! It is fantastic to see such enthusiasm and all the hard work continuing at home. Keep it up, Skylarks!

Swans

In English, all the children have continued developing their story writing, using imaginative vocabulary and a range of techniques to bring their characters and settings to life. It has been lovely to see their creativity and confidence growing as their stories take shape.

In Science, Years 3 and 4 have been investigating electrical circuits, learning how to add switches and exploring how they can be used to control the flow of electricity. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 have been learning about the heart and investigating how exercise affects our heart rate, helping them understand how our bodies respond to physical activity.

In History, we explored how the role of nursing changed during the Second World War. The children discovered how nurses took on new responsibilities, often working in extremely challenging conditions, and considered the important contribution they made to the war effort.

Well done, Swan Class, for another great week of learning!

Attendance Award

Current Week

Swans

Whole School Attendance

94.94%

E-mails

It has come to our attention that emails are frequently landing in your spam or junk folders. Arbor has created a helpful guide to address this issue: **CLICK HERE**

Cold Weather

As the weather is finally getting colder/wetter please could you make sure that your child has suitable outdoor clothing.



Free School Meals

You may qualify for free school meals (FSM) and other help if you receive certain benefits or support. You must apply for free school meals. From September 2026, there are two types of entitlement:

- Targeted: you receive Universal Credit and earn under £7,400 a year or another qualifying benefit: your children are entitled to FSM and extra support for their school
- Expanded: you receive Universal Credit and earn above £7,400: your children are entitled to FSM only

Apply Now

Family Voice

Click here for this weeks Family voice Newsletter

Family First Newsletter

Click here for this months Family First Newsletter

Is my child too ill for school?



Click here for resource

Christmas Jumpers

As the festive season approaches, we are would like to host a Christmas clothes swap! If your children have outgrown any Christmas jumpers, party outfits, warm hats, or gloves, we would greatly appreciate your donations to the school. Parents are welcome to swap, donate, or collect these items.

Second-Hand Uniform Available

Additionally, we have a collection of second-hand uniforms. If you need any free uniform items, please don't hesitate to contact the school office, and we will be more than happy to assist you!

Useful Information

Calendar	Click Here
Telephone Number	01502 713 425
E-mail address	office.gillingham@kingfisher.dneat.org
Term Dates 2026-27	Click Here
Support Resources	Click Here

Important Dates

Red dates have been added/updated since previous newsletters

Date	Event
23/11/2026	Flu Vaccination Programme (Nasal Spray) - 2nd Session
27/11/2026	Years 3 & 4 The Big Sing, Minster
02/12/2026	Parent Share - All Years @ 2.00pm
04/12/2026	Non-Uniform - Chocolate Donations for Tombola
10/12/2026	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
11/12/2026	"Friends" Christmas Fayre @ 2.30pm
11/12/2026	Skylarks "Prickly Hay Nativity Play" @1.15pm
18/12/2026	Carol Service @ Geldeston Church @ 2.15pm
18/12/2026	Last Day of Term
05/01/2027	First Day of Spring Term

Community







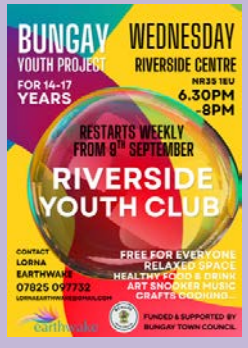












Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Norfolk County Council

Child Employment

This does not apply to work experience placements

Parents



Is your child keen to get a part time job? Maybe they already deliver newspapers, have a Saturday job, volunteer at a charity shop or work during the school holidays?

Employers



Are you keen to give an employment opportunity to a child? Do you already employ children aged 13-16 years?

Did you know?

It is illegal to employ children of compulsory school age without a **child work permit**. Without one the employer risks prosecution, and children may not be insured.



GOOD NEWS! Child work permits are free

Applying for a work permit is simple, apply using the form on our website **www.norfolk.gov.uk/childemployment** or scan the **website QR code** below.



Our website also has lots of information about the rules and regulations to be followed when employing children.

Feel free to email us at **childemployment.edu@norfolk.gov.uk**.