



Friday 11th October 2018

Newsletter 245

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Harvest Assembly – a BIG THANKS TO ALL

Thank you to all parents for your generous contribution of tinned and dried food for the Islington Food Bank. You responded magnificently to our request for specific items including tinned tomatoes. The food bank have asked us to pass on our thanks to you and to let you know that the Gillespie community has really helped support lots of very hungry people living in Islington. Thanks also to the Reverend Stephen Coles who presided over our harvest assembly and to parent Fiona Ayers for playing the piano so beautifully so that we could sing our Harvest songs.

Musical glove coding and sewing workshops

This week our Year 5 & 6 classes were joined by pupils from Thornhill, Pakeman, Canonbury and Newington Green schools to participate in coding workshops run by scientist and inventor Helen Lee through our Science for Life partnership led by Carole. Helen launched the workshops with a whole school assembly celebrating the life of Ada Lovelace 1815-1852; a Victorian mathematician and writer known for her pioneering work in programming for an early version of the computer! Helen Lee has invented a musical glove which programmes a range of different musical noises controlled by different type of movements of the glove. Very soon she will be patenting a product for sale and we have been told a number of popstars are interested in using the glove. Our children had a wonderful coding experience programming and making their own gloves. Helen was supported by Sian who taught the children how to sew whilst Helen taught the children how to code.

Chemlab Science Extravaganza for Y2-Y6 classes

Today Science Experts Tom & Johnny wowed our children with a fantastic, interactive assembly all about gasses in the air. They tested our children's knowledge and excited them with amazing facts, sights, sound and explosions.

Music & stories celebrating Black History Month

This week the children in Nursery – Year 2 engaged in fantastically interactive music and performance workshops with Winston, a fantastic story teller and musician. Winston combined a blend of traditional and contemporary rhythms from Africa and from his native Jamaica in a unique style. Children had the opportunity to play instruments from around the world to accompany the songs and stories being told. We all had a wonderful time!

Free Parent ESOL classes at Gillespie School

It's not too late to join this fantastic and free class (run by Margaret Ruttle) which helps adults learn English and use those skills in a range of settings that could be useful to your daily life. If you need to develop your English do not waste this free opportunity. Please talk to our Bilingual Parent Advisors Reba and Hinda who will be very keen to support you if you wish to join.

Parent Reading Volunteers

Thank you to parents/carers and grandparents who are continuing as reading volunteers this year. All our classes have a reading volunteer but we are keen to find 2 more. If you think you have the time, please talk to Lauren our English Leader and get a letter from the office with more details.

Diary dates

The date of the parent voice event which was 01/11 has been changed to 29th November and will be run during the course of our parent consultation evening. By doing this we are hoping to engage with as many parents as possible. More information on this will be sent shortly.

Date	Event
Thursday 18 th Oct	Halloween Disco
Friday 19 th Oct	Bug busting assembly
Mon 22 nd - Fri 26 th Oct	Half term
Wednesday 31 st Oct	Individual & sibling photos
Tuesday 6 th Nov	Flu immunisations Y1-5
Friday 9 th Nov	Remembrance assembly
Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th Nov	Anti-bullying week
Mon 18 th – Fri 23 rd Nov	Road safety week
Thursday 29 th Nov	Parent consultation evening & Parent voice
Mon 3 rd – Fri 7 th Dec	Hour of code week
Friday 14 th Dec	FoG Winter Fair
Tuesday 18 th Dec	Christmas lunch
Wednesday 19 th Dec	Christmas shows 10am Nur, Rec, Y1, 2 2pm Y3, 4, 5, 6
Thursday 20 th Dec	Class parties
Friday 21 st Dec	Last day of term

Providing class lists under new GDPR regulations

Under the new data protection law which came in to force in May 2018 we are not allowed to give class lists or addresses/telephone numbers of any families to other families. We are sorry that this may occasionally cause you inconvenience. However, parents who are signed up to the FoG classlist app at www.classlist.co.uk can communicate and gather such information (which is completely GDPR compliant). The Friends of Gillespie newsletter that went out yesterday has a list of all of the class reps and they will be very happy to advise you on how to use the app and to access this kind of information.

After School Club cancellation

Taekwondo, Knitting & Sewing and Arts & Craft Clubs will be cancelled Thursday 18th October due to the Halloween disco.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,
Mark Owen,
Headteacher