



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

# Newsletter 247

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Parent Voice Event– Online Safety Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November in Lab\_ 13 (during parent consultation evening)

This year parents have expressed an interest in exploring online safety. In order to give as many parents as possible an opportunity to participate in this event we thought we would hold it during our parent consultation evening. You can pop in to Lab\_13 at any point during the evening. Gillespie Governors will be there to host and support the process and you may also have an opportunity to discuss with our pupil Digital Leaders.



We will be prompting your conversation with the following questions:

- Do you feel confident in supporting your child in being safe online at home/outside school?
- How much do you know about the work that the school does to support children in staying safe online?
- Would you like any particular support from the school in keeping your child safe online at home/outside school? E.g. parent workshop, more information.
- What kind of things does your child do online and on electronic devices?

You will have an opportunity to discuss these questions and any others that you wish to consider. Governors will feedback on this process to me and this will inform further work that we do around internet safety at the school.

## Ready to read: reading road map books

We are delighted to announce that this year's Reading Road Map books have been distributed to every classroom with an individual reading road map of the books for each child. This year's RRM collections (covering 10 genres of fiction) look every bit as exciting as last years!

Children and staff are grateful once again to FoG who have raised the money to buy the books for the school. Many, many thanks to FoG! Lauren our English Leader has provided more information for Years 1-6 classes about how the RRM will work this year on the reverse of this letter.



## Road Safety Week

This week Ben Changar came in to talk to the pupils from Years 2-6 about the importance of road safety and crossing roads. He provided some bright, reflective arm bands and bag tags to encourage the children to make themselves as colourful and reflective as possible when outside during the evening in these dark winter months.

## Update from the Gillespie Governing Body

At its meeting this term the Governing Body had a visit from the chairs of FOG and we talked together about how we can work together to support the school's financial position. Many of you will know that this is a very challenging time for school budgets with funding not keeping pace with costs. Despite this, we are pleased to have set a balanced budget this year with continued investment in quality teaching and being able to re-introduce support from bilingual parent advisors. The school has been creative in looking for new funding opportunities and working in partnership to get the best for Gillespie pupils – bringing in external funding for the Science for Life/Lab 13 project. We've also benefited from the generosity of parents, including through fundraising and other FOG activity – and a particularly generous one off anonymous donation which enables us to secure specialist strings teaching funding for this year and next.

But the funding future for the school is still challenging, particularly looking ahead to 2019 and 2020, and with continued uncertainty about government funding plans for schools. We would urge parents to continue to put pressure on local and national politicians, in whatever way you can, to make clear to them how vital for our children's education it is to protect school budgets in real terms. The fundraising contributions you make through FOG and events like the upcoming Winter Fair remain absolutely vital – and are likely to become more so as budgets get even tighter. There are lots of ways you can donate to FOG to help the school. You can give directly via BT Donate or simply support FOG events which include regular bake sales, winter fair, summer fair, kids movie nights and parent socials. Next term, look out to the launch of our 100 Club school lottery. A draw will be held every month.

A totally cost-free way to help is to sign up to the Giving Machine so when you shop online certain businesses will donate a percentage of your spend to FOG. It doesn't cost you a penny. *You can also give permission to have an estate agent board outside your house to promote our fairs. The sponsor will do all the work of putting up the board and taking it down but FOG will get the money.*

Thank you all for your support – and particular thanks to Mark, Sara, our business manager, and all the dedicated staff at Gillespie who provide such excellent value for the money we invest.

Louise Russell, Vice Chair of Governors

If your child has missed their Nasal Flu, HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Diphtheria Tetanus Polio / Meningitis Immunisation in school, we have catch up clinics at the following locations in ISLINGTON:



LAYCOCK STREET SURGERY  
LAYCOCK STREET  
LONDON N1 1SW  
Between 3pm And 6pm on:

TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2018  
TUESDAY 8 JANUARY 2019

ST LUKES COMMUNITY CENTRE  
90 CENTRAL STREET  
LONDON EC1V 8AJ  
Between 3.30pm and 6pm on:

THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2018

Yours sincerely, Mark Owen, Headteacher

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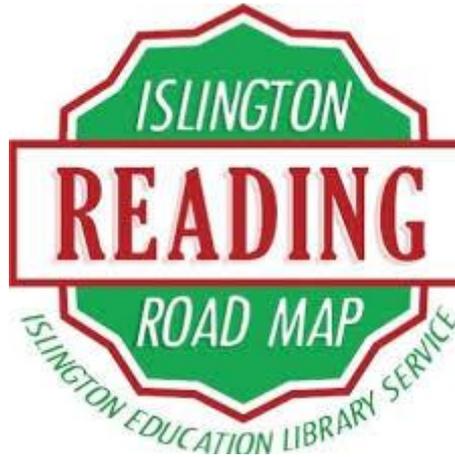
Website: [www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk](http://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mark Owen BEd Hon NPQH



23/11/2018

Dear Parents/Carers of Years 1-6,



I'm pleased to say that we will be taking part in the Islington Reading Road Map scheme again this year. It is a fantastic scheme that will introduce your child to a range of genres and new books.

Each class has a brand new selection of books that they can enjoy at home independently or with an adult. Teachers will ask the children to complete a book review or ask their parent to write a comment in their reading diary. Each book they read and reviewed earns them a sticker. They also earn bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificates. The 'adventure' reading map books for years 1 -2 should be read to the children by an adult or older sibling. However, more confident readers may be able to read these books.

Please support your child by listening to them read for 10 minutes a day. There is a wealth of research that shows how big an impact reading regularly has on your child's success. We would also really appreciate it if you can take extra care of these new books so that they are returned to the class for another child to enjoy. If your child loses a book from the scheme, we will ask you to replace it or give £5 towards a replacement.

Thank you for your support,

Kind regards,

Lauren McLoughlin

**Year 3 teacher and English lead**



Associate  
School

