

GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gillespie Road, Highbury, London N5 1LH

Telephone: 020 7226 6840

Fax: 020 7354 8537

Email: office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Website: www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mark Owen BEd Hon NPQH



Friday 4th October 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year; the last primary year for your child! The purpose of this letter is to provide an outline of the learning that your child will be involved in over the course of this term.

This term our main focus will be **The Victorians**. During this topic, we will find out all about Victorian life. Your child will find out what it would have been like to be a Victorian and they will even experience life in a 'real' Victorian school when we visit the Ragged School Museum on **January 2020**. We will learn about a number of famous Victorians including Dr Barnardo and Charles Dickens. We will be using an abridged version of *Oliver Twist* by Dickens to immerse ourselves in the lives of Victorian workhouses. We will also focus on Geographical skills through a study of the physical and human changes in London since the Victorian age. We will be studying how the Victorian invention of the tube has transformed our city, and what the future holds.

In English, our focus text is *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens and we will be writing a range of fiction genres inspired by this text. We will then move on to biographies. We will also take part in a collaborative poetry project run through 'Future Zone' in which the children are required to publish their work on an online blog and comment on the work contributed by children from other Islington schools.

In Maths we will follow the National Curriculum and, where possible, this will be linked to Victorian life. All the children should now know their times tables up to 12 x 12 off by heart so if they do not, please support with this at home. Children will be set 'MyMaths' tasks to complete at home and, in addition to this, are encouraged to go online as much as possible.

In Science we will be studying 'Evolution and Inheritance' and then 'Electricity'. We will be focusing on extending our investigative skills through a range of experiments.

In Computing, children will create digital artwork, build their own blogs and develop their word processing skills.

In Art this term, our artist focus is Gustave Dore and children will be creating drawings of Victorian street life. We will also focus on William Morris' patterns and wallpaper designs.



Music this year will be taught by Orlando and Ruth on Friday mornings. In Music, children will be playing instruments with Orlando and Ruth. Their focus will be on playing, appreciating and making music.

Our learning in **P.S.H.E.** will focus on developing a 'growth mindset' and keeping safe in the community.

P.E. will take place on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. Children **MUST** have a P.E. kit in school which should consist of a change of t-shirt, shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers (bare feet or plimsolls for gymnastics on Thursdays, which will be taught by a specialist teacher).

Throughout this year we will be preparing for the important transition into secondary school. It was great to meet so many of you at the Secondary transition meeting in early September. This year we will also be preparing for the end of Key Stage 2 SATs (statutory assessment tests in England). The tests will take place in May 2020. In order to prepare for these, it is imperative that your child keeps up to date with any homework tasks. The most important homework of all is reading! Please encourage your child to read for at least 15 minutes a day and listen to them read and sign their Reading Record once a week. I will be setting **English and Maths homework on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** and there will also be weekly spellings for your child to learn for tests on Fridays.



Please remember that registration is at **8:55am** and it is essential that your child is punctual as learning begins immediately.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything at all with me at any point during this year, please do not hesitate to speak with me. I am available to meet after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. I can also meet before school if this is more convenient for you.

Thank you for your support. I'm looking forward to an exciting year ahead teaching your fantastic children.

Sarah Bergin

