



Monday 23rd March 2020

Newsletter 275

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update on Coronavirus (COVID 19)

Update

Thank you very much to the many parents who offered to help us out in whatever way they can over this very difficult week leading up to school closure for most of our children.

Gillespie staff felt very emotional on Friday knowing that we may not see our Gillespie children for quite some time. I want to thank all my staff for working so hard to prepare children and families for home learning. I understand today that with such heavy use of the internet across the country that many online platforms including Purple Mash (which we are using) are struggling today.

Because of these problems our IT Team have created Google Classroom accounts for every year group. We are confident that Google has much better server capacity and will not crash due to high volumes of logins. Our IT support are busy working on linking each child's LGfL account to Google Classroom. We will send you these details as soon as they are available. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we iron-out these issues in our first week of home learning.

We hope that these difficulties will be ironed out in the coming days, hopefully your children will have plenty of work

set in the books that they took home and ideas for learning. Class teachers are very keen to do their best to continue aspects of their pastoral role with your children. If you have any concerns please do contact a class teacher or myself, Katrina or Lyn.

Unsurprisingly, as the rate of spread Coronavirus Covid-19 has rapidly increased over the last few days, particularly in London, fewer children have come in today than was planned on Friday. Very sensibly, many parents are choosing to socially isolate to protect their families. We have a skeleton staff on site and I am very proud to inform parents that so many staff volunteered to be in this group to support children of essential workers and some EHCP children.

I also have a duty of care to my staff and I have organised a rota to minimise potential staff exposure to Coronavirus, so that staff are not coming in every single day.

Please do not bring any children to school if anybody in your family are presenting with any of the symptoms associated with Coronavirus.

Message from Megan our Resident Scientist

Hi Everyone,

Firstly, I hope you and all your families are well.

Secondly, as the Science for Life website can be accessed by parents and pupils from home, I have created a Home Learning section with links to science related websites and activities for children and parents. I have checked these to see if they are appropriate. At present, I have focused on activities for primary school aged pupils; however, some of the sites may be useful for KS3 pupils and I will add appropriate resources for this age group next. I will be updating the list of resources as often as I can and will also be adding new sections that may be of use. The website address is as follows:

<https://sites.google.com/view/scienceforlife/home>

Finally, it would help me to have permission to allow your e-mail addresses to be displayed (if you have not given permission already) because then I can create a group distribution list. It is up to you. If you agree to this, please let me know.

Please take care everyone.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen
Headteacher