



Friday 26th June 2020

Newsletter 285

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is been wonderful to see Y6, Y1 and the Reception class return to school over this last few weeks. Along with our school provision pods this now means that we have up to 15 children in every school classroom and all available staff are now working back in the school building. I am really impressed with the way all children have adapted, in particular our Y1 and Reception children who are learning in different ways in the classroom space to stay safe as possible. My thanks go to our teachers and support staff who have been creative in finding ways to keep children engaged whilst keeping their social distance!

Timetable for the last week of term

I had always hoped that by July all children would be able to return to school. Sadly, the government guidance means this is not possible. Parents know that under the current arrangements and with the physical constraints of our building, we are unable to return any more classes than we now have in. We have consulted with the Local Authority and with Gillespie Governing body to find a way to bring other classes into the school prior to the summer holidays for two days by substituting with classes currently in. Sadly, the only way we could do this would run contrary to government guidance and the local Authority legal advice we have received. Instead, we plan to change our timetable for the last week to enable class teachers of Nursery, Y2, Y3, and Y5 classes to have a day to contact all their children by phone or by zoom. Class teachers will contact you to make arrangements in due course.

Mon 13 th Jul	Tue 14 th Jul	Wed 15 th Jul	Thu 16 th Jul
Y1 class not in school	Y6 class not in school	Rec class not in school	Lauren contacting Y3 families
Genevieve contacting Y2 families	Hassan contacting Y5 families	Laura contacting Nursery families	

And in happier news ... more congratulations!

Congratulations to Angela our Y4 teacher who is expecting a baby later in the year. Just like Katy, Angela has had to self-Isolate and has been unable to join colleagues teaching our children in school. Parents will know how dedicated Angela has been in supporting Y4 families with home-learning and their emotional well-being. We are missing her at school!

Classes for next year

Genevieve, our Y2 teacher is leaving the school at the end of this term to return to her family in Australia. I want to thank Genevieve for her contribution to our school over this last two years and in particular for being one of our key volunteers in school teaching children over this last period as well as providing Y2 with home learning. We wish her Bon-voyage and the best of luck back under! We have recruited a new teacher for Y2 called Shelley Wragg. Yes! it is indeed Shelley who used to be our Y6 teacher. We are delighted to have Shelley back and I know she is looking forward to the different excitements and challenges of being a Y2 teacher.

Parents will know that under the current Covid guidance our pregnant teachers Katy and Angela have been advised not to come into work. We have therefore recruited two new teachers who will be covering their classes and then their maternity leave next year. It is likely that your children will spend all of next year with their new teachers. We have recruited Emma, for Reception and Shah for Y3. We are excited about both teachers. Lauren our current Y3 teacher will be taking her class into Y4 next year. I know Lauren is really keen to continue another year with her class. Here are the class teachers for next Year:

Nursery	Laura
Reception	Emma
Y1	Steph
Y2	Shelley
Y3	Shah
Y4	Lauren
Y5	Hassan
Y6	Sarah

INSET Days next year

We are altering term dates for the next academic year because of the extraordinary circumstances surrounding Covid and a need for schools to have time to plan in response to government guidance on school opening (when it comes). The local authority have allocated Islington schools an additional Inset day on Friday 4th September 2020. On this basis we will be changing the school term and holiday dates so that we have three Inset days at the beginning of the year on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th September. Children will return to school on Monday 7th September 2020. This will give us time to set up the school, hopefully, to take back ALL of our children. We have removed the Inset day on Monday 2nd November after the October half term to accommodate this.

A parent's guide to Black lives matter

Many children have expressed an interest in discussing 'Black Lives Matter' over the last few weeks and Sarah and Hassan have done some work with the children around issues of equality. The local authority have produced a Parent's guide if families would like to discuss racial equality with their children at home.

<https://tinyurl.com/ybq7vxuy>

10x10 Apart Together Art Project

Please take a look on the school website for information about an exciting London-wide art project. You'll find a video and a link to a PDF with everything you need on it. You can find it under the news section or copy this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7bjtpkh>

Coronavirus testing

If you or anyone in your household require testing please visit the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

Yours sincerely
Mark Owen
Headteacher

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2020/21

Autumn Term 2020

Wednesday 2 nd September	INSET Day
Thursday 3 rd September	INSET Day
Friday 4 th September	INSET Day
Monday 7 th September	First day of Autumn Term for pupils
26 th – 30 th October	Half Term
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Autumn Term

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 th January	INSET Day
Tuesday 5 th January	First day of Spring Term for pupils
15 th – 19 th February	Half Term
Wednesday 31 st March	Last day of Spring Term

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19 th April	INSET Day
Tuesday 20 th April	First day of Summer Term for pupils
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
31 st May – 4 th June	Half Term
Thursday 22 nd July	Last day of Summer Term
Friday 23 rd July	INSET Day