



Friday 5th June 2020

Newsletter 283

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

Phased re-opening of Gillespie School

After extensive consultations, and having completed preparations to set up the school as safely as possible, I am pleased to inform parents that governors have approved our plan for phased opening of Years 6, 1 and Reception starting from next week.

Week Beginning 8 th June	Year 6 return to school (two groups in separate classrooms)
Week Beginning 15 th June	Year 1 return to school (two groups in separate classrooms)
Week Beginning 22 nd June	Reception return to school (two groups in separate classrooms)

The Risk Assessment, which has been reviewed by the local authority health and safety executive, is available for parents to read on the safeguarding & policies section of the website – please see Coronavirus School Re-opening Risk Assessment. We will continue to risk assess and review the implementation of our plan on a weekly basis, taking into account national and local information about Covid-19.

At the end of this newsletter, you will find an update of the opening timetable. Please read it carefully because it has the drop-off and pick-up times for each of the classes coming back to school. It is vital that children arrive at school at the precise times stated so that we can keep the different classes separate at all times. Parents must follow these arrival and departure instructions and must observe social distancing from each other, and from other children at all times. I will be in the playground every morning to help ensure that this is done safely.

Classes returning to school

Class teachers from the Y6, Y1 and Reception will be contacting parents with additional information about returning to school for these classes and about home learning for children not coming back to school. Some parents have asked about part-time places for children in these classes. It is important that children in Y6, Y1 and Reception attend full-time. Teachers will be teaching sequences of lessons across a week, particularly in English and maths, and in lessons aimed at supporting well-being at this difficult time. It will be difficult for children to catch up if they are attending part-time and have missed previous learning. We are only sorry that at this stage, under government and local authority guidelines, we can not have more years back in school.

Children in our special school provision classes

Children who have been coming into school as part of the special provision for key workers and other families with particular needs, will continue to come in. They are included in the timetable below and will follow the same safety procedures as children in the newly returning classes.

Home-learning during the re-opening of school

Because we are not allowed more than 15 children in a classroom, some teachers from other classes will be coming in to school to co-teach Year 6, Year 1 and Reception groups (see timetable at the end of this newsletter). It is important that these teachers are able to continue their current work and their communication with their own classes at home. To enable this, teachers in school will be provided with time out of the classroom on a daily basis as well as their usual half-day weekly non-contact time. We are committed to ensuring that we maintain the quality of home learning for all children.

Punctuality & Attendance

Children must arrive at the stated time so that we can socially distance pods & parents. Children arriving late may not be allowed in to join their class. Please arrive and leave **within 5 minutes** of your allocated time. There will be **no** before or after school play opportunities and parents will not be able to stay in the playground or near school entrances once they have dropped off or picked up their child.

Communicating with Staff

The school office can **only be accessed** in person during the school day between **10.00am – 2.45pm**. At all other times please call, email, send or hand in a written note. Teachers will not be able to meet you in the usual way in the playground. Please contact the office to arrange a time to talk to them – or to me.

Clothing

Parents will see that in our risk-assessment we ask parents to wash clothes worn in school as regularly as possible. For this reason we do not expect children wear school uniform, though we are of course happy if you wish to send them to school in their uniforms.

Water bottles

For health and safety reasons we have removed our drinking fountains. We ask that instead, parents provide water bottles for their children. They can be re-filled in the playground.

Monitoring your children's health

Please take extra care to monitor your child's health before bringing them to school. If they have a temperature, a persistent cough, or loss of taste or smell they **MUST NOT** come to school. If anyone else in your household has these symptoms, your child **MUST NOT** come to school. We ask that if your child or a member of the household has symptoms, you arrange for them to be tested for Covid-19.

The government has decided that school will not be compulsory for the rest of the term. However, if your child is in Year 6, year 1 or Reception and you do not intend to send them to school on the dates listed above, you must inform the office. We need to know whether they are staying at home because they or a member of the family has a particular health condition that requires them to be shielded because you feel the safety of your child cannot be met at school, or for another reason

Year 6 – mobile phones not allowed at school

In order to minimise the risk of transferring infection Year 6 children will not be allowed to bring their mobile phones to school

Any other items from home

Children will not be able to bring any additional items from home into school including bikes and scooters.

And in happier newsCongratulations!

Congratulations to Katy our Reception teacher who is expecting a baby later in this year. Parents will understand that during this pandemic Katy has to self-isolate to protect herself and her child. This means Katy will not be coming back in to school to teach Reception class. This will be led by Laura our Nursery teacher and Lilly our SEN Teacher both of whom the children are familiar with. Katy will continue to co-lead the planning from home to support her colleagues with the learning programme and emotional support needed for the children. Katy will also support Laura with aspects of home learning for Nursery to ensure that the quality of their home experience is maintained.

For details about the other classes, please see below.

Yours sincerely
Mark Owen
Headteacher

Wider Opening Timetable: Update for Parents ☺

Year Group & Start Date	School Day Begins	School Day Ends	Pod Teachers
Year 6 Pod A Monday 8th June	8.55am in pod A football playground Drop at gates	3.30pm from pod A football playground dismissed	Sarah
Year 6 Pod B Monday 8th June	8.55am in pod B football playground Drop at gates	3.30pm from pod B football playground dismissed	Hassan
School provision Pod A Monday 8th June	8.55am via foyer parents drop off front door	3.30pm from foyer Parents socially distance along pavement	Laura
School provision Pod B Monday 8th June	8.55am via foyer parents drop off front door	3.30pm from foyer Parents socially distance along pavement	Lilly
Year 1 Pod A Monday 15th June	9.10am in pod A football playground Drop at gates or socially distance behind yellow lines	3.15pm from pod A football playground Parents socially distance behind yellow lines	Steph
Year 1 Pod B Monday 15th June	9.10am in pod B football playground Drop at gates or socially distance behind yellow lines	3.15pm from pod B football playground Parents socially distance behind yellow lines	Genevieve
Reception Pod A Monday 22nd June	9.20am in pod A football playground Parents socially distance behind yellow lines	3.00pm in pod A football playground Parents socially distance behind yellow lines	Laura
Reception Pod B Monday 22nd June	9.20am in pod A football playground Parents socially distance behind yellow lines	3.00pm in pod A football playground Parents socially distance behind yellow lines	Lilly