



Friday 17th July 2020

Newsletter 288

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

thank
you!

A big thank you to all parents and staff

I cannot tell you how proud I am of the way our Gillespie school community has pulled together during this extraordinary period. It has caused me and Gillespie staff great sadness that we have not been able to get half of our school children back in to the school this term but I am delighted by the way staff and children have shown such resilience and creativity to adapt to the changes which we have had to make in order to have children safely back in the school. I want to thank parents and teachers for working so hard to support children's learning at home which we know is a huge

challenge. After all, we *are* a school so we know how difficult this process is! I am excited about the school returning to being fully opened in the Autumn term but can also assure parents that we have learnt many lessons from our experience of providing for home learning and if we are required to lockdown the school or parts of the school again in future we will be working extremely hard to improve the quality of the home learning experiences that children have in future. I hope all families and staff get to have a proper rest and holiday during the summer!

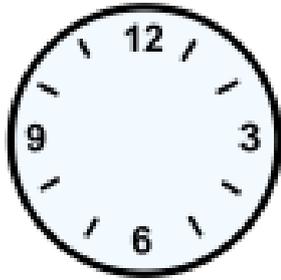
Preparations for full school opening from Monday 7th September 2020

We are so delighted to be making careful preparations for a full opening of the school in September. Parents will be aware we are now allowed to have classes of 30 pupils. Our experience of implementing bubbles of 15 has been very successful. We have been very strict sending children home to be tested for coronavirus at the slightest hint of a cough or a temperature. I can inform parents that 17 tests were carried out on children during the period of lockdown, and ALL of the children tested negative. I am very confident that the school will be safe and that the risk will continue to be very small when we open from September.

It is our expectation that all children will return from Monday 7th September 2020 and the school will resume following the attendance policy.

Arrangements for setting up classrooms and keeping children safe at school

- All classes will be in bubbles of 30 children and each class will have separate drop off and pick up times, staggered lunch and play times in their own separate sections of the hall and playground.
- Nursery and Reception class will eat their lunch in their classrooms and will access the outside learning area in a way to keep the two classes separate.
- Year 2 to Year 6 classrooms will be organised to minimise the possibility of transmission of Covid-19 which means for the time being children will be sitting at desks facing forward and will not be sitting together on carpets.
- Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classrooms will be organised more flexibly to enable some collaborative work and group work following DfE guidance.
- Adults will continue to keep their social distance from children.
- Where 1:1 support is required children will get their full entitlement but adults will maintain their distance where possible.
- Adults will wear full PPE when intimate care is required or when children are ill.
- A full time Covid-19 trained cleaner will be working in the school throughout the school day following a careful schedule of cleaning toilets, lunch hall and multi-use classroom spaces and regularly touched surfaces to ensure that the school is as clean as it can be at all times.
- Children will not assemble together until further notice but we will continue our usual programme of assemblies basing them in different classes each week and streaming them live to other classes.
- Music will continue to be taught to all classes. Year 1 to Year 6 classes will be socially distanced to 2m in the top hall when learning music and singing following government guidance.
- PE will be taught outside as far as possible. Any inside PE lessons will be adapted to ensure there is social distancing between children at 2m and no physical contact what so ever.
- On a day to day basis parents will not be allowed in to the building and will be dropping off and collecting children following socially distanced protocols from the playground.
- Parents will need to make telephone arrangements if they need to come to the office for any specific purpose.
- We will be making arrangements for parent consultation meetings within the building which will be carefully planned to facilitate social distancing.



Timetable for drop off and pick up times

Nursery	9:15	3:00
Reception	9:15	3:05
Year 1	9:05	3:10
Year 2	9:05	3:15
Year 3	8:55	3:20
Year 4	8:55	3:25
Year 5	8:45	3:30
Year 6	8:45	3:35

Settling children back in to school life and our 'recovery curriculum'

We are developing a very careful programme to settle your children back in to school routines and ways of working related to Covid-19. Our priority will be to support their well-being and to assess their core skills and learning needs with reading, writing and maths. In the first three weeks of term we will focus on a whole school writing project to bring all the children together, based around the book 'Rain before Rainbow'. This project will provide opportunities for children to talk about their experiences and to reflect at age appropriate levels on their experience of not being at school during this period.

Throughout this period teachers will be making informal formative assessments of your children's attainment and progress and identify any gaps in learning. We will then be carrying out our Autumn term summative assessment week before half term and will be organising parent consultation evenings with all of you the week before the half term holiday to report on your child's progress and well-being. We will be putting in a place a provision map to identify any additional catch up support and interventions that any children in the school will need. The government have provided additional catch up resources for all schools. We have not yet been informed how much this will be but I expect that we will be able to fund additional interventions from the second half of the Autumn term. We are confident that we will be able to get our children back on track through this process in partnership with you. Your children will still experience the full and vibrant curriculum that you expect them to receive.

Meet the teacher evening



We are planning a socially distanced meet the teacher evening. We request that ONE parent only comes to this meeting and you will be invited to the main hall from the playground entrance and requested to sit at a social distance from other parents in the hall where your child's class teacher will provide information and an introduction to their class and the new school year.

	3:40-4:10pm	4:30-5:00pm
Tuesday 8th September 2020	Year 1 with Steph	Year 2 with Shelley
Wednesday 9th September 2020	Year 3 with Shah	
Thursday 10th September 2020	Year 4 with Lauren	Year 5 with Hassan
Friday 11th September 2020	Year 6 with Sarah	

Arrangements for Breakfast Club

Government guidance allows for the creation of different bubbles where children from different year groups may mix in a carefully controlled environment. I am pleased to inform parents that Breakfast Club will recommence Monday 14th September 2020. You will be contacted in the first week back to make arrangements if you wish your child to attend. Breakfast club will be divided in to two bubbles within the main hall consisting of Key Stage 2 children in 1 bubble and Nursery, Reception & KS1 children in the other bubble. You will need to book the days your child will attend and cannot book ad hoc days.



After School Clubs

Government guidance also allows for children to be to mix across age groups in carefully organised bubbles for after school care. For us to be able to set this up we need to consult carefully with you and with other external providers, chiefly Elizabeth House. Once we have done this we will be able to work out which of our clubs could be viable. Children will need to limit the number of different bubbles they are in. For example, this might mean that parents who send their children to Elizabeth House may not be able to choose to send their children to Gillespie clubs as well. We are awaiting further government guidance on arrangements for after school care. However, it is our intention to get clubs set up before the Autumn half term.

SEND

Lyn would like to say a big thank you to families of children with SEND for supporting their children at home during this time. She assures she will be in touch during the Autumn term to discuss progress and well-being and making plans for going forward.

Important dates

Wednesday 2 nd – Friday 4 th September	INSET Days school closed to pupils
Monday 7 th September 2020	First day of term for ALL pupils in Y1-Y6
Tuesday 8 th – Friday 11 th September	Meet the teacher evening in the main hall
Monday 14 th September	Breakfast Club begins
Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd October	Parent consultation week
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	Half term
Monday 2 nd November	First day back of term for pupils
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Autumn term

Important things to remember

- We expect ALL children to return to school in September 2020 and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 7th September.
- Children are expected to be wearing full school uniform.
- Children should bring a water bottle to school which can be re-filled during the day.
- Children will be allowed to bring their book bag and coats when required but no additional items should be brought in to school.
- We will continue to ensure children practice good hand hygiene. Children will be expected to sanitise their hands on the way in to the building in the mornings. Children will wash their hands using the hand washing stations in the playground before and after eating lunch and play times.

Goodbye to Sian

I am very sad to report to parents that Sian our wonderful Year 6 Teaching Assistant is leaving Gillespie School. Sian has made a magnificent contribution to the life of the school, always going beyond the call of duty and contributing to the community spirit of Gillespie school. As well as her duties as an excellent teaching assistant Sian has taken on responsibility for leading our pupil playground buddy team and our very popular knitting club and for inspiring pupils and teachers with her great artistic skill and knowledge. Sian has always been concerned to support the welfare of children in this school and hundreds of children over the years have benefited from her personal support and care. I am happy to report that Sian is leaving to start a new life in rural France which is a part of the world which is already close to her heart and we wish her Bon Voyage as she embarks on this exciting new stage in her life!



Goodbye Year 6

A special mention to our wonderful Year 6 class who have been magnificent throughout lockdown and on their return back to school. We had a moving and uplifting Year 6 leavers show today where our two Year 6 bubbles performed at opposite ends of the hall at a safe social distance! They reminisced and performed self-penned songs about their journey at Gillespie School. This was particularly poignant for us all at this time as we felt a sense of togetherness which we hope was shared across the school and in homes of families as parents experienced the show on Zoom. We have also filmed the show which will be made available via Google Classroom. Year 6 class teacher Sarah has gone out of her way since Year 6 returned back to school to find ingenious ways of helping Year 6 to celebrate their last few weeks at Gillespie. This has included a fabulous sports day and a host of creative and stimulating activities. Sarah has been supported

by her dynamic team including Year 5 teacher Hassan who has still been providing home learning for his class and TA's Jean and Sian. A big thank you to everyone! We will miss you Year 6 but we are confident that you all have the resilience and personal qualities to continue to make good progress on the next stage of your educational journey.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful and lovely summer.
Mark Owen,
Headteacher



Sports update

School Games Commitment Award 2019/2020



The Islington Sports team have awarded Gillespie the *School Games Commitment Award* for the Autumn and Spring Term of this year. The award recognises our schools ongoing commitment to sport both inside and outside of school. Gillespie entered 14 teams across 6 different sports from September to March and had great success especially in Football, Swimming and Table Tennis. Well done to all the children who represented Gillespie over the last year.

Arsenal Schools Primary League

Before school closed, the year 5/6 boy's and girl's football teams were performing fantastically in the after school league run by Arsenal. The girls were 3rd in the league and the boys were 5th. Both of these positions would've guaranteed a place in the finals day - but sadly school closure put an end to the league.

Sports Boy & Girl of the Year

Sports Boy of the Year 2019-2020 Daniel Donn Maguire

Sports Girls of the Year 2019-2020 Micol Piemontese & Ada Lleshi



It was really hard to decide the sports boy and girl of the year this year as there are so many sporting children in year 6 who could easily have won it. In the end I had to award it to two girls as I couldn't decide.

A huge well done to Daniel, Ada and Micol for all your sporting achievements and for representing Gillespie at so many different sports.

Well done to everyone,

Angela

Islington Council Summer Schemes

Below is information on Islington Council's summer learning resources, lunch scheme and parents' essential summer guide and a letter for Councillor Richard Watts.

Summer Lunch Bunch



Summer break Lunch Bunch will be back. This is an Islington Council scheme that provides free healthy nutritious lunches for Islington children and young people who are attending a range of holiday activities running across the borough. This includes participating adventure playgrounds, sports activities and summer holiday clubs. The Council is working hard at present to ensure Lunch Bunch activities are safe and meet all current Government guidelines and this means that pre-booking may be required this year. For the latest information on sessions and venues, visit www.islington.gov.uk/lunchbunch or call Islington's FIS on 020 7527 5959.

Click this link for the Parents' Essential Summer Guide:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxzr6w6n>

Parents' Essential Summer Guide
2020
8 page pull-out

Summer success
Helpful tips for a great time with the kids - whatever their age!

p2-3 Vital information for all parents for children of all ages	p6 Learning activities and resources to get creative for 5-12 year olds
p4 Sessions and activities, childcare info and more for 0-5 year olds	p7-8 Next steps for teenagers and under-25s
p5 Find out more about Heathrow activities and the Summer Reading Challenge for 0-16 year olds	

ISLINGTON

Keep learning over summer with our home school resources!

Islington's School Improvement and Enrichment teams have put together a range of activities to support learning over the summer.

Six weeks of ideas and inspiration

Starting 18 July, we've got six weeks of ideas and inspiration whilst out and about!

Spelling!

Look out for fun ways to practise your spelling each week!

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3 and 4
- Year 5 and 6



Find more things to do on the Family Directory
Islington's Family Information Service has information and advice for families, including things to do
www.islington.gov.uk/fis facebook.com/islingtonfis

Make space for reading!
Find book lists, and take part in the Summer Reading Challenge.
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Website of the week!
There's so much online - we've handpicked the best websites to support home learning and will feature one every week. Don't miss out - subscribe to our newsletter!

Find everything you need at:
www.islingtoncs.org/home-learning

Click here for the letter from Cllr Richard Watts - <https://tinyurl.com/yxldovqt>



Welcome Back to Gillespie!

Social story



rules

Understanding the new rules about schools

Schools have been closed for many weeks to most children and classes because of COVID 19



You have been doing your school learning at home. This was a change to your usual routine, but you all coped brilliantly with the online/remote learning & having family members as your teachers! ...Thank you and well done!



The Government has issued some new advice about schools.



They have said it is now safe for schools to open for **all children** – which makes us very happy 😊



Some children who have a keyworker parent (for example, shop worker, delivery driver, police officer, NHS worker) have been at school since lockdown, others such as year 1, 6 and Reception have been back for a few weeks.

I am one of the pupils that can now go back to school with my whole class. This is another change to my routine and it will be a great, yet new transition that may take some getting used to - being back with my peers once more!



It may feel a little different and because you have been away for a while you may feel nervous. Don't worry - we are here to help you and you will soon remember what it is like to be at Gillespie.

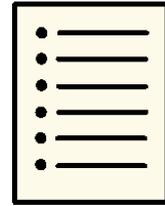
If you feel anxious just talk to an adult who will be happy to chat 😊



What will my school be like?

It will be the same building but there have been some physical changes which will make it feel a little different.

There are some rules that the Government have set to keep schools safe. These rules are a temporary measure & the adults will tell me if & when these rules change again.



The Rules Are:



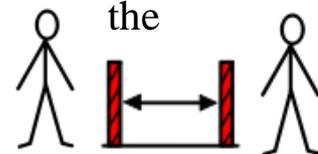
- **Staying within my bubble/class** The Government has said there can be 30 children in each class bubble but you will have a personal workstation and your own pens and pencils which helps stop the virus spreading.
- **Different start and finish times.** Year groups will have different start and finish times to the school day – to ensure there is not overcrowding and we can maintain social distancing and keep within our bubble
- There will be no additional play opportunity before school starts and or after school clubs but we are hoping to start this very soon ... Mark will tell us when we are ready to do this. Breakfast club will be starting on the 14th September! 😊
- **Staying with the same adult and children.** I will stay within the same bubble class with the same teacher & teaching assistant consistently - School will tell me which adults and teacher I am with and this will not change until or unless the government say it is safe to do so
- **Keeping to time** It is important to arrive at the right time in the morning so that we keep our bubble together – thank you!



- **Different lunchtimes and break times.** School will inform me when lunchtime and break time is timetabled for my bubble. It will be at a different time than before the virus. The playground will be divided into two parts so that two class bubbles can have space to be active whilst maintaining social distancing. We will eat in the lunch hall together but on tables A and B. Salads & water will be served by the adults and there will be a specific station for me to use when I have finished eating. We will leave the dining hall via a one way system using the fire escape steps to go out



- **Social distancing.** This is important everywhere in the school building. It is important to do your best to keep apart from others where possible. Sometimes in a school this is not always possible within your bubble, but important thing is you try your very best



Adults will remind you regularly regarding social distancing and there are lots of signs and markers in the school to help you with this.

- **Lots of hand washing.** It is vital to wash our hands often and thoroughly. School will ask you to wash your hands lots of times throughout the school day and use hand sanitiser. These include: before and after eating, using the toilet, after play time and at other times too.



There will be lots of changes & rules to remember and follow as best we can. Sticking to these rules will help everyone to stay safe and will help this system run smoothly



Following these rules will help stop the spread of the virus and keep us safe.

Thank you... 😊

...for understanding & following the rules



Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any further questions

