



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Newsletter 290

[www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk](http://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Welcome back to the new school year

We are so delighted to be opening the school to all children on Monday. Parents will be aware we are now allowed to have classes of 30 pupils. We were very strict sending children home to be tested for coronavirus last term. I can inform parents that 17 tests were carried out, 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 next week. Gillespie governors have approved the school opening risk assessment- this will be available on the website from next week.

It is our expectation that all children will return from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and the school will resume following the usual attendance policy. We know that many of your children will be getting coughs and colds and other non Covid-19 illnesses as we approach the winter season, and it will be very important for both the school and parents to respond appropriately to concerns about children's health.

The latest government guidance is very clear and the school will be following this guidance. If we notice a child at school has one or more of the following symptoms you will be contacted to collect your child immediately and arrange a Covid-19 test:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**Symptoms as described on NHS** - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If your child has a cold or a minor cough and they are well enough to come to school we would expect you to send them to school. As usual we have a 48 hour policy for any sickness or diarrhoea.

## If a child is referred for testing:

### A negative test result

- A negative result means the child can return to school as soon as they are well enough
- Siblings of a child with symptoms will not be asked to test or be sent home unless they also have symptoms

### A positive test result

- If a child tests positive they must self-isolate for 10 days. Their household (including any siblings at Gillespie) must self-isolate for 14 days
- If a child tests positive their bubble will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. The children in this bubble are not required to have a Covid-19 test unless they too become symptomatic. A negative test result in this period for children in the bubble does not mean they can return to school they must still self-isolate for 14 days or 10 days if their test is positive

Full details about isolation periods can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

If you are unsure about your child's illness please contact NHS 111. If you need to arrange Coronavirus testing please call the dedicated line on 119.

## Emergency contact details

Now more than ever it is important to ensure the school office has the most up to date contact details for families including an emergency contact we can call should we not get through to you.

## Timetable for drop off and pick up times

Please note there are some changes to these times.

**Only 1 parent should enter the school premises at drop off and collection times. Parents of siblings will need to socially distance behind the yellow lines of the sports pitch whilst waiting.**

Year group	Arrival	Collect	Year group	Arrival	Collect
Nur	09:15	03:05	Y3	08:55	03:20
Rec	09:15	03:05	Y4	08:55	03:20
Y1	08:45	03:15	Y5	09:05	03:30
Y2	08:45	03:15	Y6	09:05	03:30

### Important dates

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

### Important things to remember

- We expect ALL children to return to school on Monday.
- 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. All classrooms and other learning spaces have cleaning stations. Children will be required to sanitise their hands before using the library, Lab\_13 and computer suite. These classrooms will be cleaned by the school cleaner after use by each class bubble ensuring it is clean for the next.
- No parents/carers/visitors to enter school except by prior arrangement and only when absolutely necessary. All adults will be encouraged to socially distance and not congregate outside the school entrance/exit.
- Parents will be required to wear a face covering when in the building/reception area unless exempt.
- Children are encouraged to use their bike or scooter to travel to school and these can be stored in the scooter/bike shelters as usual.
- ALL clothing must be labelled to avoid clothes being mixed up and sent home with the wrong child.

### Arrangements for Breakfast Club

I am pleased to inform parents that Breakfast Club will recommence Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. To reserve your place please email the school office with your child's name, year group and days required. This will need to be a weekly pattern, we are not taking ad hoc bookings at present. Please email [office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk).

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. Please drop your child off at the foyer, do not go through to the hall.

The office will confirm your child's booking and add this to the online payment system where payment should be made promptly.

### 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 fire stairwell in the playground 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. Please sanitise your hands on entry to the hall. Children of school age are not permitted to this meeting and will be supervised in the playground.

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

### 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 possible.
- Where 1:1 support is required children will get their full entitlement but adults will maintain their distance where possible.
- Adults will wear 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.
- We will be making arrangements for parent consultation meetings within the building which will be carefully planned to facilitate social distancing.

Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Yours sincerely

Mark Owen

Headteacher

### Gillespie Great Science Share

On June 16th, Gillespie pupils took part in Islington's virtual Great Science Share.

Some visited Lab\_13 and investigated how to make butter or ice-cream or the effect water has on rays of light.

Some pupils carried out investigations at home. Thanks to their involvement and enthusiasm, the school has won a Nano Box from Curiosity Box which will be delivered some time soon.

Meg Lab\_13

Dear Parents,

As part of the council's People Friendly Streets Programme and Transport Response to Covid-19, we are accelerating the council's School Streets programme and are introducing a School Street in your area. We are working with Gillespie Primary School to close the streets to through traffic on Gillespie Road, during school drop-off and pick-up times, term time only.

The School Street will be installed under an 18-month experimental traffic order with the council closely monitoring the street to assess the impact on the local area. After 12 months, you will be invited to have your say alongside the school, parents and neighbours on whether the School Street should remain in place permanently.

How the scheme works:

**From 7 September 2020 vehicles will not be permitted to Gillespie Road from Monday to Friday between the times of 8.30am-9.15am and 3.15pm-4.00pm during term time unless they have been given an exemption.** Permits for the School Street zone will be provided based on the council's records of residents and businesses who have existing parking permits within the extents for the School Street. Residents who live within the closure area and have an existing parking permit will not need to apply for a School Street permit as they will automatically be provided with a permit for the School Street so they can access the street during the restricted hours.

Vehicles already in a paid parking bay prior to the start of the street closure restrictions and parked within the limited parking time stated on the sign will be permitted to stay in the parking bay. Vehicles without a permit will not be allowed to enter the street and access the paid parking bays during the restricted times.

Blue badge holders will be able to contact the council for an exemption but will only be able to use the road for access and not as a through route during the times of operation. The road will remain open to pedestrians and cyclists during the school streets period of operation.

Signs will inform drivers of the restrictions before the entrances to the closed street. Non-registered vehicles entering the street during the times of operation will be identified by camera and issued a penalty charge notice of £65.00.

For more information about the Islington School Streets programme, please visit: [www.islington.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://www.islington.gov.uk/schoolstreets)

Below is a plan of the School Street closure:



Thank you.  
Yours faithfully  
The Schools Streets Team  
[Schoolstreets@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Schoolstreets@islington.gov.uk)

## Welcoming everyone back to school!

From September, all children will return to school. This is important for children's overall development, their social and emotional health and means parents can return to work.

Schools are carefully following local and national public health advice to ensure each school is safe.

Children don't spread Coronavirus more than adults. For most people – and especially children – if they do catch the virus, the symptoms will be mild.

### Stay safe

We all need to work together to make sure we keep our schools safe, so please remember to:



Keep washing your hands



Socially distance where possible - especially at the school entrance



Stay away if you or your child (or someone you live with) have symptoms

### Keep healthy



Walk, cycle or scoot to school if you can, rather than taking public transport.



Vaccinations protect you and your family. Speak to your GP to make sure all vaccinations are up-to-date.



Look out for the free annual flu vaccine – this is even more important this year. Primary school and Year 7 pupils will get this at school.

## Get tested if you or your child have symptoms:

- Tests can be booked online at: [www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test](https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test)
- For help with testing, see [www.nhs.uk/contact-us/get-help-with-asking-for-a-coronavirus-test/](https://www.nhs.uk/contact-us/get-help-with-asking-for-a-coronavirus-test/)

Public Health England does not, based on current evidence, recommend the use of face coverings in schools.

### Find out more

You can contact your school with any questions. Your School Nurse is also happy to talk to you about any concerns, for example if you are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic group or if there are grandparents or vulnerable family members at home.

School nurses: email [whh-tr.IslingtonSchoolNursing@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.IslingtonSchoolNursing@nhs.net) or ring 020 3316 8021