



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Newsletter 291

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for helping us make a great start to the new school year! It has been wonderful getting to see all of our children in our Year 1 to 6 classes back this week. We are looking forward to welcoming our Nursery and Reception families over the coming weeks. We have been able to meet Y1-6 parents/carers at socially distanced 'meet the teacher evenings' across this week. In fact, some sets of parents broke out in to spontaneous applause after their child's teacher had finished their presentation and discussion. Both staff and parents have remarked on how well the children have responded at this very early stage coming back to school. Most children are really excited and happy to be here.

Can I also thank parents for your patience and co-operation as we have been problem solving drop off and pick up at our entrances to the school to try and maintain social distance between adults. With the tweaks we have made this week this has improved rapidly each day. This does mean however we are now able to make another timetable change for next week! If this works you will have less waiting time, so can I please urge you to continue to drop off and pick up at exactly the time stated and to follow the instructions in red below to enable you to maintain a social distance from other adults and to prevent any crowding on the ramp in to the playground. We will try not to make any more changes to the timetable if this works really well next week.

### **Punctuality matters**

It is more crucial than ever that there are no children coming in to school late. There are a few children who are coming in consistently late already. This really makes things more complicated for us and is unsettling for your child. **Please make sure they are punctual!**

### **Timetable for drop off and pick up times**

Please note there are some changes to these times.

Year group	Arrival	Collect
Nur	09:10*	03:05
Rec	09:05	03:10
Y1	08:45	03:20
Y2	08:45	03:20

Year group	Arrival	Collect
Y3	08:50	03:25
Y4	08:50	03:25
Y5	08:55	03:30
Y6	08:55	03:30

**Only 1 parent should enter the school premises at drop off and collection times. Face coverings should be worn unless exempt.**

**Parents of siblings are advised to stay in the playground behind the yellow lines on the football pitch until you have collected all children, then leave the playground.**

**Nursery/Reception families will now use the blue gate on Gillespie Road. Please wait against the wall socially distancing and keeping the pathway clear. Nursery families please wait to the left, Reception families to the right.**

**\*NB: Nursery families who are settling their child may have a different starting time to the above. Laura will have discussed this with you at your visit.**

### **Permission to go home alone**

If you have a child in Year 5 or 6 and consent for them to go home alone please email the school office or send your child in with a note for their teacher informing us you give permission. If your Year 5 or 6 child is permitted to collect any siblings from Year 2 upwards please also state this.

## Latest government guidance on identifying symptoms of Covid-19

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/>

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen  
Headteacher