



Friday 18th September 2020

Newsletter 292

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Developing our remote learning policy at Gillespie

Parents will be as aware as I am that the national situation re: Covid is constantly changing. With your help we continue to do all we can to ensure that we can keep the school fully open. However, it is our priority whilst we are doing this to prepare as well as we can for possible partial or full lockdown whenever this may happen. Gillespie teacher Angela Parker, who is currently working from home before she goes on maternity leave later this term, is taking the lead supported by Sarah Bergin our Computing Lead and School Leadership Team, to develop and improve our approach to home learning using remote technology. Our aim is to improve the quality of teaching and learning experiences of children when learning from home and to ensure communication and feedback between children and their teacher is the best it can be.

Angela has been trialling a number of learning platforms and practised teaching structured online live lessons and is now in a position to train colleagues. We will be giving over staff meetings this term to train teachers in the effective use of google classroom. Teachers are also prioritising their computer timetable with their classes to focus on teaching children how to use and interact using this platform as well. All teachers will be setting home work this term using Google classroom as soon as we are set up to do so. Angela will be advising the SLT on development of the whole school approach and policy which we will then present to Governors for their approval in October.

To that end it will be crucial that your children are able to access learning platforms, particularly those of you who have a number of siblings at home. Our approach will increase the amount of live teaching and feedback that teachers are able to give across the week which may mean that your children might need to use learning platforms at the same time. We will endeavour to timetable to avoid that where possible. We are seeking additional laptops where possible to support families who require them.

Please respond to this short survey about family access to online learning – one response per family.

<https://tinyurl.com/y4cmm453>

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club bubbles are working very well. We still have some spaces available. If you would like to register your child please email the school office with the days you require.

After School Club Survey

Please complete our After School Club Survey. The results will help us to determine whether there is a demand for Gillespie clubs and if we can make these viable with Covid restrictions. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday 25th September 2020 12:00pm.

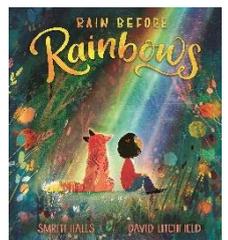
<https://tinyurl.com/y4jeved7>

Attendance matters

We are extremely happy to report that in our first week back we had fantastic attendance with 98.2% of children attending school! Well done everyone.

Whole school 'Rain before Rainbow' project

As parents will know all of the children in Years 1-6 are doing some English, PSHE and art work based on this lovely story about hope and optimism. The book 'Rain before Rainbows' is being published soon and the proceeds going to Save the Children. On Wednesday 30th September we are going to have a rainbow non uniform day to raise money for Save the Children. Children can wear bright colours and bring a £1 donation for the charity.



Gymnastics with Rochelle

We are delighted that Rochelle our Gymnastics teacher has already started her teaching in the school following Covid safe procedures and she is working with all children in groups of 15 from Year 1 to Year 6 weekly.

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.

Timetable for drop off and pick up 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.

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:

- Please note as of latest information from the Department for Education if a child in your family develops symptoms of Covid then their siblings must also isolate until the results are received for the symptomatic child.

A negative test result

- A negative result means the child can return to school as soon as they are well enough (including any siblings who were self-isolating)

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 the school is required to notify the Department for Education's Coronavirus team who will advise on what we should do next in regards to their bubble.

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