



Friday 2nd October 2020

Newsletter 294

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid-19 update

The total number of children being tested at Gillespie since the start of term is now 13 children. All results have come back negative. Two staff have been tested and their results were negative. It is really important that between home and school we all do our best to observe protocols so that we can keep the school completely clear as long as possible.

It has come to my attention recently that some parents have been speculating on parent Whatsapp groups about members of staff and their children having Covid-19. It is quite upsetting for a member of staff to find out one of their children is being named as having Covid, particularly as this was incorrect. We feel this is inappropriate. We are following General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) on not publically naming children or staff if they test. Parents can be reassured, however, that we will take appropriate action if any pupils, staff or parents do test positive.

Black History Month

Today in our whole school Zoom assembly we launched Black History Month by singing the emotive civil rights song 'I wish I knew (how it would feel to be free)' made famous by Nina Simone. We will be focussing on significant British black figures this year. In next week's assembly children will find out about Mary Prince the abolitionist born in 1788, whose autobiographical novel 'The history of Mary Prince' published in 1831 had a galvanising effect on the antislavery movement.



**Save the
Children**

'Rain before Rainbows' non uniform day

The school was resplendent in rainbow colours on Wednesday as whole school celebrated our project 'Rain before Rainbows'. A big thank you to all of our families who have raised £188.20 for Save the Children.

School admissions

Secondary School admissions –

Application process for children born between: 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010

Application deadline – 31st October 2020

Read the full Secondary School brochure here:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/schools/information/adviceandguidance/20202021/20200907secondaryschoolbrochurefor2021admissions.pdf>

Year 6 parents are invited to a virtual meeting via Teams with Mark, Sarah and a representative from the Islington Council School Admissions Team on Thursday 8th October at 4:30pm. The meeting link will be emailed and text to Y6 parents please look out for this.

Primary School admissions –

Application process for children born between: 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017

Application deadline – 15th January 2021

Read the full Primary School brochure here:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/schools/information/adviceandguidance/20202021/20200907primaryschoolbrochurefor2021admissions.pdf>

Attendance Matters
21st – 25th September 2020

Nursery	100%	Year 3	98.29%
Reception	95.85%	Year 4	89.33%
Year 1	98.67%	Year 5	94.62%
Year 2	100%	Year 6	89.97%

E-Safety reminder to parents

As part of our Computing teaching in school, we always talk to the children about how to stay safe online. Since we have returned after lockdown, we are aware that some of the older children at Gillespie are using social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok. We would like to remind parents that both of these platforms have a minimum age limit of 13; therefore, they are not appropriate for primary-aged children.

If you would like more information to support your children when using social media platforms, the following websites have great ideas and advice:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

Sarah ,Year 6 Teacher and Computing Lead

Parent Consultation Meetings

We will be holding our parent consultation meetings over the week of 19th October. These will be virtual meetings – details to be confirmed and shared with parents shortly. If parents are unable to access a virtual meeting we will arrange a telephone consultation. We will signpost parents in text messages and letters how to sign up for their 10 minute slot with their child’s teacher.

Diary dates

Thursday 8 th October	4:30-5:30pm Virtual secondary transfer meeting for Y6 parents
Mon 19 th – Fri 23 rd October	Parent Consultation Meetings
Tuesday 20 th October	Individual & sibling photos (all day)
Friday 23 rd October	9:15am FoG AGM Last day of term
Mon 26 th – Fri 30 th October	Half term
Monday 2 nd November	First day back of term
Thursday 12 th November	Flu immunisations for Reception – Year 6 children (consent forms will be sent home nearer the time)

Friends of Gillespie (FoG) News

I cannot emphasize enough how the great work of active parents in FoG has contributed to the life of our school and to helping staff build a cohesive school community. Of course FoG through their wonderful and various events and fundraising efforts have also enabled us to provide a range of opportunities and additional enrichments for our children which we would not have been able to afford from our school budget. I know that the usual way in which FoG works with school events such as our summer fair is going to be extremely difficult across this coming year but it is really important that we continue to build this wonderful partnership with the school. I want to thank all parents for the hard work that you do for our school and invite parents to consider a more active role if you have not participated before. Never has our school needed you more! Please read the newsletter from our FoG Chair Candice which includes the important AGM meeting details coming up.

Yours sincerely, Mark Owen Headteacher

Friends of Gillespie Newsletter

Important Notice

An AGM meeting of Friends of Gillespie, also known as FOG, will be held on Friday, 23 October at 9.15 am. Further details for the meeting will be circulated via a school generated text on Monday, 19 October. All are warmly invited to attend.

For those new parents who may not know about FOG:

FOG is a charitable fundraising organisation that provides financial assistance for programmes and learning tools that directly support our children. FOG is entirely made up of parent volunteers.

In the past, FOG has helped or fully funded things like:

- Strings Instructor for Y4-Y6
- Reading Road Map for Y1-Y6
- Forest School for N, R and Y1
- Field trips, including coaches where needed, for all Year groups
- Classroom support materials
- A new piano for the upper hall
- Power Maths
- Storytelling & Music in Education for the entire school
- Gardening materials and projects
- Theatre tickets for Y1-Y6
- History Off the Page
- Scarabeus

Previously, we have held numerous fundraising events outside of school hours. These events provided both a means for parents and children to have fun and spend time together as a larger community and a revenue stream to support the above opportunities. This year we need to reinvigorate and redefine our fundraising initiatives to reflect current boundaries. We would love your input on fundraising ideas. Being part of FOG is a great way get involved and to shape our evolving school community.

To qualify as a charitable organisation, however, FOG is required to have volunteers fill certain roles. FOG currently has three roles that must be filled to keep its charitable status. The parents stepping down have older children and have provided many years of fantastic support. Following is a list including both the responsibilities and the amount of time required per term.

Secretary

Responsibilities:

- Supporting the Chair to ensure the smooth running of FOG
- Ensuring the AGM is minuted
- Keeping records of trustees, constitution, insurance, etc.
- Being co-signatory on bank accounts
- Supporting spending and other decisions on activities for the children or materials for the school

Time commitment:

Approximately 3 hours per term

Treasurer

Responsibilities:

- Oversight of finances to provide updates to FOG trustees
- Supporting spending and other decisions on activities for the children or materials for the school
- Bookkeeping for FOG, although this is straightforward with online banking
- Aiding other elements of fundraising (e.g. online gifting website, claiming gift aid,...)
- Preparing the annual accounts and trustees report (you can adapt the previous year's version rather than needing to start from scratch)

Time commitment:

Approximately half a day per term, plus an additional day to prepare the accounts and trustees report

Assistant Treasurer

Responsibilities:

- Preparing the floats for fundraising events and banking the takings at NatWest on Holloway Road
- Dropping floats and the izettle (for contactless payments) into the school before the event and collect the takings at the end of each event to count up and bank
- Counting the takings and communicating the total to the Treasurer, Secretary and Chair after each event

Time commitment:

Approximately 3-5 hours a term depending on how many events FOG is running

Even if you can't attend the AGM, please indicate your interest in any of these roles, your interest in volunteering in any capacity or provide fundraising ideas by emailing the school office or the Chair of FOG, Candice Bingham, at candice_bingham@hotmail.com.

Directly donating

Additionally, there are ways that parents can directly donate to FOG for ongoing school initiatives:

- Via Virgin Money Giving
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1003865>
- The Giving Machine: All you need to do is sign up www.thegivingmachine.co.uk using sign up code: 143920 then every time you shop go through The Giving Machine website or the Shop & Give app before you shop and they will donate money to Friends of Gillespie.
- Amazon Smile: If you shop at amazon.co.uk use smile.amazon.co.uk and choose Friends of Gillespie as your charity of choice
- Company Matching: Some companies will help support charities through a matched giving scheme, whereby they will match gifts donated by their employees

Staying in touch

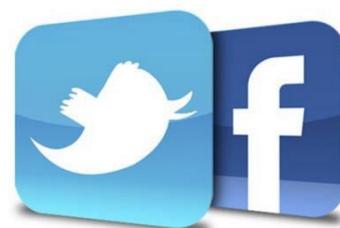
We realise that for many parents it can be difficult to stay in touch with what is happening at school let alone engage with other parents in your class, particularly given current circumstances.

The Families at Gillespie Primary use an online parent to parent system called Classlist to connect families and keep them informed. This is not a system just for FOG. It is for the whole school community. All parents and carers can sign up and keep in touch with their class group as well as school events. Plus, it complies with the new data protection laws.

Please sign up at www.Classlist.co.uk and download the app. There is a verification process to ensure only parents/carers with children in the school can sign-up.

Facebook Address: FOGillespie **Please note this is a closed group. This means only those who ask to join and are from Gillespie School can access. The general public cannot see any of the content

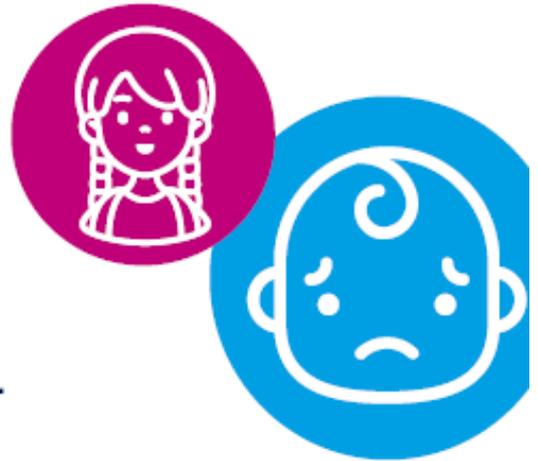
Twitter Address: @FOGillespie



NHS

Does your child need
urgent healthcare?

Be sure to go to the right place.



Temporary closure of children's A&Es at UCLH and the Royal Free Hospital



Some children and young people's services have temporarily changed as part of our Covid-19 response

Anyone under 18 and needing accident or emergency care should go to the nearest alternative local hospital:

- Whittington Hospital
- Barnet Hospital
- North Middlesex University Hospital
- St Mary's Hospital
- Royal London Hospital

UCLH and Royal Free A&Es remain open for adults

For life-threatening emergencies call 999 straight away.
For more info go to <http://bit.ly/emergency-paediatric>



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child. The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends. Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable family and friends

3. No injection needed. The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu. The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs. If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

What should I do?

Contact your child's GP if your child was aged two or three years old (on the 31 August of the current flu season) and you haven't heard from them by early November.

If your child is at primary school or in year 7 of secondary school, the school will send you a leaflet and consent form. Please sign the form and return it.

If your child has a health condition that puts them at greater risk from flu, or lives with someone on the NHS Shielded Patient List, they can get the flu vaccine from their GP.

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

The below information has not changed since last week.

Timetable for drop off and pick up times

Please note that from next week Nursery and Reception will be starting school 5 minutes earlier. We expect this timetable for the whole school to remain the same for the foreseeable future. In the event of rain, during drop off and pick up, we will implement a free flowing system where we will guide children to walk straight in to the building rather than stand in the playground. We will still expect children to move in to the playground at their allotted time.

Year group	Arrival	Collect
Nur	09:05	03:05
Rec	09:00	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/>

This information is copied from the Department for Education website for families. Click the links to be taken to the page required.

Translation of guidance for parents and carers on early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term

We have translated our [guidance for parents and carers with children in nursery, school, or college in the autumn term](#).

The guidance is now available in the following languages:

- [Arabic](#)
- [Bengali](#)
- [Chinese – traditional](#)
- [Chinese – simplified](#)
- [French](#)
- [Gujarati](#)
- [Polish](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Romany](#)
- [Somali](#)
- [Turkish](#)
- [Urdu](#)