



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

# Newsletter 309

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

STAY HOME  
PROTECT  
THE NHS  
SAVE LIVES

Dear Parents/Carers,

## A BIG thank you to our parent and carer teachers!

We are very proud of the great efforts that you are making to support your children with their remote learning. We really do know how challenging it is to try and support children and maintain your work responsibilities. Having formally reviewed our remote learning this term so far with teachers I am reassured that all children in this community are engaging and are being well supported either at home or in the school provision. We of course want to make this work as well as we can for children, parents and Gillespie staff. We would appreciate if you were able to respond to our online survey which will help give us more quality information on how you and your children are managing at home so that we can continue to try and improve this partnership over the coming weeks.

Link – <https://tinyurl.com/y33w9mvz>

Please complete the survey by 12pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## Safer Internet Day Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

It has never been more important to ensure that our children learn how to use the internet safely. Next week teachers will be engaging in activities with your children, please look out for them. You can find out more in next week's newsletter about how to keep children safe online.

## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – dressing up day!

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week and the end of the first half term we are inviting children to 'express yourselves' during your live lessons on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February by wearing something that makes you happy or feel good. This can be any form of fancy dress/pyjamas/favourite clothing.

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen, Headteacher

## Health zoom

The Islington School Health Team are running health promotion sessions on **Mondays** and **Thursdays** at **16:00** via Zoom for parents to attend. Times have altered due to parents/carers home schooling children and not being able to access sessions.

### **How to maintain healthy diets for children during lockdown**

**Monday –**

Maintaining a Healthy Diet during Lockdown:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2021 16:00
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2021 16:00

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/95179626490?pwd=c3lURGZMK2JCeUZ0aUx2eDEvbDhzUT09>

**Thursday –**

Maintaining a Healthy Diet during Lockdown

- 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2021 16:00
- 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2021 16:00

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91754030957?pwd=U1ltL0sycWN4WEFzcUhGQ0JpcVRnQT09>

We hope that these sessions will provide a safe space for parents to have any questions answered and reassurance provided for any concerns/anxieties they may have, considering the times and season we are in. Topics of these sessions can change over the weeks at parents' request e.g. on bedwetting or emotional wellbeing.

## What has been happening in Lab\_13?

Pupils have been visiting Lab\_13 to undertake scientific enquiry and to investigate answers to their questions.

The Nursery children have been investigating how to make holes in large blocks of ice. They used scientific equipment: data loggers with probes to measure temperature and pipettes to drop water repeatedly in one place to form a hole. They used scientific terminology: thermometer, temperature, melting and freezing.

Reception pupils learnt how different butterfly parts look when observed closely. They drew butterfly parts before and after looking at them through a microscope and were surprised by the differences.

Year 1 investigated what materials birds build their nests from. They made their own birds' nests using natural materials and considered characteristics of the materials such as strength, flexibility and durability. They discussed how to camouflage the nests from predators. They are going to observe what happens to the nests over time after placing them in the playground.

Year 2 found out about floods in Bangladesh and then designed and made floating gardens as a solution for Bangladeshi farmers to grow crops. They had to consider which materials would float and would be waterproof. They tested their floating gardens and made improvements to them. Next, they planted seeds and watered them in the hope that they will grow. They will need to keep their gardens indoors until the weather improves.

Year 3 explored different types of magnets and how the north and south poles of magnets interact with each other. They investigated which materials are magnetic and whether all metals are magnetic. Some pupils investigated how strong the bar magnets are.

Year 4 pupils were involved in a variety of hands-on activities to consolidate their understanding of boiling, freezing, melting, condensation and evaporation. They set up their own investigations to answer the question: 'Do all liquids evaporate at the same time?' They have been interested to see the results by observing the liquids over time.

Year 5 made excellent use of objects to model the relationships between the movement of the Earth, the sun, the planets and Earth's moon. They went into the playground to model the orbits of different planets to find out that they had different length years.

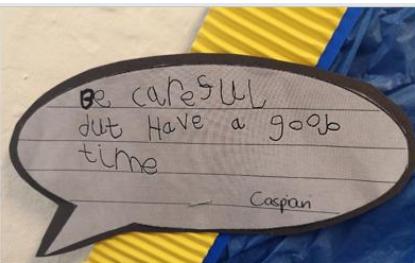
Year 6 pupils researched food packaging in depth to discover detailed nutritional information about different food types. They are in the process of keeping food diaries to find out their weekly calorie intake in order to compare this with the recommended intake for their age group.

Well done to all the pupils that have visited Lab\_13. You continue to be inquisitive about science and are developing sound skills for working scientifically.

Meg in Lab\_13

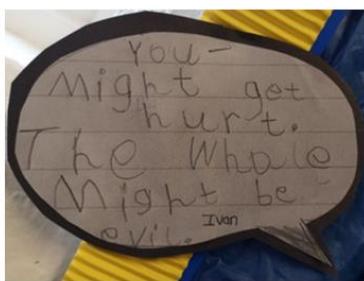


## Year 1 Learning The Snail and the Whale



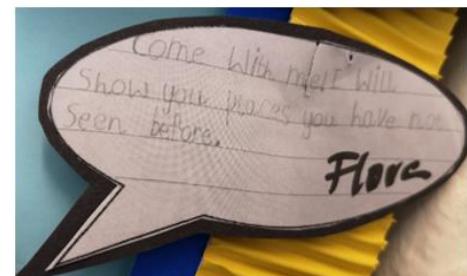
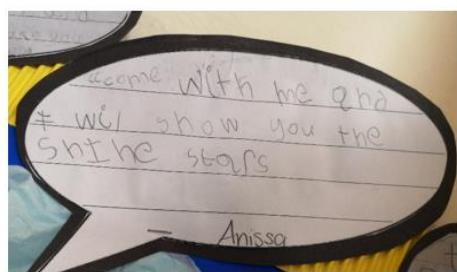
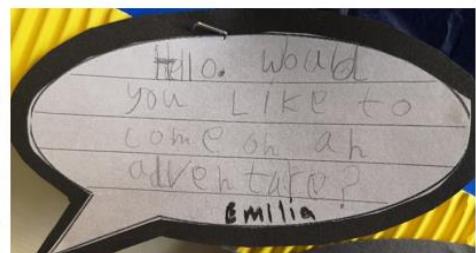
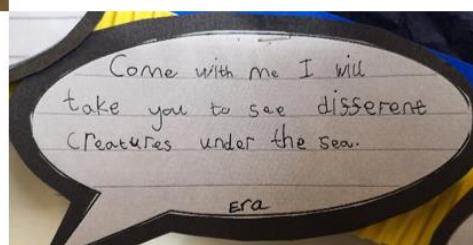
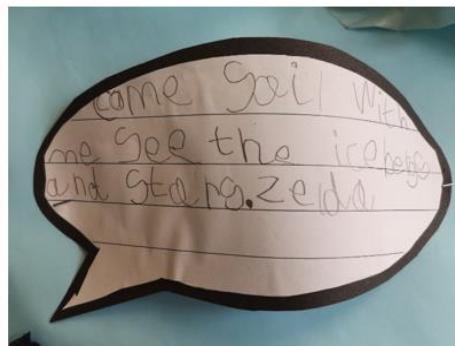
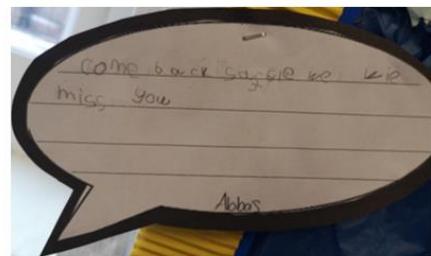
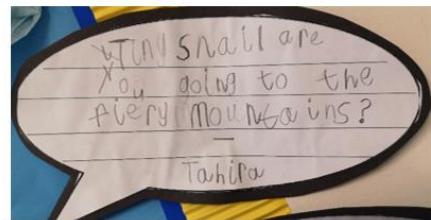
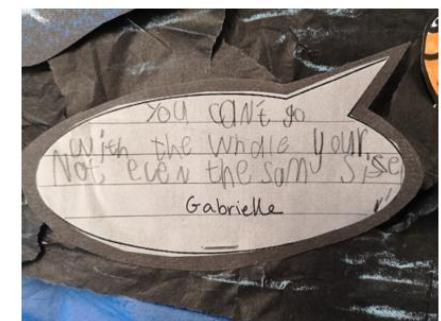
Year 1 have been reading *The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson.

Jane worked hard to make two beautiful displays showing the work from the children at school and the children at home, who sent in photos of their work.



The first shows how we imagined being the others snail in the flock and what we would say to the tiny snail about going with the great big grey-blue humpback whale.

The second shows how we imagined being the whale and what we would say to the tiny snail about going on an adventure with him.



## **Year 4 Learning Children's Mental Health Week**

