



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

# Newsletter 310

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



Dear Parents/Carers,

## Covid 19 update

We are pleased to have made it through another half term relatively unscathed by Coronavirus and are pleased to report no cases at school. With huge thanks to teachers and support staff for their hard work maintaining in school provision and providing remote learning to children at home. A big thank you to parents for continuing to ensure children are accessing and engaging in their work and lessons. We know how hard everyone has been working and wish you all a very restful and safe February half term break.

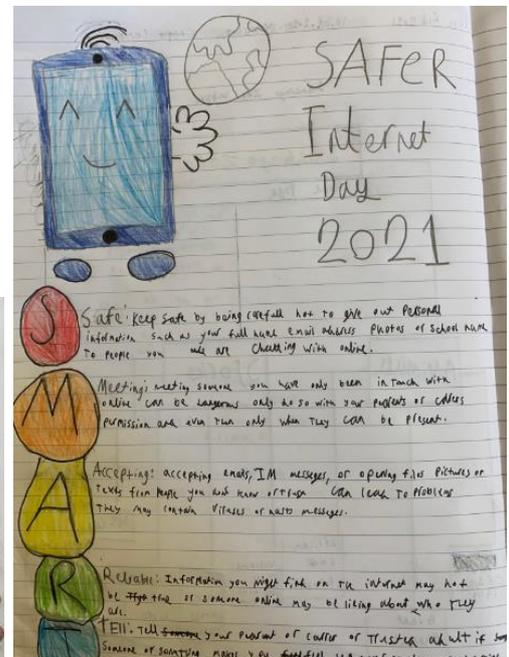
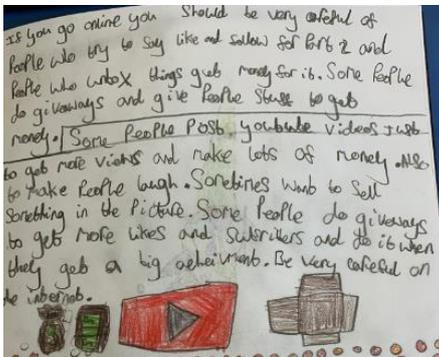
## Express yourself dressing up day

What a tremendous effort children made today dressing up to 'express themselves' during their remote learning. It was lovely to see all the excitement it created during the assemblies and what a wonderful way to celebrate last week's Children's Mental Health Week and end to the first half of the spring term.

## Safer Internet Day

Classes all took part in lessons about Safer Internet Day this week. This year's theme was: 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'. In Year 6, we had a great discussion about adverts on social media. We looked at why and how people we admire and follow online use ads and other marketing techniques. The children were able to identify the motives behind these adverts and how to make sure avoid scams and false information.

Children made posters, PowerPoints and videos to give advice to young people on how to stay safe online.



Purple Mash have created this useful booklet 'parenting in a digital world' which we recommend you read and share with your children. <https://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Parenting-in-a-digital-world-online.pdf>

## Remote Learning Survey

We have extended the deadline to complete the remote learning survey to **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**. If you have not already done so please complete the survey once per child at Gillespie. You can complete it by clicking the link here – <https://tinyurl.com/y33w9mvz>

## Nursery applications

**September 2021 places for children born 01/09/2017 – 31/08/2018**

If you have a child born between these dates you are eligible for a place at Nursery from September 2021. To apply, contact the school office for an application form. Places are allocated in April 2021.

We will be holding an open morning via Zoom on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 10am. If you know any families with young children and would like to recommend our wonderful nursery please do so!

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen, Headteacher

## Year 3 Learning

In year 3, we carried out a science experiment at home as mechanical engineers! We investigated the best surface to slow down vehicles on the motorway. We tested a range of surfaces found in our home, from wooden flooring to tea towels. To make the results more reliable, the measurements were taken three times. We had lots of fun!

This activity came from Virtual Science Club on Google Classroom. If you haven't explored this club yet, make sure you do for more fun experiments!

### Results for my car-ramp investigation

Surface	Distance travelled (in centimetres)	Distance travelled (in centimetres)	Distance travelled (in centimetres)
Cling film wrap	114 cm	117 cm	119
Foil	87 cm	108 cm	100 cm
Tea towel	86 cm	100 cm	84 cm
fleece	102 cm	100 cm	103 cm
blanket	74 cm	75 cm	58 cm

The best material for slowing down a car is a blanket.





Dear Parent / Guardian

**Arrangements for February half term reporting of positive COVID-19 test results  
(for children who have been attending in school provision and staff who have been attending  
week commencing 12/02/2021)**

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation this school year as we continue to respond to the challenges of COVID-19. As Spring half term approaches, we are asking you to help us continue to keep children and families safe over the half term holidays.

**School contact tracing over the half term holidays**

You will know that schools have been playing a vital role in contact-tracing. If a student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), we carefully review who the person has been in close contact with while at school and ask those people to self-isolate. This helps to protect the remainder of the school community, your families and the wider public.

The Department for Education has said that schools must continue to support contact tracing for 48 hours after the end of term. This is so that we can identify any close contacts of positive cases who were in school while infectious and where test results come back after term ends. **Your reporting of positive test results remains vital to our contact-tracing efforts.**

→ **If your child gets a positive COVID test result before 14 February 2021, please email [covid@gillespie.islington.sch.uk](mailto:covid@gillespie.islington.sch.uk) with the following information:**

- **Name of child**
- **Did the child have symptoms or not?**
- **What date did symptoms start?** (this can be any feeling of being unwell, not just the three COVID symptoms)
- **Date that test swab was taken**
- **Date child was last in school**
- **Has anyone else been unwell with COVID in your household?**
- **Your contact phone number in case more information is needed**

1. What to do if your child or family member gets symptoms or tests positive over the holidays

**Symptoms of COVID-19**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

- **If anyone in your home develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should get tested and must remain at home for at least 10 days.** Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.
- **All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days.** The isolation period for the household includes the day the first person in your household's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.
- **Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.** This will help stop the virus spreading to others in the community
- **You should not have visitors to the home** if anyone in the household is self-isolating
- If another household member gets symptoms, they should get tested. If their test result is positive, they should start a further full 10 day isolation period.
- No one else needs to get tested unless they have symptoms of COVID-19.

## Telling the school about COVID in your household

- If your child gets symptoms or tests positive **before 14 February 2021** inform the school as set out in Section 1.
- If your child gets symptoms or tests positive **after 14 February 2021** schools do not need to be informed until the first day of the new term. Instead, please engage with NHS Test and Trace who will be in contact with you.
- If anyone else in the household gets COVID symptoms or tests positive for COVID during the holidays, please make sure that all household contacts isolate as set out above. Please do not send your child to school in on Monday 22 February 2021 if they are meant to be isolating and inform the School Office.

## 2. Safe return in Spring 2 2021

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We look forward to welcoming children back to school for the start of Spring 2 2021 but it remains a priority that we keep the school community safe. **Please do not send your children back to school if they should be self-isolating for any reason.** Reasons that your child should be isolating include:

- Your child has symptoms of coronavirus or has tested positive and has not yet completed their 10 day self-isolation period
- A member of your child's household (e.g. mum, dad, sibling) has developed symptoms of coronavirus or tested positive and your child has not yet completed their 10 day self-isolation period
- You/your child have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace or the School because your child is the contact of someone who tested positive for coronavirus and your child has not yet completed their 10 day self-isolation period.
- Your child should be in quarantine on return from travel abroad. The 10-day period is counted from the day after you leave a non-exempt country. From 15 December 2020 you will be able to take a COVID-19 test with a private test provider to see if you can end self-isolation early.

**If your child is meant to be isolating at the start of Spring Term, please keep them at home and inform the school office.**

Once again, let us take this opportunity to thank you for all you are doing to help us get through this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen  
Headteacher