



Friday 5th March 2021

Newsletter 312

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid 19 update

We are very excited to welcome **all** the children back to school from Monday 8th March 2021!

Below is a reminder of the drop off and pick up times which are the same as the Autumn term. However, we continue to review the situation and have decided to alter the pick up arrangements as follows:

- Nursery and Reception classes will be collected as usual from the blue gate on Gillespie Road.
- Collectors of children in Years 1, 3 and 5 should now collect their children from the main school office entrance. The children will be lined up in the gated area outside the main entrance with members of staff who will dismiss them to their parents on Gillespie Road.
- Collectors of children in Years 2, 4 and 6 will continue to collect their children from the main playground. You will be required to wait outside the playground and not enter the premises. A member of staff will be on the ramp and dismissing the children to parents.

As before, face coverings should be worn (unless exempt) and parents and carers should ensure they are socially distanced from each other. We ask that you are prompt with collecting and leave the area as soon as you have collected your children. No parents will be allowed in to the playground under this new system.

Parents will be aware that Gillespie Road is a 'School Street' and therefore the traffic flow should be greatly reduced between 8:30am - 9:15am and 3:15 – 4:00pm.

Drop off and pick up times:

	Drop off	Pick up		Drop off	Pick up
Nursery	9:05	3:05	Year 3	8:50	3:25
Reception	9:00	3:10	Year 4	8:50	3:25
Year 1	8:45	3:20	Year 5	8:55	3:30
Year 2	8:45	3:20	Year 6	8:55	3:30

Rapid lateral flow testing for households and childcare bubbles

Parents will be aware that Gillespie School staff have been taking twice weekly lateral flow tests since the end of January. Although not the most fun thing you can do! We have all found that we have quickly got used to the system. The tests have worked well for staff and we strongly encourage you to take up the offer for your families as announced by the Department for Education (DfE) on 27th February. See page 2 for full details.

Why is this being offered?

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

What is lateral flow device testing?

Lateral flow device (LFD) testing is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus. The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes. Those who test positive must immediately self-isolate to avoid passing the virus on to others.

Who is eligible?

The following people in England will have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing made available to them as schools reopen:

- secondary school pupils
- primary and secondary school staff
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary staff

Primary school pupils will not be asked to test at this time.

Where can I access tests?

Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Get a test through your employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)

Collect test kits

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.

Anyone 18 or over can collect.

Most collection points are open from 1.30pm to 7pm. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.

Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

Order home test kits online

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

For full details please see the DfE website here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Nursery class

Reminder for families with fee paying places that you can now log on and make your payment for week commencing 8th March 2021. The school office will have sent you an Income Assessment review to be returned by 15th March. Please look out for this.

Dates for your diary

Monday 8 th March	All children return to school
Thursday 11 th March 10am	Nursery Open Morning via Zoom Please email the office if you would like to attend
Friday 19 th March	Red Nose Day – dress in red or as a super hero
Wednesday 31 st March	Last day of Spring term
Monday 19 th April	INSET Day
Tuesday 20 th April	First day of Summer term for pupils

Social Media Consent Form

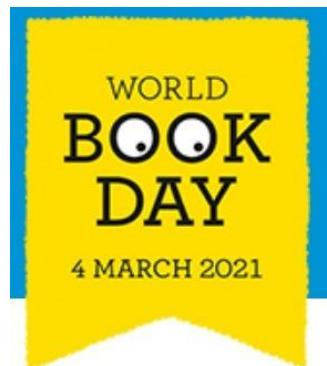
You will have received this week a link to the consent form requesting permission to post your child's work, first name and photo/video online. We hope as many of you as possible will consent to us sharing your child's achievements online! We are incredibly proud of the children at Gillespie and their work and want to use social media to share this with families. As mentioned in last week's newsletter we will be joining the social media platform Twitter and look forward to getting this up and running over the coming weeks. Please feel free to spread the word to any families you know, particularly any with young children!

If you have not yet completed the form please do so here: <https://tinyurl.com/4by76vus>

Wishing you all a safe and restful weekend ahead of children returning to school on Monday!

Yours sincerely,

Mark Owen
Headteacher



World Book Day Roundup

This year we celebrated World Book Day with some children at school and some at home, but we still had lots of fun! Emily the Storyteller <https://www.talesfromthedragonfly.com/> told us some brilliant stories this week on Zoom. We dressed up as our favourite book characters and used toilet roll tubes to make our favourite characters. We are very creative at Gillespie!

Lauren challenged children from Nursery to Year 6 to create a character using a loo roll job and art resources. Congratulations to the winners! You win a £5 book token!

Nursery	Lily & Logan
Reception	Audrey
Year 1	Ivan
Year 2	Arlo
Year 3	Miles
Year 4	Jemima & Alfie
Year 5	Hana
Year 6	Tessa



Dear Parents/Carers,

Today marks the beginning of *British Science Week*: a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that takes place between the 5th and 14th of March.

I would like to invite Gillespie pupils to get creative and to enter the annual UK-wide poster competition and the chance to win prizes. The theme for **British Science Week** this year is ‘Innovating for the future.’ Here are some questions to get your child thinking about their poster design.

- How could health care be improved by an innovation?
- What special machine or tool might be invented to make someone’s work in a STEM career more efficient?
- What useful machine might make life easier in and beyond your home?
- What innovative designs are used in architecture?
- How will innovation help the planet solve problems related to climate crisis e.g. water shortage, reducing use of plastic and carbon emissions?
- How will we communicate in the future?
- What innovations might be made to change the way we entertain ourselves?
- What will toys be like in the future?
- What products would make the world a better place in the future?
- Do you know someone who is an amazing innovator? What do they do?
- What innovations saw the success of the Mars Perseverance rover landing?
- How will food and food production change in the future?
- What innovations might animals make to adapt to our changing planet?

The poster must be A4 or A3 size and a photo or scan of it needs to be sent for judging. Posters will be judged on creativity, how well they fit the theme, and how well the poster has been made or drawn.

You can submit your child’s poster digitally via the online entry form along with their name, e-mail address and postcode: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSW2021postercompetitionform?Upload=%5bUpload_value%5d

Alternatively, you can give posters to me and I will photograph/scan them and send them. Your child has until 30th April to submit their entry.

Here are some suggestions for what to use: pens, pencils, scissors, glue, watercolours, paint, colouring crayons, pipe cleaners, felt, thread, wool, foil, clay, string, beads, stamps, foam, pompoms, pop up pictures, pull out tabs

Here is an example of a winning entry from 2020 by an Early Years student from Boxted St Peters CEVC Primary School.

Good luck!

Meg in Lab_13.

