



Friday 12th March 2021

Newsletter 313

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Catch up plan

Class teachers have been delighted to have their classes back in school this week. It has been lovely seeing children reunited with their friends and keen to learn in the classroom and play out with their class. Teachers' priorities this week have been to settle children back into the routine of learning and to begin to rebuild stamina and concentration. We are revisiting our learning dispositions to help children to do this. (Our learning dispositions can be found on page 2). Most importantly, we want to provide a range of stimulating and creative learning experiences across the curriculum to engage and inspire your children and to enable them to have a vibrant end of spring and summer term at Gillespie School.

From next week, we will re-engage with our catch up plan funded by additional central government resources, which enable us to implement targeted additional interventions to support children, particularly with aspects of English and maths learning. Children from Y1 upwards already have daily maths and English lessons which usually last an hour. All classes also dedicate daily sessions to support the development of reading and phonics. Our Catch up approach is to provide additional human resources to support children within these lessons with some targeted short interventions for individual children or small groups outside these lessons. The talented Megan and Orlando are working additional days to support the Catch Up programme. The Catch up programme will not restrict teachers from teaching other subjects. We will ensure that the wellbeing of children is at the heart of how we approach catch up in the coming period.

Return of activities

The Reception children were very excited to be able to attend Forest School this week and will continue weekly for the rest of the term. They thoroughly enjoy these sessions and we will share over the coming weeks via Twitter their adventures.

We are also pleased to welcome back Rochelle our Gymnastics coach who will be working with Key Stage 1 and 2 from next week as well as Arsenal Football coaches who will work with children at lunchtimes!

Drop off and pick up

We are pleased with how the new drop off and pick up arrangements have been working and thank parents and carers for working so well with us on this. As time goes on, we will continue to monitor and make any changes where necessary. We remind you to be mindful there are still some vehicles using the road during this time so please be careful.

Attendance and Punctuality

Gillespie children returned with gusto and we have had an excellent start back with **98.54%** of pupils returning to school. Well done Gillespie!

This leads to an important reminder that it is crucial families are prompt for their drop off and pick up times. For everyone's safety we must ensure that children are dropped and collected at their exact allocated time to ensure children are not mixing bubbles when entering or exiting and within the playground. We thank parents for their continued support and co-operation with this.

Bikes and Scooters

Children living locally should not bring their bikes and scooters to school due to the new pick up arrangements. Once we are able to change this we will notify families.

School uniform

The School's supplier of uniform is 'Rough Cuts Casuals Ltd' based in Chapel Market, Angel. As the shop is currently closed families can order online here: <https://www.roughcutcasuals.co.uk/home/>

Free School Meals

We know that the Coronavirus pandemic has been tough for many of our families with some very sadly losing their work. If you have been affected in this way you may now be eligible for Free School Meals. To apply please visit this link or speak with the school office: <https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/benefits-and-financial-support/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant>

Covid reminder

covid@gillespie.islington.sch.uk

A positive LFD (lateral flow) or PCR test should be reported to the school via the above email address. See pages 6 and 7 for an NHS guide to regular rapid testing for parents, households and bubbles including information about how to obtain tests.

Twitter

Gillespie is on Twitter! Follow @GillespieSchool for latest news and updates.



Fluoride Varnish Treatment

Pupils from Nursery to Year 2 will have received a dental consent form this week. Please return this via your child's class teacher confirming whether you DO or DO NOT want your child to receive the fluoride varnish treatment. If you need another form please let the office know and we can arrange this for you.

Red Nose Day
Friday 19th March 2021
Power to change the world



This year for Red Nose Day's 'Power to change the world' we are inviting children to wear red clothes or dress as their favourite super hero or invent your own super hero! What is your secret super power? As we are raising money for Comic Relief children can bring a £1 donation for this fantastic charity.

Wishing you all a safe and restful weekend.
Mark Owen
Headteacher

Learning Dispositions



Focused Fox

concentrates by...



- Managing distractions
- Working step by step
- Thinking & planning
- Drawing & making jottings

Don't Give Up Dory

finds success by...



- Working hard and practising
- Persevering
- Trying new strategies
- Asking for help

Cooperative Caterpillar

works with others by...

- Listening carefully
- Being a good talk partner
- Taking turns
- Respecting others' thoughts



Curious Camel

likes...

- Asking 'What if?' questions
- Looking for patterns
- Making connections
- Noticing everything



Have a go Hedgehog

remembers to...



- Take risks
- Learn from mistakes
- Stay positive
- Do the best they can

Imaginative Insect

likes...



- Being creative
- Thinking up new ideas
- Exploring & investigating
- Surprising others

Improving Impala

gets better by...

- Reviewing work often
- Using SC effectively
- Learning from others
- Building on success

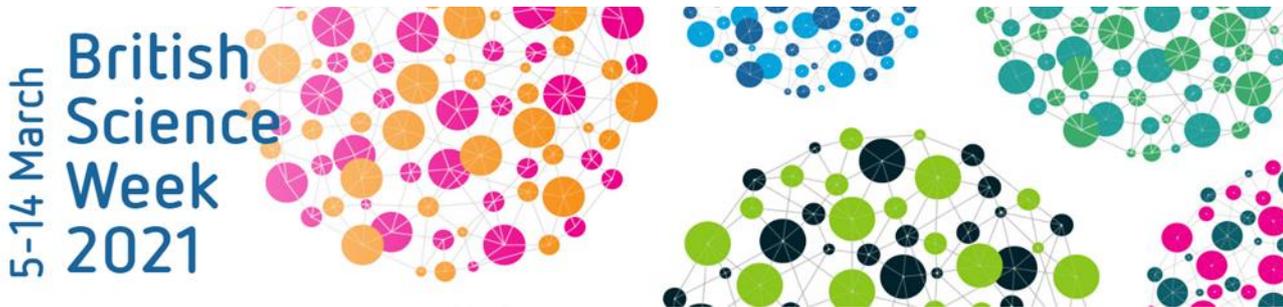


Burning for Learning Leopard

enjoys...

- Feeling proud of their work
- Using learning in real life
- Knowing effort = success
- Being engaged & motivated





This week the pupils have been celebrating British Science Week and acknowledging National Careers Week (1st – 6th March) and International Women’s Day (8th March). Classes have been involved in activities enlightening them about how scientists innovate and about STEM careers including farming.

Pupils throughout the school watched live lessons about farming: ‘Which came first, the chicken or the egg?’, ‘Lambing Live’, ‘Future Farming Robots’ and ‘Vet School’. So much of farming involves understanding of science. Year 2 were able to ask their own linked farmer, Farmer Phil, any further questions they had via their weekly online meet up with him on his farm.

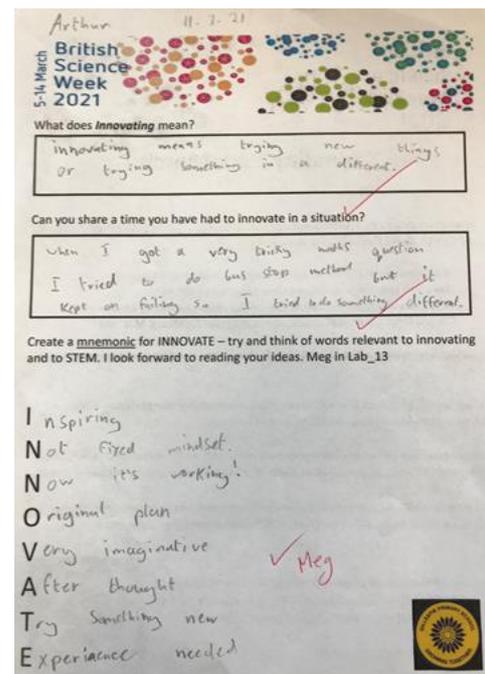
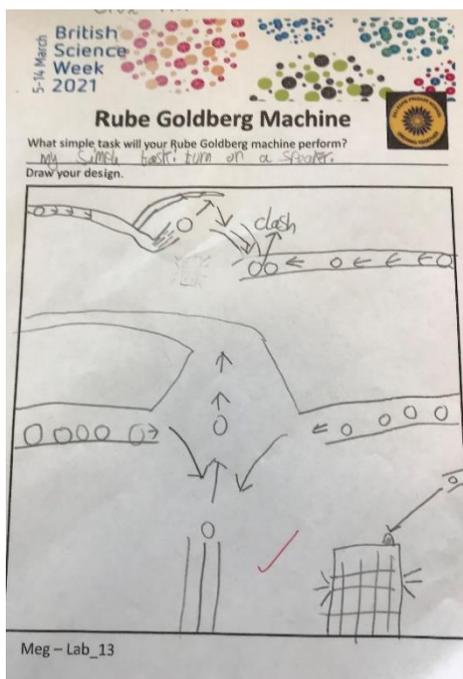
Years 2 and 3 learnt all about the role the farmer plays in growing wheat. Years 4 and 5 explored what innovation means and how scientists use innovative ideas. They learnt about Rube Goldberg who drew complicated machines to perform simple tasks and they designed their own.

STEM careers related to medicine were explored by Year 4 and they wrote short advertisements for nursing. Year 5 explored zookeeping and positive arguments for having zoo. Pupils read individuals’ life stories telling how they overcame difficulties to progress in their careers.

I look forward to working with Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils in the near future to continue celebrating the innovations that occur in science and the wide variety of careers that studying science can lead to.

Megan Begley
Scientist in Residence Lab_13

Inventing interesting things interesting
 Needs to know lots
 Never ever doubt doubt
 Oh yes!
 Very important ✓ Meg.
 After all
 These things are important
 Enjoy yourself





Become a nurse
 Help the world
 Feel Amazing
BE A HERO!

Enter your email to find out about becoming a nurse:
 lila@gmail.com

Submit

Lila Y4



Nurse

Are you caring? compassionate?
 Are you compassionate? up to
 Are you courageous?
 If so become a nurse and save lives!

Enter your email to find out about becoming a nurse:
 JTherison@gmail.com

Submit

Jemima Y4

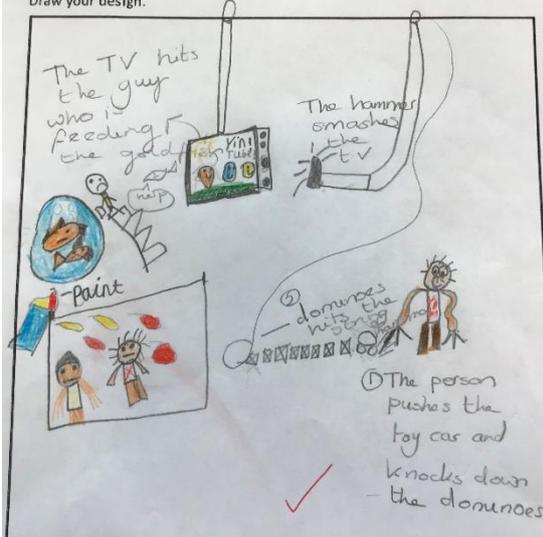
Lewis 11th March 2021

5-14 March
British Science Week 2021

Rube Goldberg Machine

What simple task will your Rube Goldberg machine perform?

Draw your design.



The TV hits the guy who is feeding the goldfish

The hammer smashes the TV

Paint

dominates the winning

The person pushes the toy car and knocks down the dominos

Meg - Lab_13

I'm writing something different
 New and cool
 Nothing can be compared
 Observation and you will see how complicated it is
 Vision and you will see how much work it is.
 Assorted designs
 These big things falling on the floor
 Extraordinary stuff put into something simple



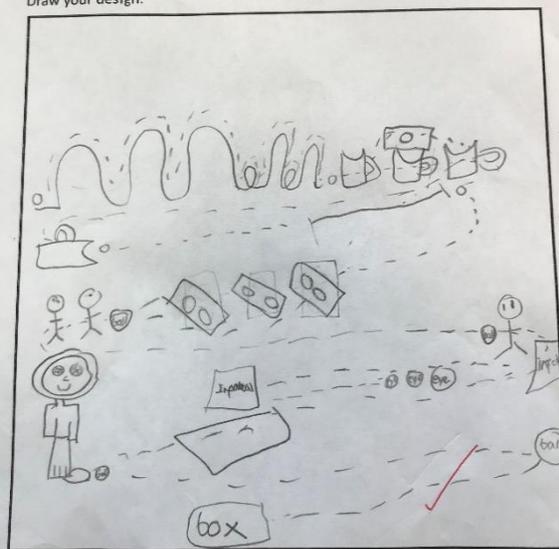
Yasra 11.3.21

5-14 March
British Science Week 2021

Rube Goldberg Machine

What simple task will your Rube Goldberg machine perform?
 To bring a ball into a box.

Draw your design.



box

Meg - Lab_13



Do you want to save lives?
 Do you want to be a hero?
 Do you want to be respected?
 Then what are you waiting for? Be a nurse.

Enter your email to find out about becoming a nurse:
 wilfred_bathcatt@outlook.com

Submit

Wilfred Y4

Parents with children at nurseries, schools and colleges

A guide to regular rapid Covid-19 testing



Regular rapid testing is now available for parents, their households and bubbles.

Regular rapid testing is a fast and easy way to find out if you have coronavirus and help protect your loved ones and community. It's free and takes around 30 minutes.

Why introduce regular rapid testing?

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

Regular rapid testing is now available for parents of nursery, school children and college students. As well as adults in their households, childcare and support bubbles.

Regular testing for people without symptoms is already taking place across the country. Thousands of people who didn't know they had the virus have been able to take action to stop the spread of the disease.

As lockdown restrictions ease, getting into the **regular habit of twice weekly testing** will play an important role in getting back to normal; **alongside the vaccine, following the hands, face, space guidance, and social distancing measures.**

Regular testing for school staff and students

Regular rapid testing is already available to **all staff** at nursery, primary and secondary schools and colleges.

Secondary school and college students aged 11 and above will continue to access regular rapid tests directly through their school or college. And we continue to encourage them to get tested.

On return they will initially be supervised while testing at school and then continue to test themselves at home with test kits they will get from school or college.

Nursery and primary school children are not being asked to be tested as evidence continues to show that children and young people are at low risk from Covid-19 and are very unlikely to get seriously ill.

What is the benefit to you?

By taking part in regular rapid testing, you'll be protecting yourself and your loved ones. And helping us all get back to a more normal way of life.



How does it work?

It's a simple swab test you can do at home, school, work or test site, using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD). It takes around 30 minutes to find out if you have the virus.

The test detects viral proteins that are present when someone has Covid-19. Research from Public Health England and Oxford University shows that they pick up the vast majority of people in the most infectious stage of the disease. With up to 1 in 3 people who have the virus showing no symptoms – they could be spreading it without knowing.

Testing should take place twice a week, every three – five days, ideally in the morning. Why not add this to your morning routine?

If you test negative, you can continue to go to work. You should still strictly follow all other government guidelines and avoid all unnecessary contact. If you, your household or bubble test positive, you should all self-isolate immediately. And then the person who has tested positive should also take a confirmatory PCR test and follow latest government guidance.

For more information visit [gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms)



YouTube Introduction to Rapid Lateral Flow testing

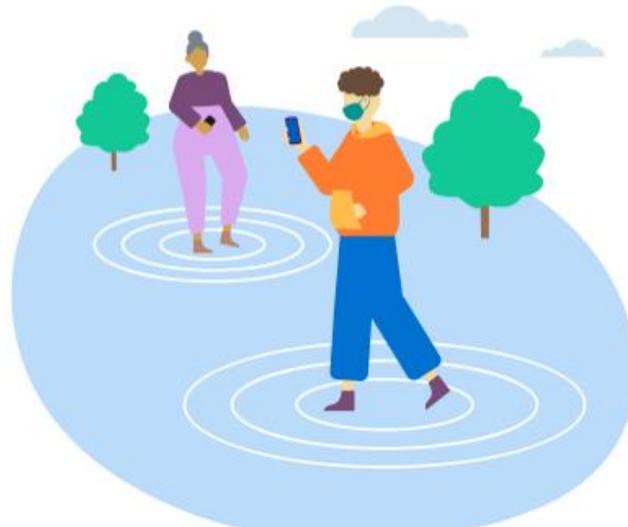


Reporting your test

You should **report your results online straight away**, even if your result is negative or void. It's easy to do at: [gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

Results can also be reported via **telephone by calling 119** (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

If you have tested positive, you can also check to see if you are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.



Where can I get tested?

If you are a parent or adult of a household, childcare or support bubble you can either:

1. Get an assisted test at work if it is available.
2. Attend a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.
3. Order a test online to do at home.

To find out how to get a free rapid Covid-19 test visit [gov.uk/coronavirus-school-household-testing](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-school-household-testing)

Regular rapid testing is for those without symptoms of Coronavirus. If you have symptoms, you should continue to book through [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)