



Wednesday 31st March 2021

Newsletter 316

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

A big thank you to all staff and parents

This has been yet another incredible term at Gillespie School. We have been very proud of the way children have come back in to the school after the Spring lockdown. It has not been easy for children to settle in to school after so many disruptions over this last year but we think our children have been fantastically resilient. I want to thank staff for making the extra effort to support the well-being of all of our pupils and for helping them to reintegrate back in to school life. We look forward optimistically to a long summer term in which we can provide a fantastic and continuous educational provision for our children. We wish all families a safe, active and healthy holiday.



Farewell to Lily, Ana and Akeem

Teacher Lily, Teaching Assistant Ana and super Covid cleaner Akeem are leaving at the end of this term. All have been a special part of the Gillespie family, particularly during this pandemic and we will miss them very much! We would like to wish them the best of luck in the future.

Reading Eggs

The school is absolutely delighted to now have a three year subscription to 'Reading Eggs' which is a fantastic, interactive reading tool for children that will help them both in school and at home improve their reading skills. With huge thanks to Harpreet, Ami and Rafi for their very generous donation to make this happen.



Breakfast club

We currently have a very small number of families who are taking up the offer of breakfast club for next term. We will continue to offer breakfast club for the first couple of weeks, however if uptake continues to be this low we will not be able to sustain running a breakfast club.

Please contact the school office via office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk to book your child's place and include the days you require.

Attendance Matters

| Class | Attendance percentage | Class | Attendance percentage |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Nursery | 94.96% | Year 3 | 98.84% |
| Reception | 100% | Year 4 | 100% |
| Year 1 | 95.24% | Year 5 | 98.08% |
| Year 2 | 100% | Year 6 | 93.89% |
| Whole school attendance | | 97.75% | |

Packed lunches

Parents are reminded they must notify the office if their child changes from school dinner to packed lunch or vice versa. Please see on the next page the Summer term Caterlink menu and notify the office by email if your child wishes to swap from one to the other and what days they will have each choice.

White Rose- Maths with Michael

White Rose Maths have teamed up with TV presenter, teacher and parent Michael Underwood to bring you a mini-series called Maths with Michael. "We understand that many parents feel like maths has changed and can sometimes find it difficult to keep up to date with modern teaching methods in maths. Well don't worry, we're here to help. With over 80% of Primary schools and a growing number of Secondary schools using our free schemes of learning, supporting resources and assessments, we can help you bridge the gap between school and home." For more information and the videos see: <https://whiterosemaths.com/for-parents/maths-with-michael/>

Wishing you all a safe and restful holiday. Mark Owen, Headteacher

Easter Egg Competition winners

Well done to all children who entered some cracking and creative eggs with technological and environmental visions of the future. The following children were eggstatic their entries were picked to be winner by the Easter Bunny! Well done:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Nursery | Orla |
| Reception | Carwyn |
| Year 1 | Emma |
| Year 2 | Aaliyah |
| Year 3 | Ayan |
| Year 4 | Skye Louis |
| Year 6 | Tallulah |



Lots of eggcitement in the Early Years this morning as the children had a special visitor who left treats around the garden for them
@GillespieSchool

Dear Parent / Guardian

Arrangements for April holiday reporting of positive COVID-19 test results (lateral flow & PCR)

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation this school year as we continue to respond to the challenges of COVID-19. As Summer term approaches, we are asking you to help us continue to keep children and families safe over the 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 6 days 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 6th April 2021, please email 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 6th April 2021** inform the school as set out in Section 1.
- If your child gets symptoms or tests positive **after 6th April 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 Tuesday 19th April if they are meant to be isolating and inform the School Office.

2. Safe return in Summer 2021

We look forward to welcoming children back to school for the start of Summer 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 Summer 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