



Friday 1st October 2021

Newsletter 334

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Autumn Fayre Success!

A big thank you to all the parents who helped make our first school event since the start of the pandemic such a wonderful and at times, moving event! It was so great to see our community back together again and it was lovely to see new and old parents meeting and mingling again. A special thanks to the many parents and staff who rolled their sleeves up to help set up and run stalls. The halal barbeque was extremely popular and we had a number of lovely craft and art stations which kept our children entertained in a creative way. Some of our Autumn art pictures created were very beautiful. Many parents also kept our children entertained and active on our sports pitch with netball, penalty shootouts and other sports activities. A huge thank you to all parents who made such generous donations at the gate and when purchasing drinks and food during the fayre. **We took over £2,000 on the day which is fantastic!** I'm also delighted to inform parents that a number of keen parents put themselves forward to become active members of our PTA, Friends of Gillespie. A big shout out to Orlando our Music Teacher who gave an impromptu performance of popular songs with his guitar and got many children and parents to join in.

THANK YOU

Candice our Chair of FoG is calling an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for next Friday 8th October. Whether you want to become an active member of our essential committee, or just want to come along to find out about some of the work FoG does to support our lovely school, please join us next Friday – more information below.

FoG AGM

Friday 8th October from 9:10am in the Bottom Hall
The FOG AGM will be held next Friday in the bottom hall. Please wear a face covering and families will be



We had some parents step forward to be members of the FoG committee during the Autumn Fayre – thank you! For those who spoke with Mark regarding these roles can you please send a message to either the office or candice_bingham@hotmail.com if you cannot attend the meeting on Friday.

We still have roles to be filled so if you are interested please come along or if you can't be there in person contact the office or email Candice.



School Council elections

The votes are in! We are pleased to announce our new School Councillors are:



Year 5	Year 6
Wilfred	Yusra
Aran	Akira
Alice	Cruz
Lila	Alice



I will be meeting with our new school councilors next week so that we can elect members of the committee. School council will have their first opportunity to meet with the classes they represent next week and then they plan to set an ambitious action plan on how they intend to improve the school and experiences for children in the coming year.

Break time snacks

Children are encouraged to bring in one piece of fruit to have during their morning playtime. This should be a single piece of fruit and not any other type of snack.

Being prepared for the day ahead

Please ensure your child arrives to school with all the items they need for their day ahead including their water bottle, coat, PE kit (if required), music instrument etc. Thank you!

Lunchtime Football

We are pleased to be welcoming back Nathan from Arsenal Football Hub next week who will support lunchtime football sessions with all children in Years 1 to 6. The children thoroughly enjoy the sessions with him and we are pleased to be having him back!

After School Clubs

Thank you to all the families who completed our After School Club survey. We are busy going through this and seeing what we can put together and will share information with families shortly.



Black History Month

For Black History Month, we will be focusing on a brand new book, '*Bedtime Stories: Beautiful Black Tales from the Past*' illustrated and written by a Black creators. It features tales from Black history, based on important figures and events from around the world. Each class will be given a copy of the book to share throughout October, and beyond. All classes will create a piece of writing and some artwork based on the wonderful stories from the book.

Go Hassan Go!

Wishing Hassan our Year 5 Class Teacher the very best with his marathon this weekend raising money for Get Kids Going! Thank you to families for so generously donating and helping Hassan reach over his target of £2,000!

Attendance Matters

Nursery	96.33%	Year 3	97.83%
Reception	93.41%	Year 4	91.79%
Year 1	98.66%	Year 5	90.59%
Year 2	98.95%	Year 6	94.59%
Total		95.26%	

School Street Consultation

Monday 4 October

In September 2020, as part of our commitment to make our streets safer, greener and healthier, Islington Council introduced a trial School Street. The School Street temporarily prevents cars from driving on Gillespie Road during pick-up and drop off times. It operates Monday to Friday 8.30am to 9.15am, 3.15pm to 4pm.

Now we want to hear from your school community, local people, and businesses about how you think the trial is going and whether the changes should be made permanent. How can you take part in the consultation?

Drop in and speak to us. We will be at the Gillespie School entrance on Gillespie Road on Monday 4 October, 8.30am - 5.30pm.

Visit <https://www.islington.gov.uk/schoolstreetsconsultation> to get access to the online questionnaire. The survey closes at 11.59pm on 24 October 2021.

The outcome of the questionnaire, consultation events, and the monitoring data will feed into any changes we make to the School Street and our final decision on making the trial permanent. We look forward to hearing your views!

Islington School Streets Team



School Street Consultation

at Gillespie Primary School
Gillespie Road

Have your say on the School Street

In September 2020, as part of our commitment to make our streets safer, greener and healthier, Islington Council introduced a trial School Street. The School Street temporarily prevents cars from driving on Gillespie Road during pick-up and drop off times. It operates Monday to Friday 8.30am to 9.15am, 3.15pm to 4pm.

Tell us what you think about the School Street between Friday 24 September and Sunday 24 October 2021.

Come and speak to us
Monday 4 October
8.30am to 5.30pm
near the Gillespie School entrance on Gillespie Road

Fill out our online questionnaire
by 11.59pm on 24 October 2021
Scan the QR code or visit
www.islington.gov.uk/schoolstreetsconsultation



For further information, visit www.islington.gov.uk/schoolstreets or contact us by:
telephone 020 7527 6968
email schoolstreetsconsultation@islington.gov.uk

If you need this information in another language or reading format, please contact us at schoolstreetsconsultation@islington.gov.uk



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What's been happening in Lab_13?

A group of Year 6 pupils have been completing a project (The Great Exhibition ²) they began in a science club in Year 5 inspired by the Great Exhibition of 1851. They researched, designed and developed their own innovations; surveyed their classmates; discussed their ideas with an Imperial College mentor and presented their ideas to their classmates who very thoughtful questions. Their ideas have been submitted and they are now waiting to see if their innovations will form part of the Great Exhibition Road Festival.

A group of Year 4 pupils from last year have continued their fight against the climate crisis through activities at a lunch time club. They have gathered signatures and written a letter to be delivered to a local café asking them to reduce their use of single use plastic. Now they are keen to educate others about eating more sustainable seafood.

Year 3 pupils wrote what they know about rocks, fossils and soils after observing and handling them at the beginning of their science topic. They learnt about Florence Bascomb, a geologist and educator born in 1862, who had to sit behind a screen at university so as not to distract her male classmates! Thank goodness times have changed. Year 3 found out about Lorraine Field, who was bored by her desk job but then completed a degree at 47 years of age and became a volcanologist. They loved hearing about how Mary Anning, the well-known palaeontologist, determined that stones called bezoars were actually fossilised dinosaur faeces. They asked many questions which I look forward to investigating with them in the future.

Year 4 investigated the rates that different types of chocolate melt at and discussed what melting is. They used stopwatches to measure the times and recorded their results. Some of their conclusions for why chocolate melts at different rates included the following: the chocolate was different thicknesses; the chocolates contained different ingredients or had more or less cocoa solids.

After writing applications and being interviewed, ten Year 6 pupils have been successfully appointed as Gillespie's pupil-led science committee. Congratulations to Alice, Alexandra, Moshin, Cruz, Alexa, Ellen, Ellen, Afrah, Yusra and Sama. The pupils meet each Wednesday before school and are currently involved in judging shortlisted books for the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize.

Year 1 drew, wrote and told me what they know about animals, including humans, after looking at pictures and handling plastic animals, shells and feathers at the beginning of their science topic. They moved around a lot flapping their wings, slithering like snakes, swimming like sharks and jumping around like monkeys. Some pupils knew the main animal groups.

Over the following weeks, Year 2, 4 and 6 will be finding out about scientists in relation to Black History Month. I look forward to seeing the Nursery and Reception children in the near future too.

Meg Begley
Scientist in Residence

Lab_13

Flu Immunisation
Thursday 4th November 2021

Children in Reception to Year 6 will have been sent home immunisation consent forms this week. These must be returned to your child's class teacher by Monday 11th October. Families should complete and return the form even if they do not want their child to have the vaccine.

Porcine Free injection available

If in the past you have refused the nasal spray due to religious reasons, the immunisation team are now offering the **flu injection** which is porcine-free. If you would like your child to receive the flu injection, please speak to the school office who have a different consent form to be completed and returned. Your child will then receive the porcine free injection on the day.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the immunisation team on 0208 017 7926 or Islington @v-uk.co.uk



flu: 5 reasons

to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu i mmunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

Gillespie Autumn Fayre



Ongoing reminders:

Admissions

Parents and carers can now apply for a primary or secondary school place for September 2022 through the e-Admissions platform. The application deadlines are:

- Secondary Transfer application deadline: **31 October 2021**
- Primary Reception application deadline: **15 January 2022**

We remind Nursery families that children do NOT automatically get a place in Reception Class and an application must be made. For more information or to join a tour of the school please email the school office.

The brochures are available on the main council website. They have also published two short presentations to help parents and carers with the application process:

- [Apply for a primary school place](#)
- [Apply for a secondary school place](#)

Class Assemblies

Assemblies will be on Thursdays at 2:30pm. Please put these dates in your diaries.

21/10/2021	Year 6
04/11/2021	Year 5
11/11/2021	Year 1
18/11/2021	Year 2
25/11/2021	Year 3
02/12/2021	Year 4

Diary Dates

October	Black History Month
Thursday 7 th October	National Poetry Day
WKBG 18 th October	PSHE Wellbeing week
Tuesday 19 th October	Individual & sibling photos
<i>Monday 25th – Friday 29th October</i>	<i>Half term</i>
Thursday 4 th November	Reception – Year 6 flu immunisation (nasal spray and porcine free injection)