



Friday 3rd December 2021

Newsletter 342

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Class Christmas Music Performances to move online

As Covid cases continue to rise and with the new variant Omicron found in London we have reluctantly taken the decision not to hold the Christmas Music Performances live as a precaution to protect children, staff and families. This is particularly important as it will only be a couple of days before the holidays and we do not want there to be any potential repercussions for families. The children will continue to rehearse and perform and we will film this and share with families.

This will be made available via a private YouTube channel link which should not be shared. The YouTube link will be texted to families for you to enjoy at your leisure. It is a secure page which cannot be found via search. The video will be available for a short period of time only – dates will be confirmed nearer the time. Families may remember we did this for the end of term Music Show in the Summer which worked really well! If you do not want your child to be filmed please complete the survey attached:

<https://tinyurl.com/yckkycww>

Weather permitting, individual class performances of Christmas show/songs will take place on the afternoon of Friday 17th December from around 1:30pm. We will invite parents to come and watch their individual class performances for around 10-15 minutes outside in the playground. More detailed information including timings will be outlined in next week's newsletter. Parents will be able to take children at home time, not after their performance.

Parent Consultation Meetings

We are so pleased to have seen so many of you join teachers via video call last night! We have received some feedback from families who would have liked to join the same meeting from separate locations but when trying to do so ended the call for the other parent. We are sorry to those this affected and will certainly ensure going forward we issue instructions on how to do this.

Parent Voice Survey Home/School support of learning

We are carrying out an online survey to consult with you on how we can develop our partnership with parents in supporting their children's learning. We would also like to learn lessons from the unique experiences families had of supporting children extensively with their learning at home during lockdown. Your views and experiences will be invaluable in helping us to do this. Some of the questions are deliberately broad as we want to get your insight.

Please complete the survey here by Friday 17th December: <https://tinyurl.com/39hpcjwu>

COVID Update

We are pleased to announce Year 2 are no longer required to be in a bubble from Monday 6th December and so will return to normal school day timings of 8:55am and 3:30pm. Y2 children will be able to rejoin breakfast club and after school clubs too.

However, following the announcement of the new Omicron variant we are:

- Asking adults to wear facemasks in communal areas including staff and visitors to the school
- Asking families to wear a facemask (unless exempt) at drop off and pick up times
- Encouraging families to continue to carry out twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests and report positive results to the school office

We thank families for their continued support with this. See page 3 for reminder of current Government guidance.

Music Hub Winter Concert

The Music Education Islington team run by Guildhall School of Music and Drama led our children in performing a wonderful seasonal concert on Wednesday night which was enjoyed by many of our parents.

All of our strings players did us proud engaging in the orchestra performance. Our pupils in the beginner strings ensemble (including Alice A, Artie and Isra performing a lovely rhythm medley) and violin and viola group (Ariana, Betty, Elfida, Emya, Erin, Inara, Lyra, Margaux) performed 'Circle Madness'; Ellen L in Year 6 played in a quartet joining the advanced violin group to play 'Adagio' from Winter, one of Vivaldi's famous four seasons. The cellists Ella, Alice R and Ellen P performed a version of 'All I want for Christmas is You'. Gillespie children Akira, Alice H, Lyra, Mary, Alice R, Ellen P and Ella M were part of a strings ensemble that performed a festive musical piece entitled 'Foot prints in the snow' and Akira in Year 6 very bravely performed a violin solo entitled 'Assassin's Creed Main Theme'. All Gillespie children attending the Music Hub are part of a choir which performed a number of stunning songs bringing the concert to a fitting end with a rendition of 'Rainbow Nation'. We are very proud of all of our performers. The Music Hub will continue from the Spring Term.

Flu immunisations

We are pleased to confirm the flu immunisation team attended yesterday. If your child was absent or you did not return a form but would like your child immunised please email the Vaccination UK Team on islington@v-uk.co.uk.

Sustainability event

Thank you to all of you in the school community who have sent in items for the Science and Sustainability event. We still need transparent drink bottles so if you have any at home that you could send in they would be greatly appreciated.

Attendance Matters

Nursery	97.30%	Year 3	96%
Reception	86.35%	Year 4	92.86%
Year 1	98.67%	Year 5	88.06%
Year 2	96.26%	Year 6	91.95%
Total			93.23%

FoG News

Donations to Friends of Gillespie

Parents and other supporters of the school have been able to make single or regular gift aided donations to the FoG through Virgin Money Giving. We are hugely grateful for this support, which has enabled FoG to continue to fund activities such as Forest School, additional music provision and school trips through the pandemic when other means of fundraising have not been possible. Virgin Money Giving has stopped trading and closed for donations at the end of November. We are in the process of setting up a new way for you to make donations should you wish to do so, and will be in touch shortly with details.

HELP NEEDED: To raise money for the school, parents and children usually sing carols and do a bucket shake before an Arsenal match close to Christmas. This is an important part of FoGs fundraising efforts which we sadly missed out on last year. We are due to do this Saturday 11th December before the 3pm game. This means meeting outside school at 1:45 so we're ready to sing for the hour before kick-off. Unfortunately I can't make that day myself so I am asking two things:

- 1) Could you volunteer to help coordinate the singing on the day. I can give you a full briefing and give you the fundraising buckets and songsheets.
- 2) If you do not feel able to coordinate, could you come along to join in with the singing with your children? Everyone is welcome whatever your singing ability!

If you can help in anyway, please drop me a message or email to 07974689701, jenny@jennymaresh.com or on ClassList.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen Headteacher

Ongoing - Reminder of current DfE guidance

We continue to follow the current Department for Education and Local Health Authority guidance. This includes:

Please be alert for the symptoms of coronavirus which are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

See www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms

If your child develops ANY of the three main symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate (this means stay at home) and get **PCR tested** as soon as possible. Please be reassured that for most people, especially children, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Individuals who get a positive PCR result must isolate at home for 10 days. Individuals with a negative result do not need to isolate and can return to work/school etc.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Household contacts of a positive case

The Local Health Authority are advising that household contacts of a positive case take a daily lateral flow device test for 7 days. A negative LFD result means you can continue to attend work/school as usual. A positive LFD would require confirmation by a PCR test.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do

- Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19
- Meet people outside if possible and open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- Continuing to wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) while on public transport and in busy indoor places
- Taking regular LFD (no symptom) tests
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get a PCR test straight away and self-isolate until you get the result.
- If you are a close contact of someone who tested positive, make sure you get a PCR test and self-isolate if you are directed to do so.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

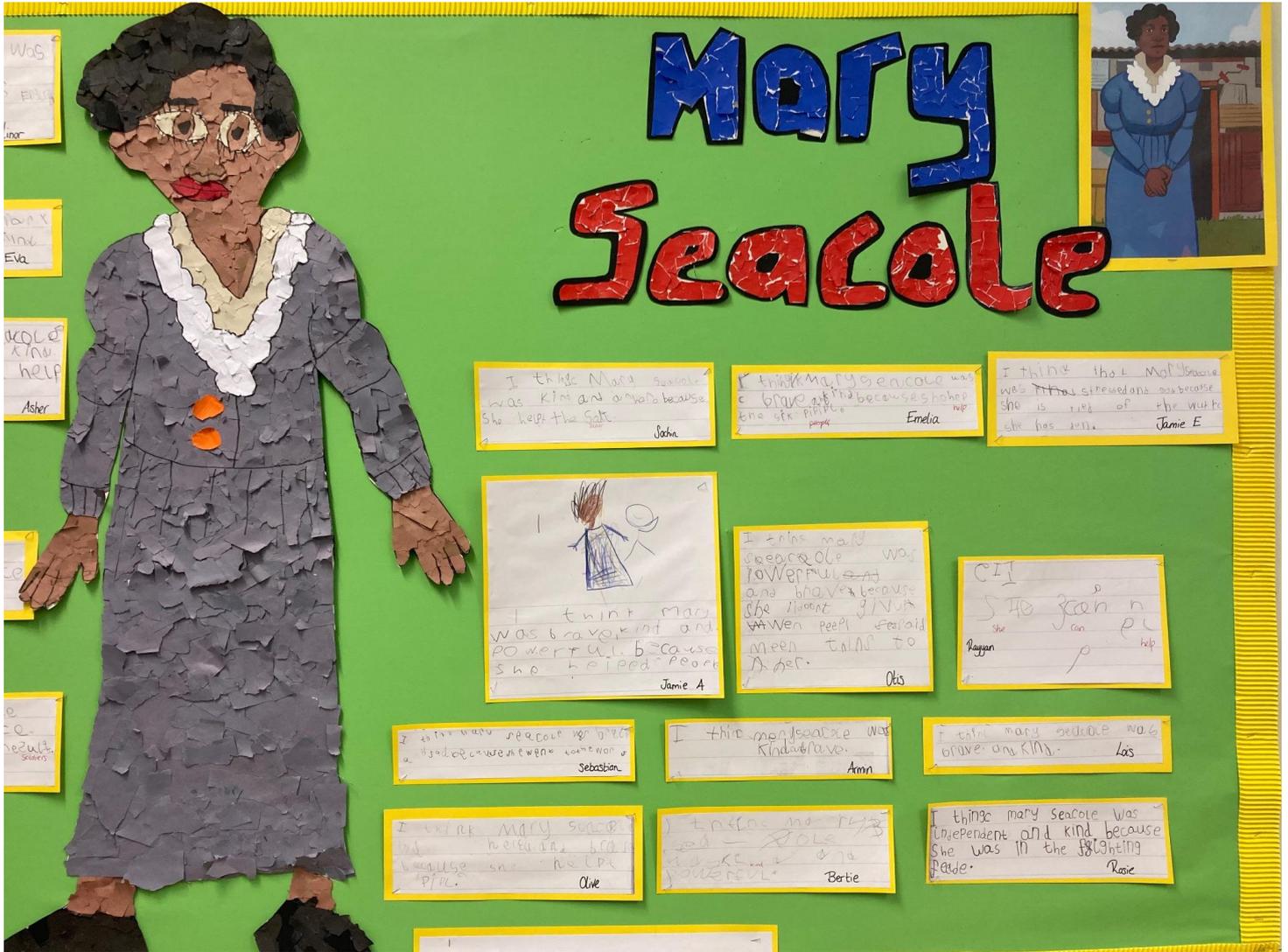
For more information visit:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/ or by phone 111

Year 1 Learning – Mary Seacole

In Year 1 we have been learning about adjectives. After reading about Mary Seacole's incredible and often difficult life, we thought about adjectives that best described this amazing and generous lady.

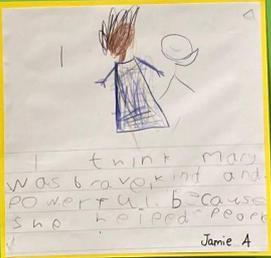


Mary Seacole

I think Mary Seacole was kind and brave because she helped the sick. John

I think Mary Seacole was brave and kind because she helped the sick people. Emelia

I think that Mary Seacole was kind and brave because she is one of the nurses who has died. Jamie E



I think Mary Seacole was brave, kind and powerful because she helped people. Jamie A

I think Mary Seacole was powerful and brave because she helped people when they were sick. Otis

CIT
She is a nurse who helps people. Rayyan

I think Mary Seacole was kind and brave. Sebastian

I think Mary Seacole was kind and brave. Amin

I think Mary Seacole was brave and kind. Lois

I think Mary Seacole was kind and brave because she helped people. Olive

I think Mary Seacole was kind and brave because she helped people. Bertie

I think Mary Seacole was independent and kind because she was in the middle of the war. Rosie

I think Mary Seacole was determined.

Johanna

I think Mary Seacole was kind and brave.

Armin



I think Mary was brave, kind and powerful because she helped people.

Jamie A