



Friday 7th January 2022

Newsletter 345

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school

I wish all of our families a happy and healthy 2022! I am pleased to see children quickly settling back into school routines and working hard. We hope families had time for a good break in the holiday and that you were not badly affected by the latest Covid wave. Please read the current Covid guidance on the last page of this newsletter. I have updated our school opening Covid risk assessment, approved by governors, which you can access on the link in the newsletter too. School will be running as normal but as a precaution we will be suspending any meetings and events involving larger numbers of visitors including parents for the time being. As soon as we can change this, I will inform parents.



Reminder for Nursery and Reception Parents/Carers

Your children's learning journey is now live for you to follow on Tapestry. Please remember to 'like' or comment on your child's unique learning journey. Please feel free to share any 'wow' moments your child has achieved at home! We would love you to share those with us. Tapestry login details were sent out to parents at the end of last term. If you have any problems logging in or require your login details, please do let a member of the early year's team know as soon as possible.

Reception Admissions

If your child is born between 01/09/2017-31/08/2018 the Reception application deadline of 15 January 2022 is fast approaching! Children attending the Nursery do NOT automatically get a place in Reception class and an application must be completed online.

You can see the Islington Primary Admissions brochure and apply here:

[Apply for a primary school place](#)

Ready Set Stage After School Clubs

Children who have been signed up for After School Clubs can begin attending from next week. Please remember to contact Ready Set Stage directly if you have any queries about the clubs or would like to sign up. You can find their contact details at www.readysetstage.co.uk.

Spring Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 1 st February	Chinese New Year
Friday 4 th February	NSPCC Number Day
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day
15 th - 19 th Feb	Half Term break
Wednesday 23 rd February	Class photos
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day
Tuesday 8 th March	International Woman's Day
Friday 1 st April	Last Day of Spring Term

Wishing all of our families a lovely and safe weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Owen, Headteacher

Parent Governor Vacancy

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have a vacancy for a parent governor on Gillespie's Governing Board. The position is open to anyone with a child at the school. You don't need any particular qualifications or experience – beyond wanting to help make the school the best it can be for all the children. Islington provides training for new governors and the board can offer mentoring and other support for those who haven't done this kind of thing before.

If you'd like to know more about the role, please talk to Mark or to Sarah (Year 6 teacher) who's our staff governor, or to Lyn who was a member of our board for several years. You can also get more information from current parent governors Jodie Reed, Bhavini Doyle or Mandy Leatham. Or email me via governors@gillespie.islington.sch.uk and we'll arrange to talk.

Please do consider joining us in supporting Mark and his staff in the fantastic work they do at Gillespie.

Claire

Chair of Governors

Year 6 Learning - Equaliteach Reject Racism Workshop

Year 6 took part in a brilliant workshop with Nasreen from Equaliteach this week on Rejecting Racism. We were challenged to explore and discuss stereotypes, prejudice and equality. The children engaged so well with this important issue and showed a great awareness of how vital equality and fairness is to our school community. We also looked at what actions we can take as individuals to support our friends if we ever witness racism. Nasreen helped us develop a class pledge for rejecting racism and were so inspired by this that we have asked Mark if our School Council can start this pledge project with the whole school.



Reception Learning

Reception have been busy this week creating the role play area for our new topic, Under the Sea. We have been making sea creatures and building a coral reef using blocks and other materials. We have been asking questions, such as: I wonder why jellyfish sting things? How big is the ocean? How do sharks sleep? This topic grew from our interest in COP26 and plastic pollution, which we learned about last term.



Current Coronavirus Guidance

Updated Coronavirus Risk Assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/36r3v97b>

Temporary PCR Suspension

Confirmatory PCR tests will no longer be required for positive Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) from Tuesday 11 January for people **without** symptoms.

Anyone who develops one of the three main Covid symptoms - a cough, a fever or a loss of taste or smell - **must** still take a PCR test as soon as possible, and should stay at home and self-isolate while they wait for the result.

Anyone who receives a positive LFT result should report their result on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced.

There are a few exceptions to this revised approach:

- People who are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment (TTSP) will still be asked to take a confirmatory PCR if they receive a positive LFT result to enable them to access financial support.
- People participating in research or surveillance programmes may still be asked to take a follow-up PCR test, according to the research or surveillance protocol.
- Around one million people in England who are at particular risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 have been identified by the NHS as being potentially eligible for new treatments. They will be receiving a PCR test kit at home by mid-January to use if they develop symptoms or if they get a positive LFT result, as they may be eligible for new treatments if they receive a positive PCR result. This group should use these priority PCR tests when they have symptoms as it will enable prioritised laboratory handling.

If a staff member or pupil tests positive, they:

- Must stay home and self-isolate for a full 10 days from symptoms onset or the date of the positive test (day 0 being date of symptoms onset or positive test result, day one the next day and so on).
- You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFT from six days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFT on the following day. The second LFT should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result.
- People ending isolation on day seven are strongly advised to limit contact with vulnerable people, not visit crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, and work from home where possible.

Close contacts

- All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and six months who are identified as a close contact of a positive case (whether Omicron or not) should take a LFT **every day for seven days**. They do not need to self-isolate.
 - If they test **negative**, they can continue to attend their education setting
 - If they test **positive**, then they should self-isolate and follow the steps set out above.
- Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.
- **Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.**
- For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for seven days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route.

Anyone with any symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate immediately.