



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

# Newsletter 347

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

# NSPCC

## Number Day Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Number Day 2022

Today you will receive a letter and sponsorship form for our annual participation in NSPCC'S Number Day. This is a day where schools raise money for the NSPCC and make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable children across the UK. This is especially more important than ever given the last couple of years or so. Spare sponsorship forms can be collected from the school office.

## Attendance Matters

At Gillespie we strive for excellent attendance of 96% and above. We are pleased to see attendance continues to rise week by week after the Christmas Break and many classes reaching the threshold for excellent attendance.

As part of our commitment to improving the attainment of our pupils we monitor pupil attendance on a regular basis and over the coming weeks any families with children who have attendance below 96% will be contacted by letter. Our letters give an update on current attendance levels and ways in which we can work together to improve attendance.

We will also be contacting families of children who require improvement with punctuality. School starts at 8:55 for Years 1-6 and it is important that children are in the playground ready to enter the building at that time. The first 10 minutes of the school day is an important settling in time for the class. Children are engaged in early morning work or reading during those first 10 minutes and time missed quickly adds up. They could miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of lessons – in fact, arriving 5 minutes late to each day adds up to missing 3 entire days of school by the end of the year!

Class	Attendance WB 03/01	Attendance WB 10/01	Attendance WB 17/01
Reception	86.44%	89.93%	96.24%
Year 1	93.98%	96.33%	95.56%
Year 2	90.56%	98.66%	98.15%
Year 3	98.89%	99.33%	98.52%
Year 4	93.10%	99.31%	97.70%
Year 5	94.62%	99.03%	98.56%
Year 6	93.83%	98.52%	93.83%

### Phonics Parent Workshop (via Zoom)

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 4:00-5:00pm

We are pleased to invite parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to a phonics workshop run by Steph and Katy on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February from 4.00-5.00pm via Zoom. They will be talking about Little Wandle the new phonics scheme of work we have started using this term. They will go over how phonics and reading is taught in school and the changes to the way reading books will be sent home. There will be plenty of tips of how to recognise certain sounds in words and how best to help your child read at home. We will send a Zoom link nearer the time. We hope to see you all there!



## 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](mailto: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

## Make Finsbury Park, N4 Safe for Children, Women, Families, Everyone! inc. Dusk & Dawn

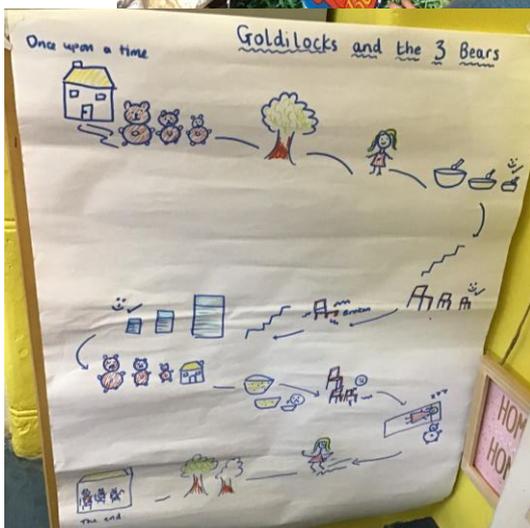
Click the link to sign this petition for change in Finsbury Park. Full details can be found on the page.

<https://www.change.org/p/haringey-council-make-finsbury-park-n4-safe-to-use-for-children-families-everyone-inc-dusk-and-dawn>

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen Headteacher

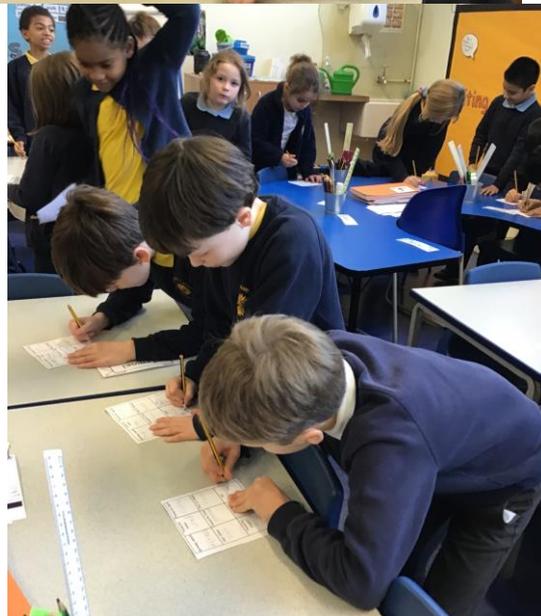
## Nursery Learning

Nursery have enjoyed creating a 'Story map' and acting out the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears this week. We made healthy banana and oat flapjacks too.



### Year 3 Learning

In Year 3 we are learning about celebrating differences in PSHE, we went around the class filling bingo sheets on what we had in common and learnt what was different about each other!



### Year 4 Learning

Year 4 got to use their compass and orienteering skills at Gillespie Park this week and there was no rain, hooray! Thank you Gillespie Ecology Centre, it was great.



## Current Coronavirus Guidance

**Latest Coronavirus Risk Assessment – The current Covid advice does not have any significant impact on protocols in place with our current risk assessment.**

### Latest Government Guidance

The Prime Minister has announced that all Plan B measures will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27 January.

In education and childcare settings, this means:

- From Thursday 20 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.
- From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.

This decision comes in response to national infection data showing the prevalence of COVID-19 to be on a downward trajectory. Whilst there are some groups where cases are likely to continue rising, it is likely that the Omicron wave has now peaked nationally. There remains significant pressure on the NHS but hospital admissions have stabilised, and the number of patients in Intensive Care Units (ICU) remain low and are falling.

If you are experiencing an outbreak and your risk assessment has identified the use of face coverings as an appropriate mitigating action, then you may continue to advise their use accordingly.

All staff, parents and secondary school age children should continue to do regular non-symptom lateral flow testing (LFT) twice weekly. The tests should be 3-5 days apart.

### 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.

### Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19 – new guidance

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

### **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.**