



Friday 28th January 2022

Newsletter 348

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid-19 Update

Families will have seen in the letters shared throughout this week we currently have several positive Covid cases throughout the school. We thank parents for their continued support with this and regular lateral flow testing ensuring cases are identified and isolated at the earliest possible chance. For those who have tested positive please check your letter for latest isolation rules or see the last page of this newsletter.

In the letters we included a note that a high percentage of children testing positive for Covid at Gillespie have reported vomiting as their main symptom. Although this is still not one of the recognised three main symptoms of coronavirus we would advise strongly that you test your child for Covid if they are vomiting. If your child tests negative having vomited please note they must still remain at home and cannot return to school until after 48 hours clear of vomiting/diarrhoea.



Phonics Parent Workshop (via Zoom) Tuesday 1st 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 1st 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.

Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84795705294?pwd=OXIyTXZJRUFpVEZyL1FTN0xITVluQT09>

Meeting ID: 84795705294

Password: FU6uUP

NSPCC Number Day

Friday 4th February 2022



We are looking forward to seeing children **dressed in digits** on Friday for our annual Number Day, raising money for NSPCC. Children will be taking part in number challenges throughout the week and results will be shared with parents.

Sponsorship money can be paid here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gillespien5>

Parent Governor Role

Thank you to all those who have expressed an interest in the Parent Governor role. Nominations are now formally open and will close on **Thursday 3rd February**. If you'd like to put yourself forward, please send an email to office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk and include a paragraph about yourself and why you would like to be a Gillespie governor. These short statements will then be shared with all parents/carers who will be invited to vote for their chosen candidate. If you have any questions please do get in touch with Mark or with the school office, or contact the governors via governors@gillespie.islington.sch.uk.

Attendance Matters

Class	Attendance WB 24/01
Reception	94.26
Year 1	97.64
Year 2	96
Year 3	78.67
Year 4	94.14
Year 5	90.26
Year 6	92.96

Health Promotion Sessions

The Islington School Health Team will be running weekly health promotion sessions on Mondays at 1:30pm via Zoom for parents and carers to attend.
Current Topic: Dental Health

<https://zoom.us/j/5665618520?pwd=NWNneGNrVWcwK3UzVkQ5SGFCWWpkZz09>

Meeting ID: 566 561 8520 Passcode: 4321

We hope that these sessions will provide a safe space for parents to have any questions answered and reassurance provided for any concerns/anxieties they may have, considering the times and season we are in.

Islington School Health Team

Whittington Health NHS, Islington School Nursing Services

Highbury Grange Health Centre, 1-5 Highbury Grange, London N5 2QB

Wishing all of our families a lovely weekend.

Mark Owen, Headteacher

Year 1 Learning

Year 1 have been sorting shapes into different groups. We looked at different categories such as colour, if the shape had more than 3 sides, less than 5 sides, had straight or equal sides. This is the beginning of our sorting unit in computing.



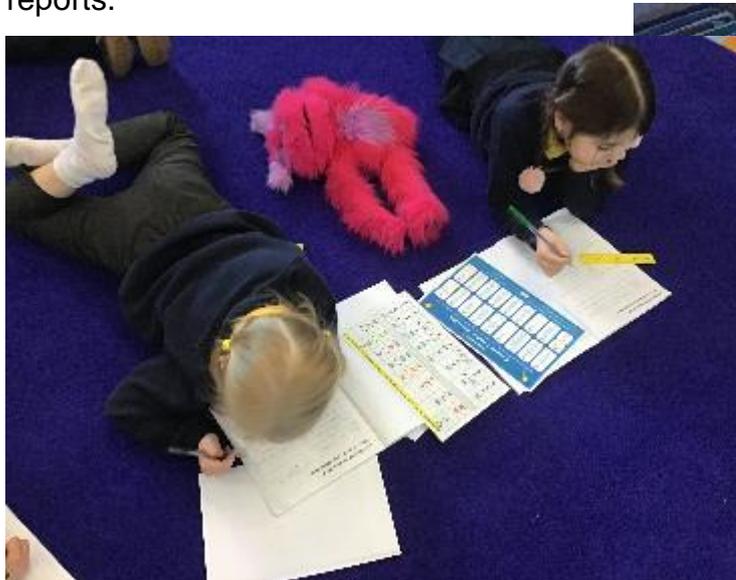
Year 3 Learning

Year 3 have finished making their beautiful 'Save The Endangered Rainforest Animals' leaflets. What a wild couple of weeks it's been!



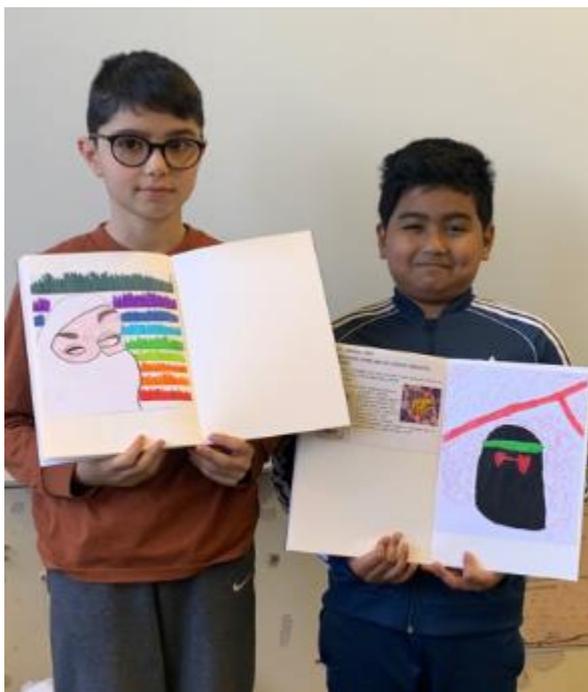
Year 2 Learning

Y2 have become journalists this week. They attended a press conference, explored newspaper reports (including one written in 1955 by Mira's great grandad!) and wrote their own newspaper reports.



Year 6 Learning

In Year 6, our RE and Art topics this term focus on how religious and non-religious people show faith through art and architecture. We have been learning about the British Muslim artist, Hannah Habibi and exploring her Pop Art- inspired self-portraits. We really enjoyed experimenting with this new style and learning more about her work.



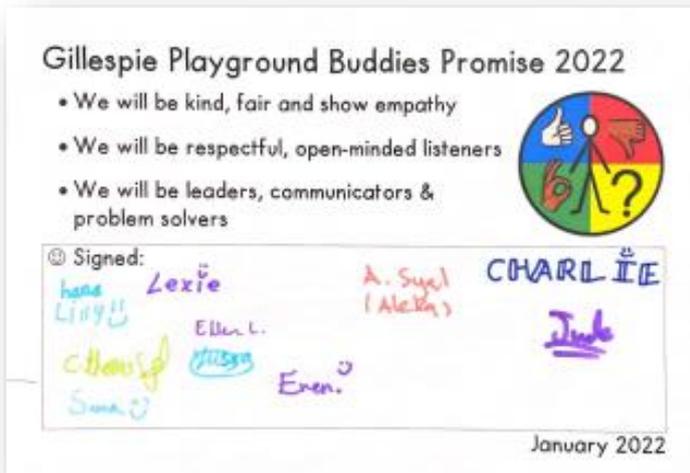
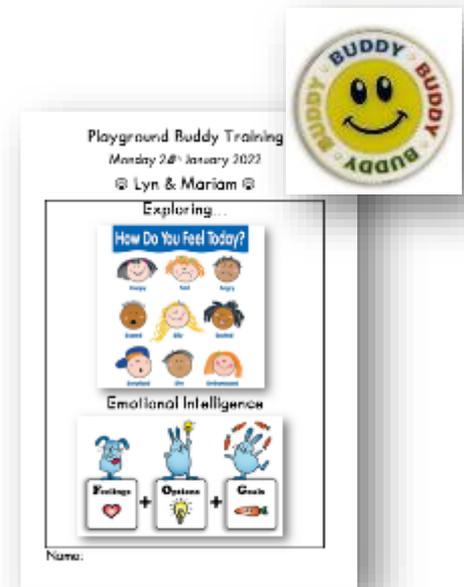
Playground Buddies at Gillespie Update!



On Monday afternoon – Mariam & I met with our new playground buddies for a training afternoon. It was a great opportunity to discuss the role, meet together & work cooperatively.

During the session we thought about confidentiality, 'Emotional intelligence' and self-reflected on our areas of strength. We also asked and answered lots of questions, played team building games & focused on the importance & use of positive language with peers. At the end of the session we signed our Playground Buddies Promise charter.

As we have such a large number of willing playground buddies this year (40 children from years 3,4,5 & 6!!!!) we have subdivided into two groups and will be rotating our responsibilities so we have a rolling program of one week on & one week off – this allows everyone to have some down time & a chance to recharge their batteries for the following week!



A list of playground buddies for the week will be up in each classroom, the school hall and outdoor area. PBs can be recognised by their new badges – which we would like them to wear with pride on their uniform daily – along with a coloured armband for easy recognition in the playground.

Here's an example signed by year 6 Playground Buddies



A Big thank you to all of our Playground Buddies – we look forward to working with you across the year!

Lyn & Mariam

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.