



Friday 4th February 2022

Newsletter 349

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid-19 Update

Cases have continued to arise throughout the school this week with almost all classes having a positive case. You can see from the attendance figures below the impact this can have. We have reached a threshold of cases in Year 4 and 5 so have put extra measures in for them including keeping them separated from the rest of the school at lunchtime, having a later lunch and moving whole school assemblies to outside or online. We are happy to say these measures worked well for Year 3 and are no longer required. We are also pleased to confirm we can continue to accommodate the children in breakfast club and after school clubs! We recommend during this period families carry on with daily lateral flow testing and positive results reported to the school office. We thank parents for their continued support and help in identifying positive cases as soon as possible.

NSPCC Number Day



The children excelled themselves with digitised costumes this year and performed fantastically in their maths challenges! See page 4 for some photos of the day. Thank you so much for the generosity shown already. You can still donate online at:

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

Phonics Parent Workshop

Thank you so much to the many parents who attended the workshop this week – we had over 40 parents attend which is great. We hope you found it useful! We have uploaded the presentation to the school website and you can find it here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ft7rs>



If you have any questions, please email the school office or Steph on swelburn@gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Attendance Matters

Class	Attendance WB 31/01
Reception	94.28%
Year 1	91.28%
Year 2	85.91%
Year 3	89.67%
Year 4	81.94%
Year 5	75.16%
Year 6	88.89%

National Children's Mental Health Week

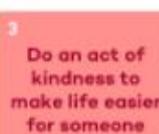
Monday 7th – Friday 11th February 2022

Next week is Children's mental health week. This year's theme is **Growing Together**. **Growing Together** is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

You can find more information and useful resources here:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Friendly February 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them	 2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently	 3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone	 4 Organise a virtual 'tea break' with a colleague or friend	 5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour	 6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while	
7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others	8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust	9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you	10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them	11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost	12 Focus on being kind rather than being right	13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day
14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you	15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message	16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help	17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life	18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself	19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing	20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun
21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them	22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today	23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise	24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them	25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why	26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones	27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them
28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today						

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**

Safer Internet Day 2022

Tuesday 8th February

This year's theme is all fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online.

During the course of next week all classes will be engaging in 'safer internet day' in this year's theme exploring respect and relationships online. Please talk to your children about what they are learning about how to stay safe online.



Safer Internet Day 2022
Together for a better internet | Tuesday 8 February

Parent Governor Elections

We are pleased that two candidates have stepped forward for the Parent Governor position and so voting will be open from today until Thursday 10th February.

Here are the candidates with an introductory paragraph about themselves. Please read through and click the link below to place your vote. The successful candidate will be announced in next week's newsletter.

Candidate 1 - Hafsa Sharif

I would like to express my keen interest and put myself forward for the parent governor role at Gillespie Primary School. My name is Hafsa Sharif and I have two daughters amongst the incredible pupils in this vibrant school. As a parent, I am extremely invested in the success of the school and understand the positive impact parent engagement has in making the school environment the best for our children. Gillespie reflects the Boroughs diversity and it is so important that our parent governors also represent the different types of families which make up this wonderful school. I am passionate about positive representation and believe that someone like myself would be an asset in fostering partnership with the wider community. It is important that all parents and carers feel comfortable in raising any issue in order for us to echo our school's motto 'Growing Together'.

I have always been very passionate about Early Years Education alongside children rights, advocacy and safeguarding. I currently work in the NHS, and have advance DBS clearance and attended child protection and safeguarding training regularly which is vital for this role. If elected I will work hard and enthusiastically to ensure that I act in the best interest of our children and community. I will support the school and staff in maintaining the high standards of education that Gillespie continues to provide.

Candidate 2 - Hedvig Horvath

Hello! I'm Hedvig Horvath, mother of Johanna Lindner (Year 1) and Vilma Lindner (prospective reception pupil next year). I am an academic economist, teaching and doing research at UCL. My research areas are education and labour economics, so the school environment is not just a personal flare-up for me due to my kids but also a long-run professional interest. I'm fascinated by how to sustain an outstanding, diverse state school in an era of tight budgets and ever-increasing demand for skills and achievement. As a parent governor, I would be particularly motivated to work towards providing classroom and extracurricular (e.g. club) learning opportunities for our children that are affordable, accessible to everyone and caters for the whole ability and cultural range of the school community.

Vote here: <https://tinyurl.com/m23jhnjn>

Elizabeth House

EH still have places available for their after school playscheme as well as After School Clubs. All the information is on our website (pricing, registration and general information)

[Elizabeth House | Childcare Services \(elizabeth-house.org.uk\)](http://elizabeth-house.org.uk)

Here are some clubs they will be running after half term. Please contact them directly to book your child a place.

Wednesday cooking club 3:30pm – 5pm, £50 for 5 sessions (2nd – 30th March)

Thursday street dance 3:30pm – 4:30pm, £40 for 5 sessions (3rd – 31st March)

Friday cooking club 3:30pm – 5pm, £50 for 5 sessions (4th March – 1st April)

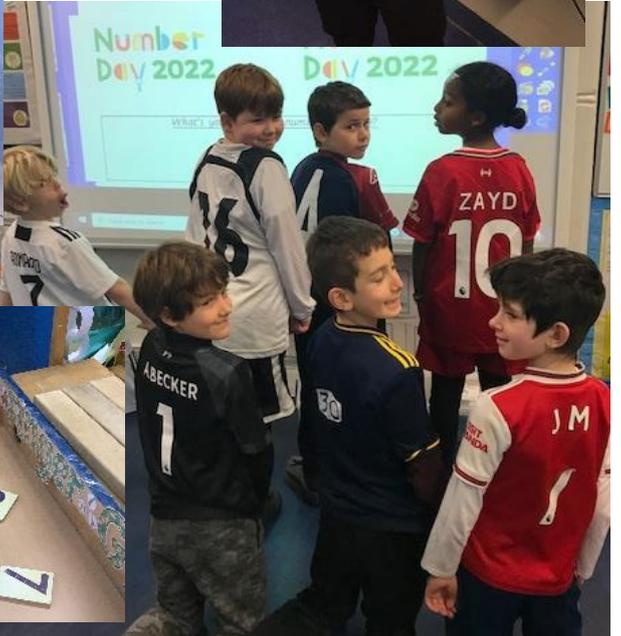
Wishing all of our families a lovely, sunny weekend.

Mark Owen, Headteacher

Number Day Roundup

You can still donate online at:

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



Year 6 Learning

In Year 6, we have really enjoyed our Science investigations in our Electricity topic this week. We experimented with static electricity to repel and attract objects using a balloon. We managed to charge balloons using our clothes and hair! On Tuesday, we explored and made different circuits using bulbs, buzzers and motors.



Nursery Learning

Gong Xi Fa Cai 2022!

Nursery class celebrated Chinese New Year this week! They set up a beautiful Chinese restaurant role-play area, made red lanterns to hang up in the classroom and children brought in vegetables to chop up and cook in a stir fry.



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

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.