



Friday 11th February 2022

Newsletter 350

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid-19/End of half term update

We are pleased to see cases decrease this week with only a few new cases throughout the school! Year 4 and 5 were able to return to normal routines and children were brought together for a wonderful end of term assembly yesterday, sharing achievements, a round up of Number Day challenges and some songs from the choir! Children have made a fantastic start to the Spring term and we wish all families a lovely, safe half term break!

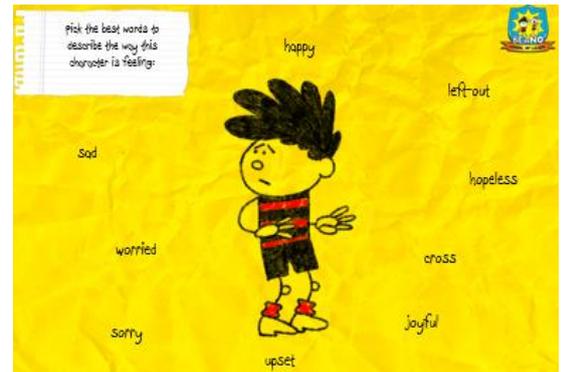
NSPCC Number Day

Wow! Thank you so much to the Gillespie community for raising over £1,100 for NSPCC. There is still time to donate via the Just Giving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gillespien5>

National Children's Mental Health Week Monday 7th – Friday 11th February 2022

This week was Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year was 'Growing Together' – just like we always try to do at Gillespie. In each year group we chose an area that we thought would be most beneficial for our class from understanding our emotions, being brave, understanding difficult emotions, understanding stress, understanding change or responsible use of mobile phones (Key stage 2 only).

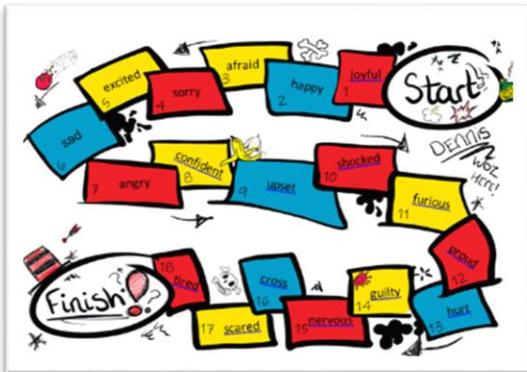
In Year 1 we focused on Understanding Our Emotions. We talked about how our emotions can change all the time and we can experience a range of emotions from anger, to happiness, to fear. We looked at pictures of characters from the Beano and talked about the emotion we thought they were feeling and why. What we found was there were sometimes more than one emotion for each picture.



Year 3 with Lyn

In Year 3 we looked carefully at the different emotions we feel. We discussed and acted out body language, facial expression and actions that help us to recognise this within ourselves and others.

We then played this board game with a partner. When we landed on an emotion we had to tell our partner a time when we had experienced that emotion – the reason why – and what strategies we used to support us with these emotions. It was a great session, which showed how important it is to talk about and deal with the range of emotions we all experience in our daily lives.



Safer Internet Day 2022 Tuesday 8th February

For Safer Internet Day, each class was reminded how to stay safe online and this year the focus was on respect and on how we behave towards others. Each year group completed a different activity. For example, in year 2, children read the story 'Digiduck and the Magic Castle' and then did a role play activity in which they played 'Wise Owl' or 'Eagle Owl', helping Digiduck and his friends make better choices when playing an online game. They learned how to deal with popups, the importance of getting permission before buying things online and how to keep passwords safe.



Parent Governor Elections

Congratulation Hafsa Sharif! Thank you so much to all the families who voted, we are pleased to announce Hafsa won the poll and will be elected as our new Parent Governor joining the Governing Body.

Also a big thank you to Hedvig Horvath for putting herself forward for the role.

Reading Volunteers we need you back, we have missed you!

Parents will be aware that because of the pandemic we have had to suspend all school reading volunteers including parent volunteers. We are optimistically looking to re-engage with our volunteer reader programme and will put it in place as soon as protocols allow. Your help supporting children reading is invaluable! Can you help?



We are looking for 2 different groups of volunteer readers to help in all year groups across the school.

Group 1: is for people who can commit to the same 3 days a week for 30 minutes to work with children in years 1 and 2. You will work alongside staff in these year groups with a small group of children.

Group 2: are needed for a minimum of 1 day a week and will read with individual children across the school or in a year group you feel more comfortable with. We ask that you do not request to volunteer in the same Year group that your child/ren are in, as we have found that children sometimes find it very hard to say goodbye to their parents and so it disrupts their day.

All volunteers will be required to undergo DBS checks and will receive child protection training as well as information on what is required of volunteers.

Please let the office or Steph in year 1 know if you can help (swelburn@gillespie.islington.sch.uk)

Diary Dates

Date	Event
15 th -19 th Feb	Half Term break
Wednesday 23 rd February	Class photos – full uniform please
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day – see full information on page 3
Tuesday 8 th March	International Woman's Day
Friday 1 st April	Last Day of Spring Term

Attendance Matters

Class	Attendance WB 07/02
Reception	89.15%
Year 1	99.66%
Year 2	91.67%
Year 3	96.67%
Year 4	85.52%
Year 5	94.19%
Year 6	96.30%

Nursery Admissions

Children born between 01/09/2018-31/08/2019 are eligible for a place in Nursery Class starting in September 2022. If you have a child born between these dates or know of a family who does please get in touch with the school office or pop in to collect an application form. The deadline to apply for Nursery Class is Monday 28th February 2022.

New International School Link

I am very excited to announce that after much hard work from our Year 2 teacher Shelley we have established an exciting new international school partner. We are twinned with Oakbridge International School in Accra Ghana. We are making a direct connection between children in our school and children in Oakbridge through our geography work in Year 2 and through our Lab_13 Science Committee. This term, the Year 6 Science Committee teamed up with Year 3 and 4 (Falcons and Sparrows) at Oakbridge International School in Ghana to complete a STEM project. See pages 4&5 for more information.



Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen, Headteacher

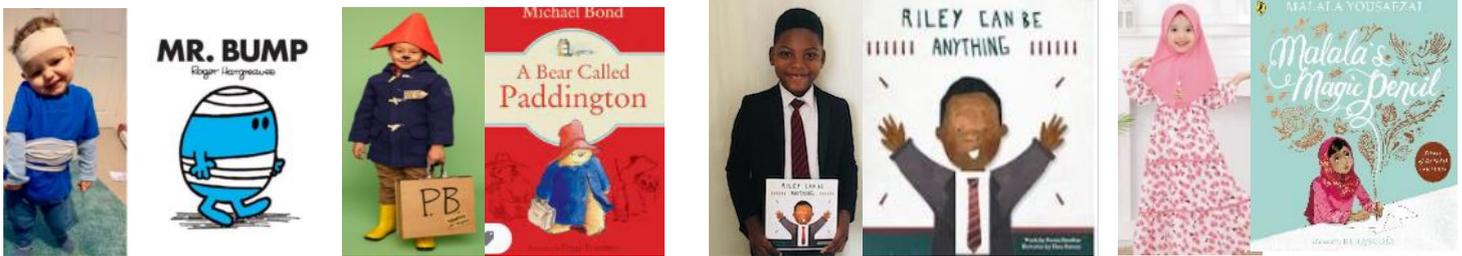
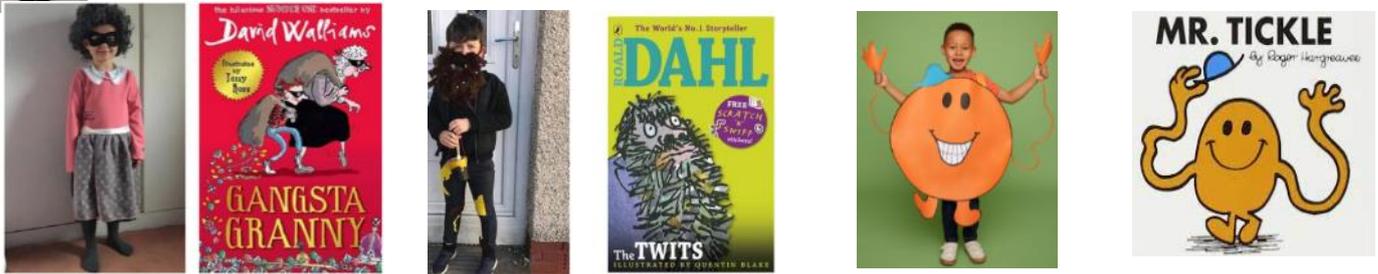
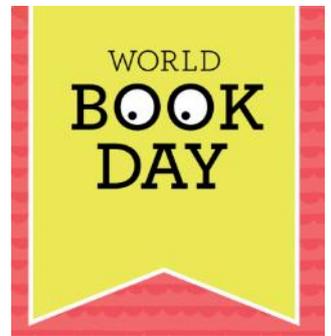
SEND Coffee Morning

Dear Parents and Carers of SEND children, we would love for you to join us for a coffee morning at Beam Café on Friday 25th February 9-10am. Come along to this informal get together to share stories, make new friends and to offer general support to one another. All welcome!

Contact Karen Cattini 07775 838 282 and Elise Sylvester 07508 700946 or find us on Classlist SEN Parent Group.

World Book Day

It's time for this year's World Book Day. On **Thursday 3rd March** we would like all children and staff to come to school dressed as either their favourite book character or author. Please don't feel you need to buy any brand new costumes. There are often many things lying around the house that you can use to make a costume, charity shops can have bits that you could use to make part or all of the costume. Here are some examples of homemade costumes.



The more that you
READ
The more thing you will
KNOW
The more that you
LEARN
The more places you'll
GO

-Dr. Seuss

This year we will not be sending the £1 book token home. Instead, we ask that you and your child take some time to choose one of the books from the link below. Your child can then tell their teacher on or before **Thursday 24th March** which book they would like to swap their £1 voucher for. On Tuesday 1st March years 1 and 6 will take a trip to Waterstones in Crouch End where they will exchange the vouchers for the books the children have chosen. Years 1 and 6 will deliver the books to each class and your child can then take the book home with them to keep.

Please use this link to select a book.
<https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

STEM PROJECT With Oakbridge International School - Ghana

This term, the Year 6 Science Committee teamed up with Year 3 and 4 (Falcons and Sparrows) at Oakbridge International School in Ghana to complete a STEM project.

The project involved doing the following:

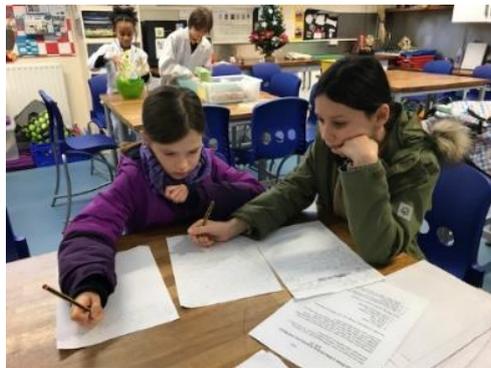
- introducing ourselves on Google classroom; asking questions and answering questions
- deciding and planning what to teach
- learning about circuits, conductors, insulators and light emitting diodes (LEDs)
- trying out the activity
- making and colouring the dough
- coming up with a challenge
- writing scripts
- rehearsing
- filming
- editing
- creating a PowerPoint slide show about STEM careers related to electricity
- evaluating what worked well and what could have been done better
- looking at photos of the pupils in Ghana having done the activity and reading their feedback
- feeding back our comments to the pupils

Polar bears do not hibernate so we demonstrated and assigned them the project of making a mother polar bear with her offspring and how to light up their long dark nights with a light emitting diode. We then set them the challenge of creating other animals to light up.

- "I learnt how to make conductive dough and how it works. The salt in the dough makes it conductive." Afrah
- "I like the way we got to do activities with children in Ghana because it felt like we were contributing ideas to other children and not many people have that chance." Ellen Lynch
- "I feel that I have made a bond with many people in the science committee through doing the project." Alice
- "Alice and I liked making the PowerPoint slide show about careers that involve an understanding of electricity." Lexie
- "I learnt that electricity can run through more things than just wires! I also learnt that teamwork makes the dream work!" Sama
- "I learnt to listen to other people's ideas more." Yusra
- "I learnt that working in a team is easier for me".Mohsin
- "I loved working with the students in Ghana. I have learnt that you do not need everything at your doorstep. I learnt the working in a team can be enjoyable as before I didn't like it". Cruz

lab_13

Year 6 Science Committee



International link school Ghana



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.