



Friday 4th March 2022

Newsletter 352

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@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Latest COVID-19 guidance

Jonathan O' Sullivan, Director of Public Health Islington has this week written to families on important changes to COVID-19 guidance and recommended actions. To summarise- although it is no longer a legal requirement, we ask that families continue to keep children off school if they test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19. Please read the full letter here and guidance here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hstkeay>

Talking to children about the Russian invasion of Ukraine

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is distressing and concerning, and the Department for Education (DfE) understands that children and young people may have questions or be seeking reassurance. Here are some links to resources with useful information on how families can discuss the Russian invasion of Ukraine at home.



- Department for Education's Education Hub - <https://tinyurl.com/bde7e2c5>
- First News - <https://tinyurl.com/2p8c3buu>
- BBC Newsround - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

World Book Day

What a week! Throughout the week, children enjoyed World Book Day festivities including Years 1 and 6 taking trips to Waterstones to collect books using the World Book Day Tokens and Year 4 having 'the best day ever' visiting the Arsenal Football Stadium. They were treated to a tour of the stadium which included a football themed book read at each stop along the way and were given goodies to leave with at the end! Yesterday children delighted us with their bookish costumes and school was full of action. Older classes partnered with younger classes to share stories together. And the day was rounded off with a whole school assembly with children convincing the Gillespie staff crayons not to quit! See a roundup of photos on page 2.

Thank you to Candice Chair of FoG who is stepping down

A big thank you to Candice Bingham who has been a wonderful Chair of FoG at Gillespie School at a most challenging time with the pandemic limiting the usual activities. We really appreciate the time and effort that Candice has put in, particularly as in recent years she had no co-chair to work with her. We have recruited a new team of FoG committee members who have reinvigorated FoG this year and parents will have noted we have had some very successful events in the Autumn term including the Autumn Fayre and Halloween Disco. **We now urgently need some new parents to step up to join the team and co-lead FoG moving forward.** Please see today's FoG update below.

Attendance Matters

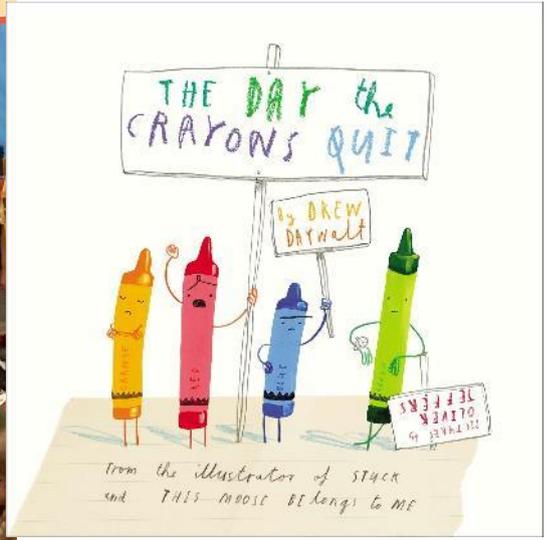
Class	Attendance WB 28/02
Reception	94.24%
Year 1	94.33%
Year 2	98.67%
Year 3	98.33%
Year 4	97.93%
Year 5	98.71%
Year 6	88.15%

Year 6 Secondary School Offers

All families will have been notified on Tuesday 1st March of the Secondary School offered to their child. The deadline to respond to this offer is 15th March 2022.

Yours sincerely, Mark Owen Headteacher

World Book Day Roundup



Shelfies

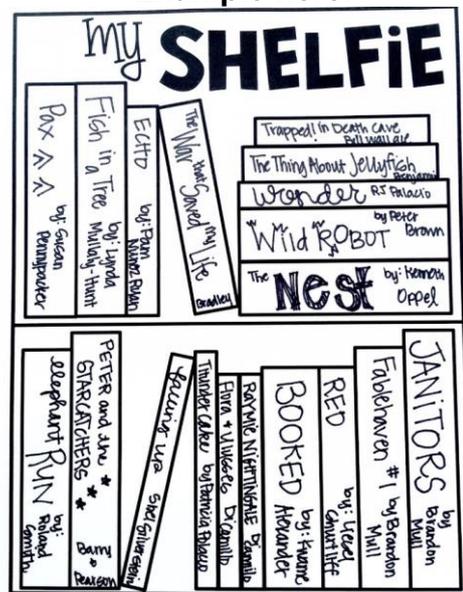
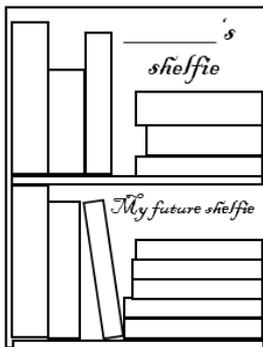
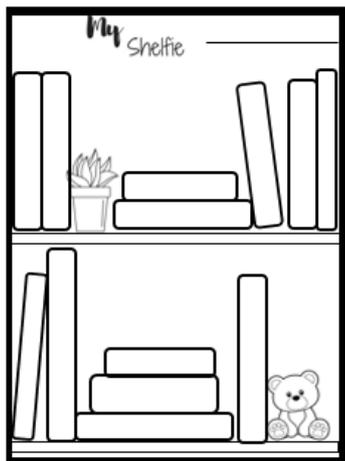
During our World Book Day assembly, Steph and Sarah introduced shelfies to Gillespie. A shelfie is a selfie of your child in front of your bookcase, bookshelf or book pile, which will then be made into a school display in the corridor. These photos will not be shared online. Please send the shelfie photo of your child to your child's teacher.

There is also a shelfie template for your child to complete to show what their favourite books are and who they are by. Please ensure your child writes their name on the front of the sheet, this too can be given to your child's teacher.



Your child can choose one of these templates to bring home and add their favourite books and author to them and then colour them in, before returning it to their teacher.

Example here:

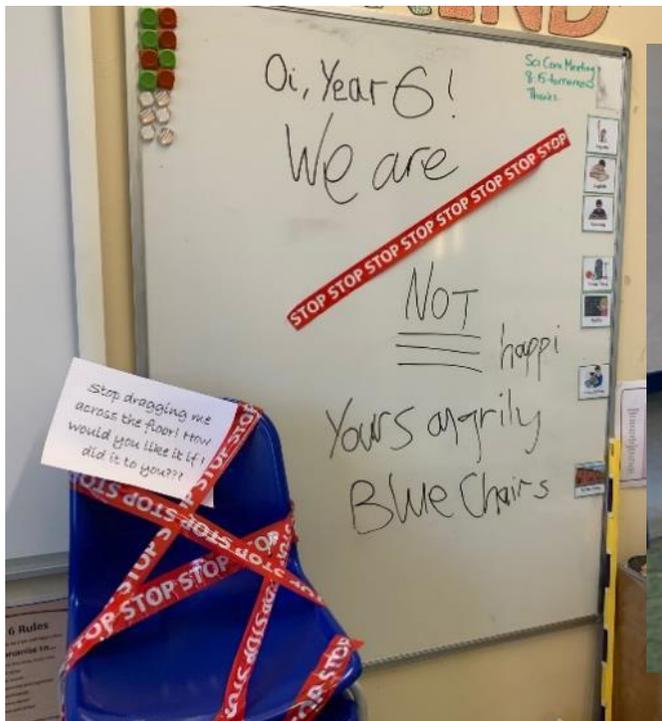


Year 6 Learning

The Day the Chairs Quit in Year 6!

We recently read the wonderful book, *The Day the Crayons Quit* in class. We think our chairs must have been eavesdropping because Year 6 had quite a shock on Wednesday when they came into class and saw that their chairs had quit! The chairs wrote each child a letter to explain how fed up they were with the swinging, scrapping and lack of care from Year 6.

Year 6 had to use all of their English skills to write persuasive letters to charm the chairs back to work. Without any chairs, we had to get creative to find a good spot to create our important letters. Luckily, they won them over and have been reunited with their comfortable seats. We are all trying to take more care of our chairs from now on.



FoG Update

This is a reminder of what Friends of Gillespie is for and how you can help. In particular we're asking:

1. Y3 and Y5 to nominate a new class rep each
2. Everyone to get involved by signing-up to a manageable role/task for FoG events
3. For you to consider if you could be the next co-chair of FoG

What is Friends of Gillespie (FoG) for?

Friends of Gillespie (FOG) is the Parents' Association at Gillespie Primary School and you, as a parent or carer are automatically a part of it. FoG is a registered charity and enriches the lives of our children by organising events and other fundraising activities.

Most of the school activities that go beyond the core curriculum are funded through FoG. Forest School for Early Years. The strings tutor who gives every child a chance to learn a stringed instrument from year 4 onwards. FoG fundraising efforts bought the Yamaha electric piano a couple of years ago in the top hall, and it subsidises school trips. We'd next love to be able to do some refurbishment of the playground.

BUT to do this, FoG needs help. We're running on an absolute minimum level of parental support right now. Below are three ways that you can get involved:

1. We're missing some class reps

We don't currently have Class Reps for Year 3 and Year 5. (and Year 6 - although we'll let you off!) please could those two year groups put forward one or two people as class reps (contact details below).

What does a class rep do:

Class Reps act as a liaison and extra line of communication between the teacher/school, FOG and parents/carers in your class. Each class has responsibility for one after-school bake sale a year, so you will help coordinate this.

From time to time, a class rep will also circulate specific reminders, requests for help, requests for donations and similar, which they have been asked to circulate by FOG or the school.

Also, if you think you are a class rep, but are not on the FoG WhatsApp then let me know (contact details below).

FoG Events for the remainder of the year

Running events is a great way of raising money and having fun. A group of us got together last Friday to plan out what events we'd like to run this year, and break those down into tasks. The proposed list of events is:

Movie Night	Date in mid-March
Year 2 St Patrick's Bake Sale	Friday 1st April 2022
Pre-loved Uniform Sale (grab a summer dress/shorts bargain)	Date tbd, but could be Fri 24th March
Year 1 Bank Holiday Bake Sale	Thursday 28th April 2022
Parent Only Social – Quiz Night	Date tbd (June?)
Summer Fair	A Saturday in July TBD
Reception Class End of Term Bake Sale	Friday 15th July 2022

We've broken down each event into a series of manageable roles [here](#). PLEASE could you take a look at this spreadsheet and volunteer for a role by adding your name to the spreadsheet. In particular, if we want to run a movie night for the children this term we need to get that planned out asap.

FoG needs a new chair person (or people!)

3. Last but not least, Candice Bingham has recently stepped down as the chairperson of FoG so we have an urgent vacancy. In the past, the role of chair has been taken on by two or three people who are each co-chairs and can share the role. The role of FoG Chair is to:

- Provide leadership to ensure that the activities of FoG are consistent with the views of the school and parents
- Co-ordinate the various activities that FoG runs, acting as the link between the school, the community, the parents and children
- Ensure that FoG, as a registered charity, is run and managed in a responsible and proper way

Taking on this role has benefits for you as well as the school - leadership experience in a charitable organisation gives you great CV points.

In summary

If you'd like to volunteer as a class rep or take on the co-chair role, do please speak to Jenny Maresh (07974 689701), Karen Cattini or Ebru Onal. And do PLEASE look at the [events spreadsheet](#) and put your name down for role or task.