



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

# Newsletter 361

[www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk](http://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk)



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Year 4 performance of Carmen

The whole school and Year 4 parents and carers were treated to an absolutely stunning performance of a specially commissioned version of Georges Bizet's Carmen with a script written by Year 4 children. The children's voices and operatic performances of the famous arias were magnificent. We are very proud of Year 4 and equally proud of our Music Teacher Orlando who has great ambition for what our children can achieve with their music education.

## Solo Music Concert

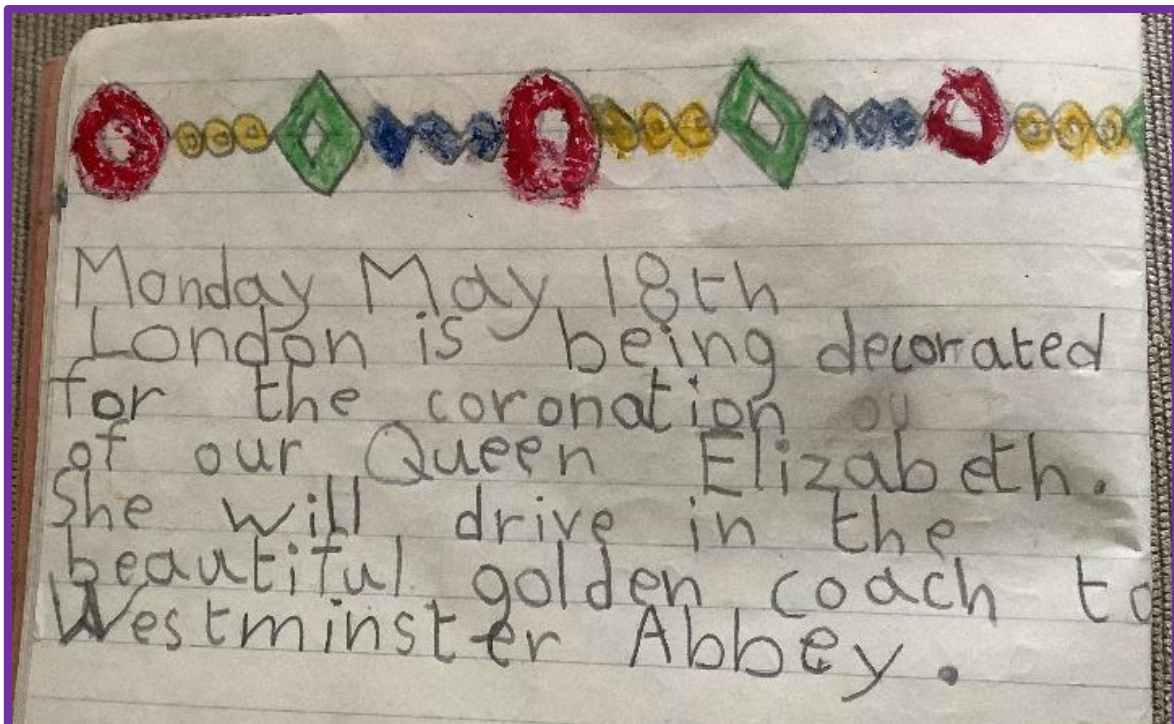
Speaking of musical performance we are very much looking forward to the return of the Gillespie Solo Music Concert in which individual children from across the school share their musical talent and interests with instrument playing. This concert is only for parents/carers of pupils who are participating in the concert. Families of those performing will have been contacted by text today.

## Platinum Jubilee School Celebrations

I was delighted recently when a former pupil of Gillespie Road School, Brenda Cullum (nee Martin) now 76 years old, emailed the school to tell us that she had recently looked up her old handwriting book during the time leading up to the Coronation of Her Majesty in 1953. Brenda says "we were all so excited feverishly drawing and painting and making flags to wave" and Brenda sent us a copy of the lovely writing she did about the Coronation when she was 7 years old in 1953. We will be inspiring our children with Brenda's work when we are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next week.



Next Friday we will be holding a special Platinum Jubilee Street Party during the children's lunchtime. Our lovely Cook Fatma is preparing a special Jubilee menu for the day. Classes will be making bunting, flags and decorations and we will have the tables (weather permitting) outside in the playground in a long line to create a street party atmosphere.



### Plant pots needed

We are trying to make sure we reuse and recycle as much as possible at Gillespie at the moment. If you have any small seed and cutting plant pots that you no longer use (around 6 or 8 cm diameter), please can you send them into school with your child.

### Year 6 Transition Workshops

On the **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May** Arsenal in the Community will deliver two 2-hour sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The details are listed below:

- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May
- 10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm
- At [The Hub](#) - 56 Benwell Road
- Half football and half classroom workshops



To register your interest complete this [Transition Day Expression of Interest Form](#). They will then contact parents and carers directly to discuss.

Wishing families a dryer weekend!

Yours sincerely, Mark Owen Headteacher

### Year 3 learning

Year 3 could not BEElieve how busy their day was at Gillespie Park on Wednesday, learning all things honey bees!



### Year 2 Learning

This week Year 2 have been very busy designing and making their own fire engines



## Nursery Learning

Nursery really enjoyed their forest school session! We looked for wild flowers, searched for bees and did a hive hunt searching for hexagon shapes in the meadow. Then had lots of fun taking turns on the hammocks, playing with the mud kitchen and making with sticks, string and cones.



## Ongoing reminders – this information has not changed

### Summer Term Class Assemblies

We are looking forward to inviting families in again this term to watch class assemblies. They will take place at 2:30pm in the top hall. Please put these dates and times in your diaries!

Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 3
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly

### Spring Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	5:00-6:30pm Solo Music Performances
WB 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term
WB 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Healthy Eating Week
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Quiz Night – FoG event (adult only)
WB 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5/6 School Journey to Cardfields
WB 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Gillespie Science Week
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	10am & 2pm Summer Music Concert
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception class bake sale
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	12:00-3:00pm Summer Fayre
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day at Clissold Park
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last day of Summer Term (2pm finish)

### COVID-19 protocols for the Summer Term

Following the government changes to testing from 1<sup>st</sup> April please be advised of the procedures for illness and suspected COVID for the Summer Term.

- Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can come back to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. Please inform the office of any illness.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

## FoG News

### Gillespie Quiz Night - 16 June at 7:30pm!

If you want to take part in the adults-only quiz-related fundraising event of the year - this is your chance! There are only 20 tickets left!

Only £15 allows you to test your knowledge of random facts, eat great food and raise funds for Friends of Gillespie! Sign up with a team (6 max) or individually. Sign up here [tinyurl.com/2p837zb6](https://tinyurl.com/2p837zb6)

If you don't want to quiz but have a spare hour to volunteer - please contact [Katparadis@hotmail.com](mailto:Katparadis@hotmail.com) - we still need volunteers to help on the night!

### Summer fair

This year's summer fair will be the first for several years and it's FOG's biggest fundraising event, so we're hoping we can get as many parents and caters involved as possible.

*How can I join in??*

1. Class reps will be in touch soon to ask for volunteers for the class-run stalls, please consider signing up - it can be for as little as 30 mins and every little helps!

2. More immediately, we're looking for PRIZES for the raffle, one of the centrepieces of the fair. This can only happen with your help. Any kind of lovely product, tickets, vouchers, merchandise is very gratefully received. Please ask/beg friends, family, neighbours, colleagues, big bosses and random nice people! Or could you spare a few hours to help Jacqui ask local businesses for prize donations? Please DM Jacqui (y1/5 07900188328).

3. And if you have a bit of time (from as little as an hour) to get involved in other aspects of the fair in the run-up or on the day, please contact Sarah Clements (yr1 07970606543). Thank you!



**It's back!**

# Gillespie Quiz Night



Test your knowledge, eat great food, and raise funds for Friends of Gillespie

**When:** Thursday 16th June, doors open at 7pm, quiz starts at 7:30pm

**Where:** Gillespie Primary School

**Who:** Sign up with a team (6 people max) or individually - we can pair you with other quizzers

**What:** Delicious vegan or meat dinner options, challenging and fun quiz, music, non alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, snacks, prizes!

Limited capacity so sign up quickly to reserve your spot!

**£15 for dinner and quiz**

**Sign up here:** [tinyurl.com/2p837zb6](https://tinyurl.com/2p837zb6)



# How parents/carers can help their child have good attendance

**Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.**

- Make sure your child arrives at school on time, every day.
- Show an interest, attend school events and ask about what your child is doing at school.
- Encourage your child to take part in school activities.
- Don't let your child take time off school for minor ailments.
- Where possible, make appointments after school, at weekends or during school holidays. Remember, a morning appointment does not mean a whole day of absence. Bring your child back to school in the afternoon.
- Take family holidays during school holiday time only.
- Encourage your child to tell you about any problems they may have at school. Find out regularly your child's attendance and absence record.
- Acknowledge, praise and reward good or improved attendance, even small successes.

"Young children don't play truant from school, they are off because their parents allow it."

**Charlie Taylor**  
Government's expert advisor on  
attendance and behaviour

## Attendance Matters

Next week we will be carrying out our termly attendance and punctuality monitoring and writing to families where children's attendance/punctuality requires improvement.

### Attendance WB 06/05/2022

Nursery	90%	Year 3	93.67%
Reception	97.27%	Year 4	97.93%
Year 1	96.67%	Year 5	100%
Year 2	97%	Year 6	96.43%