



Friday 22nd July 2022

Newsletter 368

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

End of year roundup

A big thank you to all of our wonderful Gillespie pupils, staff, governors and parents who together have brought our school community back together in such a vibrant way this year after the challenges of the pandemic in recent years. I am very proud of everybody and in particular want to mention how our new team leading our PTA this year has managed to rejuvenate FoG and bring back all of our wonderful school events so magnificently. We have never needed you more than we need you now; funding of schools is not going to get better in the foreseeable future and your contribution to school life, whether financial or volunteering your time, makes a huge difference to what we can offer our children. We hope you all have a restful summer and look forward to children returning on Monday 5th September 2022.

Summer Fair Success!

Sarah our new chair of FoG, Jenny and the army of FoG volunteers organised a magnificent summer fair this year. It was particularly special as we had not been able to hold a fair in the previous two years. The fair was well attended and supported by parents, pupils, staff and we even had a visit from our local MP Jeremy Corbyn who commented to me on the fantastic engagement of our very diverse community. A very popular event was the sponging of the teachers! Thank you to the many teachers who volunteered as well as me this year! We are delighted to announce that we have made over £7,000 from the fair this year which is a record for Gillespie School. A big thank you to the many local Islington businesses who contributed an array of wonderful prizes for our raffle.

Grease is the word!

Year 6 wowed parents and pupils alike with two wonderful performances of the famous musical Grease as their leavers show this year. Their ambition was awe inspiring. A huge shout out to Sarah their class teacher for directing the show and to Orlando our Music maestro for musical direction and production and to Mariam the class Teaching Assistant for co-producing the show. The chills were electrifying.

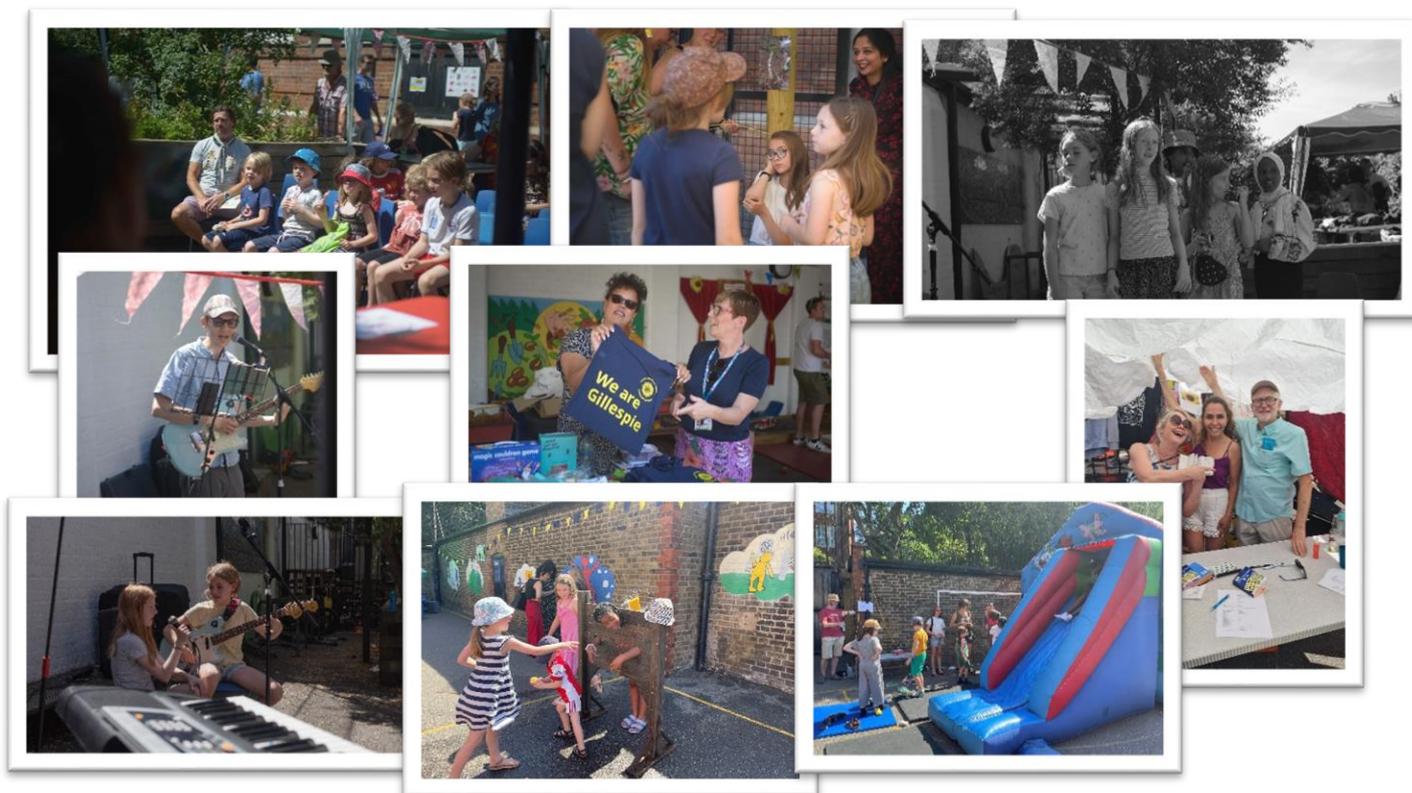


Important Diary Dates

Thursday 1 st & Friday 2 nd September	INSET days (school closed)
Monday 5 th September	First day of Autumn term for pupils in Y1-6
Tuesday 6 th – Thursday 8 th September	Meet the teacher events
Monday 12 th September	After School Clubs begin

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen Headteacher

FoG News



A **massive thanks** to everyone who supported the summer fair, whether by giving time, donating to stalls, lending shade, cooking, or coming on the day. Special thanks too to Cinnamon Village café for donating food towards the BBQ.

It was a really fun afternoon! It was also a very successful fundraising event, and together we made over £7,000 for Friends of Gillespie (FOG), the school Parent Teachers Association.

The team organising the fair was new and we learnt a lot during the process but we'd love to hear what families thought too. [Please tell us here.](#)

Plans for FOG funding next year are still being finalised, but the money raised by the fair will go towards a range of extra-curricular experiences for Gillespie children, including a £200 classroom budget per class, contributions towards class trips, and workshops supporting their classroom learning.

As many of you know, the pandemic meant that FOG wasn't able to fundraise for a time, and we've been eating into our savings this year continuing to fund forest school, the strings tutor, the playground refurbishments and a new phonics curriculum. In September we'll share plans for FOG activity in 2022/23 ahead of an open meeting in October where all parents and carers can have a say.

We'll also be on the lookout for more people to get involved with planning FOG events next year and to join the FOG decision making team so that we can build on the fun events that we've been able to hold since the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Friends of Gillespie

Autumn term 2022 After School Club Timetable

Please see below the clubs available via Ready Set Stage and Elizabeth House for the Autumn term. Please note booking is via the companies directly and not the school. Ready Set Stage clubs will be run for children in Years 1-6 in the Autumn term. Reception class pupils will have the opportunity to join from Spring 2023.

After School Clubs – Autumn term				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ready Set Stage				
Performing Arts	Arts & Craft	Street dance	Gymnastics	Boxing
Football (Years 3-6)	Basketball	Football (Years 1&2)		
Elizabeth House				
EH Break dance	EH Mindfulness and Yoga	EH Cooking 3:30-5:00	EH Coding club	EH Cooking 3:30-5:00

Ready Set Stage After School Clubs

Clubs will start w/b 12th Sept and end w/b 5th December with no club during half-term. To book your child's place visit: <https://www.readysetstage.co.uk/copy-of-after-school-clubs>

Elizabeth House After School Clubs

Break Dance: Mondays (12th September – 12th December, 13 sessions) 1 hour session (Times TBC)

Mindfulness and Yoga: Tuesdays (13th September – 13th December, 13 sessions) 1 hour session (Times TBC)

Cooking Club: Wednesdays (14th September – 14th December, 13 sessions) 3:30 – 5pm

Coding Club: Thursdays (15th September – 15th December, 13 sessions) 1 hour session (Times TBC)

Cooking Club: Fridays (16th September – 9th December, 12 sessions) 3:30 – 5pm

If parents/carers would like information on the above clubs, then email ChildrensActivities@elizabeth-house.org.uk

Lab_13 News

Lab 13 Year 6 Science Committee 2021 – 2022

I would like to thank the Year 6 Science Committee members for giving up their time before school and at lunchtimes to meet, plan, lead and participate in science enrichment activities and events this year. They were involved in the following:

- Judging shortlisted books for the *Royal Society Young People's Book Awards*
- Planning and helping to run a Year 1 lunchtime STEM club
- Planning and filming STEM activities for pupils in Ghana
- Learning about local moths and butterflies from a *Butterfly Conservation* visitor
- Planning a *Wear it Wild* day to raise money for the *World Wildlife Fund* and for *Butterfly Conservation*
- Delivering a *British Science Week* assembly about *Growth*
- Trialling and delivering activities related to forensic science to younger pupils

Here is what some of the committee members had to say:

"I have become better at engaging in scientific conversations." Afrah

"I think I've become better at sharing ideas." Ellen

"I learnt more about forensic science." Charlie

"We got more organised by running different things at the same time." Alice

"We learnt about butterflies and moths." Yusra

Thank you Charlie, Lexie, Cruz, Mohsin, Yusra, Afrah, Ellen, Alice, Sama and Alexa. I look forward to working with new pupils next year.

Eco Committee 2022/23

Gillespie's dedicated Climate Club have been very busy reading and discussing the fifty applications received from pupils keen to be on next year's Eco-Committee. With my help and input from teachers, final decisions have been made and I am proud to announce the following pupils as representatives for each class next year:

Reception: Molly Collins and Ralph Leyne

Year 1: Alexandra Sollo and Asli Deerow

Year 2: Carwyn Skehan and Johanna Lindner

Year 3: Emilia Jorgensen and Chloe White

Year 4: Eli Mullen and Scarlett Steadman

Year 5: Raya Aziz and Artie Merrick Lawless

Year 6: Annam Hamed, Nicolas Sleijffers-Molle, Juliette Caffarri, Lila Thompson, Alice Hewitt, Ella Myers and Zoe Simmonds

In Year 6, our Eco-Committee Management Team (Climate Club members) will take turns representing their class over the course of the year and will be responsible for managing the Eco-Committee with me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Nursery pupils will be chosen to join the committee once they have settled in.

Congratulations and thank you to all the pupils that completed applications. We will be calling on them throughout next year to assist us in working towards making our school more eco-friendly.

Gillespie Parent Questionnaire 2022

Thank you to the families who completed our Parent Survey 2022 based on the Ofsted Questionnaire. Please find below results.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
1. My child is happy at this school	65%	32%	3%		
2. My child feels safe at this school	68%	32%			
3. My child makes good progress at this school	40%	51%	5%	1%	4%
4. My child is well looked after at this school	56%	42%	2%		
5. My child is taught well at this school	50%	43%	3%		4%
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	28%	52%	13%	2%	5%
7. This school ensures the pupils are well behaved	48%	45%	3%		4%
8. This school deals effectively with bullying	27%	24%	7%		42%
9. This school is well led and managed	58%	36%	2%	2%	2%
10. This school responds well to any concern I raise	53%	35%	3%	1%	8%
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	37%	42%	18%	2%	1%
12. The school communicates effectively with parents & carers	47%	38%	11%	3%	1%
13. My child has the opportunity to join in with clubs taking place after school (<i>not available to nursery children</i>)	43%	48%	5%		4%
14. I am satisfied with the quality of school meals provided	22%	42%	14%	7%	15%
15. I would recommend this school to another parent	68%	28%	3%		1%

Reminders:

Meet the teacher

This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher and for them to talk about routines including homework, PE timetables and communication.

Tuesday 6 th September	3:40-4:10pm Year 1 4:30-5:00pm Year 2
Wednesday 7 th September	3:40-4:10pm Year 3 4:30-5:00pm Year 4
Thursday 8 th September	3:40-4:10pm Year 5 4:30-5:00pm Year 6

Year 1 & 2 Learning

It was a real treat for Year 1 and 2 watching Room on the Broom at Tall Stories. The show was so engaging and the cast and crew were something else! Sending a huge thank you to them all for such a special experience. We can't wait to be at Tall Stories again soon.



Y1 have spent this half term taste testing different fruits & vegetables. They designed, prepared and ate their very own salad. Then evaluated it to see if they could make it even better next time. Have a look in their art book and see what they thought of each item of food.

Wednesday 15th June 2022

WALT taste different fruit and vegetables and say which we like and don't like.

We looked at the different ways in which fruit and vegetables can be cut. Steph sliced, grated and chopped different fruit and vegetables, which we tasted. We then recorded how much or little we liked each one.

I really loved it 😊 I liked it a lot 😊 It was okay 😐 I really didn't like it 😞

salad leaves 😊	vine tomatoes 😊	baby plum tomatoes 😊	radishes 😊	broccoli 😊	grated carrot 😊	sliced carrot 😊
grated beetroot 😊	coriander 😊	parsley 😊	cucumber slices 😊	cucumber chunks 😊	orange pepper 😊	red pepper 😊

apples olives salt salad!



Summer Reading Challenge 2022

GADGETEERS

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP

IGNITING
IMAGINATION
INSPIRING
INNOVATORS

20 YEARS THE
READING
AGENCY

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest **free** reading for pleasure programme for children.

The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to **keep reading during the summer holidays**.

At the heart of the Summer Reading Challenge is a child's ability to shape their reading journey. Help us to spread the word that reading for pleasure is free and fun!



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE



© The Reading Agency. Registered charity number 1085443 (England & Wales)

Full Summer Reading Challenge Details Here:
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Summer Holiday clubs and provision in Islington

Arsenal Football Club Summer Camp

We are delighted to say we are running a free 'Back to School' Double Club Camp at the Hub at the end of the Summer Holiday. The camp is for **children in KS2 from September** (Years 3 to 6 for the 2022/23 academic year)

The camp will run every day between **9.30am and 12.30pm** from **Tuesday 30th August and Friday 2nd September** at **The Hub**, which is located by the Emirates Stadium.

If you would like your child to attend please complete the 'Expression of Interest Form' and we will contact you with the details. Click here for the ['Expression of Interest Form'](#)

There are limited spaces so **please fill in the form as soon as possible to ensure a place for your child.**

Once you have completed the 'Expression of Interest Form' you will receive further information on the camp.

Thanks in advance and we hope to see you at the Hub!

Best wishes,
The Primary Schools Team
Arsenal Football Club



Ready Set Stage

Ready Set Stage are hosting their first set of exciting & energetic performing arts, summer workshops! We'll be doing Breakdancing, Musical Theatre, TV, Film & Script Writing, Krumping and Afrobeats. Every Thursday, throughout the summer, our students will learn and practice, different skills in each speciality lesson, all whilst having fun!

Location: Laycock Primary School 26 Laycock St, London N1 1AH

Price: £12 per workshop.

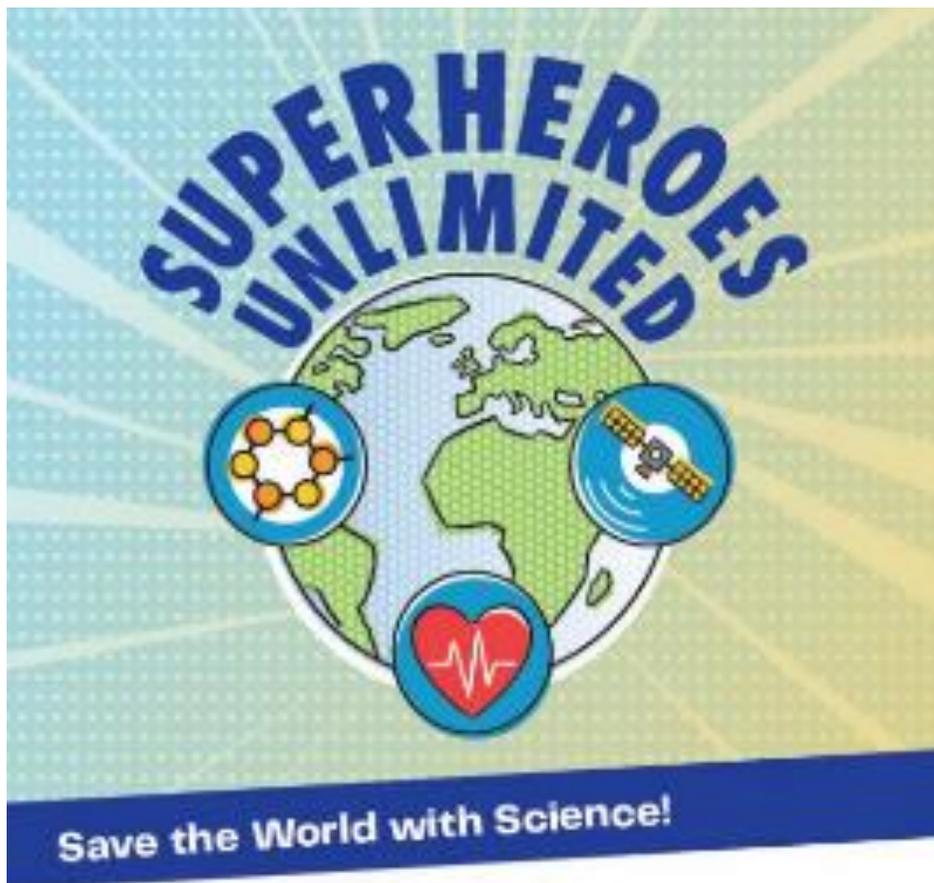
For more Information please www.readysetstage.co.uk

Adventure Playgrounds provide Fun, safe and exciting outdoor play activities. No need to book, but children need to register.

There are Holiday Activities and Food Free activities along with a free, healthy and nutritious meal for families with children aged 5-16 eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Some other children also qualify. Visit [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\)](#) for details.

For activities aimed at young people aged 13+ check out [Summerversity](#), and for young people aged 16+ see our Launchpad courses.

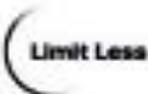
For details on activities for all ages, visit [Heatwave 2022](#).



Free family-friendly exhibition and events programme

Calling all budding superheroes! Join us for a superpowered summer adventure! Perfect for families with children aged 7-9

37 Caledonian Road, N1 9BU
25th July – 26th August 2022,
Monday – Friday, 10.00 – 16.00



IOP Institute of Physics

Free Events in Islington

Family days will take place at the Institute of Physics (37 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9BU), with other events happening across the London Borough of Islington (see details below).

- **Thursday 28th July, 10.00 – 16.00, Family Day**

Join us for a special launch event for the exhibition during its opening week. Be one of the first to visit the exhibition and take part in hands on activities and experiments! Free refreshments will be available. Registration required.

- **Wednesday 3rd August – Islington PlayDay**

The IOP will be bringing along outdoor activities to be part of the PlayDay. No registration needed.

- **Wednesday 10th August, 14.00 – 16.00**

IOP at the summer reading challenge with Islington Libraries. No registration needed.

- **Saturday 20th August, 10.00 – 16.00, Family Day**

Join us for a special Saturday opening of the IOP building. Visit the exhibition and take part in a drop-in creative workshop inspired by our science superheroes that help and heal. Free refreshments will be available. Registration required.

- **Thursday 25th August, 14.00 – 16.00**

IOP at the summer reading challenge with Islington Libraries. No registration needed.

For full events information, registration and exhibition opening times, please visit: iop.org/SuperheroesUnlimited

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS IN ISLINGTON

Throughout the school holidays and in partnership with Islington Council, we are proud to be able to offer a variety of FREE swimming lessons for children and families. Lessons will include:

- Adult and child lessons - 5 week course for under 3's
- Swim Lessons for 4 -13 year olds - intensive lessons Monday - Friday for 1 or 2 weeks
- Teen swimming lessons 13 -16 year olds - intensive lessons Monday - Friday for 1 or 2 weeks
- Family swim lessons - 5 week course for up to 2 adults and 2 children to learn to swim together and enjoy the pool together

See timetable overleaf.

To book please scan QR code or visit website at better.org.uk/free-swimming-lessons

You can email for more information at summer.lessons@gll.org



Scan to book

BETTER

 **ISLINGTON**
For a more equal future



FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

We have a variety of different options for you to choose from - including the rare chance to learn to swim together, as a family. Swimming is an important life skill that will enable you to safely enjoy the water for a lifetime so why not take the opportunity to learn, this year, for free.

May Half Term

4-16 year olds

Archway Leisure Centre	8.30am - 10.30am	Highbury Leisure Centre	9.00am - 11.00am
Cally Pool and Gym	9.00am - 11.30am	Ironmonger Row Baths	10.00am - 12.00pm

Summer Holidays

4-13 year olds

Archway Leisure Centre	8.30am - 10.30am	Highbury Leisure Centre	9.00am - 11.00am
Cally Pool and Gym	9.00am - 11.30am	Ironmonger Row Baths	1.00pm - 3.00pm

Free Swim Lessons 13-16 year olds

Cally Pool and Gym	11.30am - 12.15pm	Ironmonger Row	12.15pm - 1.00pm
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Free Swim Lessons 16-21 year olds

Cally Pool and Gym	11.30am - 12.15pm	Ironmonger Row	12.15pm - 1.00pm
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Adult and Baby Lessons

Highbury Leisure Centre	Wednesday and Friday	11.00am - 12.00pm
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Family Swim Lessons

Cally Pool and Gym	Tuesday	12.15pm - 12.45pm - 5 week course
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October Half Term

4-16 year olds

Archway Leisure Centre	8.30am - 10.30am	Highbury Leisure Centre	9.00am - 11.00am
Cally Pool and Gym	9.00am - 11.30am	Ironmonger Row Baths	1.00pm - 3.00pm

Spaces are limited so make sure you book yours today.

Terms and conditions and Swim Safety rules apply. Speak to a member of staff for details. Offer available at participating Better leisure centres in Islington only. Maximum of five weeks available. Spaces subject to availability. Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no: XR43398