



Friday 9th September 2022

Newsletter 369

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to 2022/23

Welcome to new families in Nursery, Reception and those joining Years 1-6 this term. Children look rested and have shown that they are ready for new learning and fun at Gillespie this term. We hope that parents have found our meet the teacher events useful and we look forward to a very successful autumn term!



Rest in Peace Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022

Today we had a special assembly to reflect on the life of our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II. In particular, we focused on the special place that children had in her heart and after a thoughtful assembly children enjoyed once again watching her Majesty having tea with Paddington Bear at Buckingham Palace. Her sense of fun was irrepressible and felt by all our children!

An online Book of Condolence for those who wish to leave messages is available on the Royal website:

<https://www.royal.uk/send-message-condolence>.

Admission arrangements

Secondary admissions

Year 6 families have been sent an email from the Islington Admissions team with information about the application process and deadline for applying for places in Secondary School for September 2023.

We invite you to attend a transition meeting with a colleague from the Islington Admissions Team on Tuesday 20th September at 3:45pm in the Year 6 Classroom.

Primary admissions

The application process for Nursery aged children will open shortly with a deadline of January 2023. The primary admissions booklet will be made available online shortly at www.islington.gov.uk/admissions.

We have some school tours coming up on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am for families who wish to look around the school. Please email the school office for available dates.

Diary dates

WKBG 12 th September	After School Clubs begin
WKBG 19 th September	Hour of Code Week
Tuesday 20 th September	3:45pm Y6 Secondary Transition meeting
October	Black History Month
Thursday 6 th October	World Poetry Day
Monday 10 th October	Mental Health Day
WKBG 17 th October	PSHE wellbeing week
Thursday 20 th October	FoG Halloween Disco
Monday 24 th – Friday 28 th October	Half term

School term and holiday dates 2022/23

Autumn Term 2022

24th – 28th October
Friday 16th December

Half Term
Last day of Autumn Term

Spring Term 2023

Tuesday 3rd January
Wednesday 4th January
13th – 17th February
Friday 31st March

INSET Day
First day of Spring Term for pupils
Half Term
Last day of Spring Term

Summer Term 2023

Monday 17th April
Tuesday 18th April
Monday 1st May
29th May – 2nd June
Thursday 20th July
Friday 21st July

INSET Day
First day of Summer Term for pupils
Bank Holiday (school closed)
Half Term
Last day of Summer Term
INSET Day

*2023/24 Term Dates are now available on our website

Cost of living

Islington Council have issued this letter in regards to the cost of living and help available for families in the borough: <https://tinyurl.com/22jj57h2>.

Polio vaccination clinics

The NHS has recently written to all parents and carers who have children aged 1-9 in London to inform them of the availability of a polio vaccine booster.

Children aged 6-9 can access the vaccine at local clinics. A walk-in clinic for children aged 6-9 only is open at [Hornsey Central Vaccination Clinic](#) seven days a week, 8am-8pm for the polio booster vaccine. Parents should bring their child's redbook. There is free parking onsite. Other local clinics are available for walk-ins and appointments.

For children aged 1-5 years, parents and carers will be contacted by the NHS to book a polio vaccination.

Autumn term 2022 After School Club Timetable

All clubs begin week beginning Monday 12th September.

There is still time to register, please contact Ready Set Stage or Elizabeth House directly to book.

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

Current Coronavirus Guidelines

Pupils and schools should continue to follow relevant [public health advice relating to COVID-19](#). The guidance states:

Children and young people (aged 18 years and under) who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19

Respiratory infections are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months. Symptoms can be caused by several respiratory infections including the common cold, COVID-19 and RSV.

For most children and young people, these illnesses will not be serious, and they will soon recover following rest and plenty of fluids.

Very few children and young people with respiratory infections become seriously unwell. This is also true for children and young people with long-term conditions.

Attending education is hugely important for children and young people's health and their future.

When children and young people with symptoms should stay at home and when they can return to education

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

All children and young people with respiratory symptoms should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.

Testing

It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.



Little Wandle Rocket Fund Update

Last term we launched our Rocket Fund raising money for additional resources for our new phonic scheme Little Wandle. We are ecstatic that we exceeded our target of £1,400 and raised an amazing £1,727.50. A huge thank you to our Gillespie community for your support and generosity!

FREE tennis session Finsbury Park

The Access To Sports Tennis team are hosting a free tennis fun afternoon which will be after school between 3:30-5:00 on Thursday 29th of September down at the courts in Finsbury Park. Access To sports have been coaching the children at Gillespie for the past 2 terms and they would be delighted if Gillespie children went along to their tennis afternoon.



Wishing families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mark Owen Headteacher

Friends of Gillespie (FoG) News

Last year was a hugely successful year for FoG, getting back on our feet again after Covid, running brilliant events, and being able to support the school by funding vital activities for our children. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen in whatever way.

Here is a breakdown of what we raised and what we funded.

The FoG AGM (more details to follow) will be an opportunity to shape plans for the coming year on events, fundraising and how money raised is spent. We'd love to see and hear from as many Gillespie families there as possible. If you can't make it there will be other opportunities to have your say.

What we raised last year

Fundraiser	Date	Net income
Parental Donations		£ 1,382
Autumn Fayre	25-Sep-2021	£ 2,776
Halloween Disco	21-Oct-2021	£ 858
Festive for FoG (non-uniform day)	16-Dec-2021	£ 82
Carol Singing Bucket Shake	11-Dec-2021	£ 703
Christmas Mini Event	17-Dec-2021	£ 362
Movie Night	13-Mar-2022	£ 405
Bake Sale (01/04) Y2	01-Apr-2022	£ 218
Bake + Uniform Sale (28-Apr) Y1	28-Apr-2022	£ 208
Donations @ International Evening	12-May-2022	£ 146
Bake Sale (20/05) Y6	20-May-2022	£ 162
Quiz Night	16-Jun-2022	£ 714
Bake Sale (08-Jul) Rec	08-Jul-2022	£ 221
Summer Fair *	16-Jul-2022	£ 5,599
Sales of Tote Bags (so far)		£ 49
Christmas Cards (2020 Revenue)		£ 464
TOTAL		£ 14,349

*Note amended Summer Fair total from that advertised in last school newsletter

What school activities we funded last year

Description	Payments from Unrestricted Funds	Payments from Restricted Funds*
KS2 Strings Tutor (Summer term previous year)	£ (2,100)	
Forest School (Summer term previous year)	£ (1,000)	
KS2 Strings Tutor		£ (6,300)
Playground Shelter Surfacing		£ (13,000)
Forest School (Reception)	£ (4,375)	
New Phonics Letter & Sounds Curriculum **	£ (8,508)	
Annual classroom budgets (£200 per class)	£ (1,600)	
Provision for Volunteer DBS Checks	£ (180)	
EYFS Workshop (Autumn Term)	£ (310)	
Workshops for EYFS, KS1 & KS2 (Autumn Term)	£ (200)	
Y3 Celtic Harmony Trip Coach Hire	£ (525)	
Y2 Off the Page – Great Fire of London	£ (300)	
Y1 Off the Page – History of Toys	£ (300)	
KS1 workshop with George Fay from October Gallery	£ (120)	
Y1 Class Trip – Golden Hinde	£ (104)	
Whole School Shakespeare Workshop	£ (848)	
Y6 Cardfields Trip subsidised places	£ (600)	
Class Trips (Yr. 1, 3, 5 & 6) Summer Term	£ (420)	
TOTAL	£ (21,490)	£ (19,300)

* The restricted funds were a one-off donation of £20,000 to the school specifically to fund a year of strings tutoring and the playground shelter surfacing works

** Exceptional payment by FoG to cover costs of materials for new phonics curriculum

Year 2 Learning

There were Imaginative Insects everywhere in Y2 this week when they made origami monster bookmarks.



We read the book 'One is a Snail Ten is a Crab' by April Pulley Sayre and Jeff Sayre to see how different numbers can be represented using the number of legs that animals have. Then we created our own flapbook and chose four numbers to represent using the animals from the story. We then shared our flapbooks with each other.

