



Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

# Newsletter 372

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



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Black History Month

October heralds the start of Black History Month and along with schools around the country we will be engaging children in finding out more about black history and heritage and the significant contribution black people have made to the history of these islands. If families wish to engage in some of the events and activities that are marking black history in Islington see: <https://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/BHM-2022-brochure.pdf>

## Harvest Assembly

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October we will be celebrating our harvest assembly. We will be organising a collection for Food Bank Aid the week of 10<sup>th</sup> October – more details to follow next week.

## Attendance Matters

Attendance is extremely important to us at Gillespie and we aim for pupils to achieve 97% and above. In order to maintain this we remind families of our school procedures including:

- If your child cannot attend school you must call or email to inform the office by 9:30am. If we are unable to take your call please leave a message on the answer machine detailing reason for absence so we can ensure we use the appropriate code
- School starts at 8:55am. Registers close at 9:05am; children arriving after this time MUST sign in on the electronic system at the office
- Where possible, please arrange medical appointments outside of school hours. If this is difficult, later in the afternoon (after 2:00pm) would be preferable so that time missed in school is limited. You must provide a copy of the appointment letter to the school office.

The information below shows how attendance can affect your child's future progression.

### Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year (12 sessions)

Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.

### 95%: 10 days absence a year (20 sessions)

These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week absence every year can only achieve 95% attendance.

### 90%: 19 days absence a year (38 sessions)

The Government classifies young people in this group as "Persistent Absentees", and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work. Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by the Local Authority.

## Flu immunisation

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Vaccination UK on behalf of NHS England will be visiting school on the date above to offer immunisation against flu to all children from Reception to Year 6. Nursery pupils should contact their GP regarding immunisation.

ALL families must complete an application form, even if you do not want your child to have the flu immunisation. You can complete the form here: <https://london.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2022/islington>

Full details about the immunisation process can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/2zph8amk>

## FREE Arsenal in the Community football for KS2 girls

We are delighted to announce that we are currently running 4 **FREE, weekly football development sessions** in Islington, **for primary school girls, in KS2!**

The sessions will take place, on the days and times and the locations below:

### **Mondays - The Arsenal Hub**

4-5pm - Y3 and Y4 Girls

### **Thursdays - The Arsenal Hub**

4-5pm - Y3 and Y4 Girls

### **Fridays - St Johns Highbury Vale Primary School**

4:45-5:45pm - Y3 and Y4 Girls

5:45-6:45 - Y5 and Y6 Girls

The sessions will aim to provide primary school girls, from local schools, with fun and engaging sessions, that will develop their skills.

Places are limited and so **registration for these sessions, will be on a first come, first served basis**. A waiting list will be created for any parents and participants that complete the form, after the group capacity has been reached.

**Parents can register their interest using, the expression of interest form below.** Please to circulate in your parents network and through any of the school's news channels.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=GrmMBuCL10m-OiqZCwuglYM0uVT\\_sG9BkKxgeVtGseZUQzlxQVVCS0xMWVozS0JLUTE0TUhIRFpZNY4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=GrmMBuCL10m-OiqZCwuglYM0uVT_sG9BkKxgeVtGseZUQzlxQVVCS0xMWVozS0JLUTE0TUhIRFpZNY4u)

Please direct any queries to Football Plus Coordinator, James Warnock - [jwarnock@arsenal.co.uk](mailto:jwarnock@arsenal.co.uk)

## Lab\_13 Learning

Eco-Committee are carrying out an environmental review. They found safe and dry places where bikes and scooters can be stored and noted the vegetation bordering the school preventing air pollution.



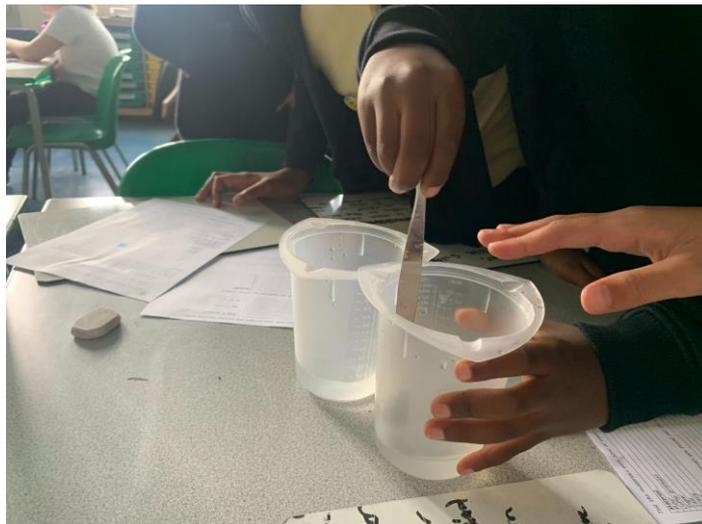
## Nursery Learning

Nursery class have been celebrating Rosh Hashanah the Jewish New Year by eating apples & honey and making special cards.



## Year 5 Learning

In Year 5 we were conducting a fair test about mixing and dissolving some materials in water by checking which ones can be dissolved or not.



## Sporting Success Year 5/6 Football

This week our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Islington Primary Football Competition. We were pleased we made it through to the finals day but sadly lost out in the end. However, the children all played brilliantly and what a fantastic team effort! Well done!



Dear Friends of Gillespie (FoG),

Now that term is well and truly underway, the FoG team wanted to update you on our initial plans for this term and the school year.

For anyone new to the school, FoG is the Gillespie Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and exists to advance and enrich the education of all pupils through additional activities, experiences, outings or school improvements that are paid for by year-round, social and fundraising efforts by members.

Among other things, this year FoG is due to fund:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £200 classroom budget for each year group</li><li>• Forest school for reception and Y1</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Around £500 for a trip for each class</li><li>• Strings tutor for years 4, 5 and 6</li></ul>
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There's a core team that makes decisions on behalf of FoG (see below), but all parents, carers and school staff are members.

On Wednesday we held the FoG annual general meeting and were really pleased to see so many parents and carers there and hear ideas for FoG. Anyone who couldn't make it (we get that it's tricky to make meetings in the working day) can catch up by reading [the slides](#) we would have shown in the meeting had technology not defeated us.

We'll share minutes of the meeting in next week's newsletter, but the key things to know are:

- Thanks to our fantastic class reps and all the parents/carers who organised and took part in events, last year was a great year for FoG, restoring activity after the pandemic.
- FoG has a healthy bank balance, but at the moment we're spending more than we can raise.
- We have ideas for raising more money – and we're sure lots of you will have ideas too – but we need more help to make them happen.
- This can be as little as the hour it takes to make a cake for a bake sale or as much as being part of a team organising a parent bingo or quiz night.
- If we don't raise more funds we'll all have to make some difficult decisions about what FoG stops paying for next year.
- We are looking for a co-chair! The role involves working with Sarah to lead the team and is a commitment of about 4hrs per month, a bit more ahead of the summer fair. You'd be joining a fantastic and fun group of parents and it's a great way to get to know people. Please speak to Sarah (07970606543) if you're interested.

We know there are lots of people who want to help, so our job is to make that happen by setting out really clearly how you can get involved in existing plans or set something up yourself.

We'll share more on this in next week's newsletter, so watch this space...

In the meantime, we're aiming to get class reps together to discuss plans for this year and will share more info on that and who this year's class reps are very soon.

Please say hi if you see any of us around, we'd love to chat! (If you don't know who we are, our photos are in the notice board by the school gate).

<b>Sarah Clements</b> (Chair and mum of Thomas in Y2)	<b>Karen Cattini</b> (Secretary and mum of Bertie in Y2 and Bella in Y5)
<b>Ebru Onal</b> (Treasurer and mum of Elise in Y2 and Harley in nursery)	<b>Jenny Maresh</b> (Treasurer and mum of Lyra in Y5)
<b>Candice Bingham</b> (mum of India in reception and Rowan in Y4)	<b>Jacqui Barrett</b> (mum of Maggie in Y2 and Mary in Y6)
<b>Patrick Keegan</b> (dad of Lois in Y2 and Jim in Y5)	

## Ongoing reminders:

### Class assemblies

Class assemblies take place on Thursday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please put these dates in your diaries:

Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Year 1
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 2
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 3

### Diary dates

October	Black History Month
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	World Poetry Day
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Mental Health Day
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest festival
WKBG 17 <sup>th</sup> October	PSHE wellbeing week
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	FoG Halloween Disco
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Half term</b>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance assembly
WKBG 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying week
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu immunisations Reception to Year 6
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	2:00-7:30pm Parent consultation meetings
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Christmas music performances FoG Christmas Fair
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas carol concert Last day of school term, school finishes 2pm