



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

# Newsletter 377

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



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Remembrance Day

Today we held our annual Remembrance Assembly to commemorate lives lost during the First World War and subsequent wars. Today children learned about the significance of the beautiful Skylark to poets and composers who had fought in the trenches during WWI and they listened to Vaughan Williams beautiful composition 'Lark ascending' during their silence. Reception Class made some beautiful cupcake case poppies to wear.



## Anti-Bullying Week – Reach Out Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November



This year's Anti-Bullying Week theme is 'Reach Out' and the aim is to empower us to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

With emphasis on those affected to:

- Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk.
- Reach out to someone you know is being bullied.
- Reach out and consider a new approach.

Anti-Bullying Week will remind everyone whether it's in school, at home, in the

community or online, let's reach out and show each other the support we need. Children will share their learning and activities in next week's special assembly which we will also share in the next newsletter.

We will be starting the week with

### Odd Socks Day on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November

so please come in with Odd Socks on! We will then do some other activities through the week in class to advocate anti-bullying.



## SPOTacular for Children in Need

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November children can dress spotty, stripey, in pyjamas or non-uniform for a donation towards **Children in Need**. Please don't buy any new clothes for your children! If you do not have any spots or stripes please encourage them to make/re-use/recycle! Donations can be made here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gillespiespot>



## Year 2 Class Assembly

Well done to the Year 2 class who wowed us with their wonderful history assembly about the Great Fire of London. As well as entertaining the school the children demonstrated how they have become real historians this term finding out about this momentous event in British history from primary and secondary sources of evidence. Parents were very impressed with their fantastic children.

## Year 6 Swimming

Today marks the end of the Year 6 two week intensive swimming lessons at Highbury Pool. The children really enjoyed the lessons and gained an enormous amount of confidence in the water, with many achieving their 25m award. Huge congratulations to those who achieved their 'life saver award' by diving in fully clothed to save the drowning dummy! A big thank you to Hassan, Mariam and Sally for all their great efforts in getting the children back and forth every day for the last two weeks, they also deserve a medal.



## 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>

Additional information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/4x5ypfjz>

## Creation Station

On Monday we launched our new Creation Station in the playground and are thrilled to see it in action at lunchtimes. All classes have had their first opportunity to engage with activities including construction, small world play, role-play and board games this week. Our wonderful Playground Buddy Creation Station Assistants have taken a fantastic lead on organising activities, ensuring children put equipment away and supporting children of all age ranges to collaborate with each other in a creative way. We are delighted to see that children in Year 6 are just as keen to take part in small world play and construction as children in Year 1!



### Year 3 Learning

On Monday Year 3 travelled back into (a wet) Stone Age Era this week. Now we know how to fight Mammoths and make shelters!



### Ongoing reminders:

#### Primary admissions

Applications are open for families applying for Reception Class places in September 2023.

For children born between	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019
Deadline to apply	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Islington Council primary admissions booklet	<a href="https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/educationandskills/information/adviceandguidance/20222023/primary-booklet-20232024-(2).pdf">https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/educationandskills/information/adviceandguidance/20222023/primary-booklet-20232024-(2).pdf</a>
Online application to be made here	<a href="http://www.eadmissions.org.uk">www.eadmissions.org.uk</a>
Offer day	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023

#### Class assemblies

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

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

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

Wishing families a lovely weekend.  
Mark Owen, Headteacher

# Can You Help?

In my role as Scientist in Residence and Lead of the Islington Science for Life Partnership of schools, I am keen to have pupils meet scientists and people who use science in their daily job. I would like pupils to have the opportunity to engage with scientists and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) ambassadors so that they may learn about their background; their career journey and so that they may ask them questions about their jobs.

Although there are a number of platforms that provide links to STEM ambassadors and scientists, a response is not always forthcoming. I am sure that there are scientists and STEM ambassadors amongst you in our parent/carer community and so I am reaching out to you to ask if you would like to be involved in a small way in future events. This might involve making a short presentation at an assembly or a collaborative event with pupils and families from other Islington schools. At these events, scientists and STEM ambassadors typically meet and chat to pupils informally; undertake science activities with them and answer their questions following a short presentation.

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, I will be hosting a science and black history event to celebrate the achievements of black scientists. Pupils from Gillespie and other Islington primary schools will be in attendance. I am currently seeking scientists/STEM ambassadors to attend this event and future events.

Please do let me know if you are interested in becoming involved in some way now, or in the future by contacting me on this e-mail address: [mebegley@gillespie.islington.sch.uk](mailto:mebegley@gillespie.islington.sch.uk)

I look forward to hearing more about the expertise that exists within our Gillespie community.

Kind regards,  
Megan Begley  
Scientist in Residence – Lab\_13  
Lead of Science for Life Partnership



**STEM** Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Mathematics



# FoG News

A belated welcome back from the FoG team!



Now that it's the second half of the term, we're starting to make plans for the **Winter Fair**, which is after school on **Thursday 15 December**. There will be the usual festive fun, plus an exciting science café this year, so mark it in your diaries...

We're aiming for each class to run a stall like at the summer fair, so watch out for a call for helpers with that from class reps later this month.

We're also looking for people to help with set-up, tidy-up and some other exciting jobs in the run-up to the fair. **If you're up for getting involved, contact Sarah (07970606543)**



Thanks again to everyone who helped organise and took part in the Halloween disco. It raised a fantastic **£1,760**, which will all go towards enriching activities for Gillespie children.

**Remember, it's possible to support FoG through a regular or one-off donation.**

All the money raised by FoG goes towards extra-curricular activities for Gillespie children.

There is no obligation to give and it can be as much or as little as you can afford. **To donate**, [click here](#) or scan the QR code on the noticeboard next to the playground gates.