



Friday 16th December 2022

Newsletter 382

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Festive Round Up!

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our festive last week of term! Well done to all our talented and brilliant children who ALL contributed to our Christmas Show – The Grinch who stole the Christmas of Gillespie. The acting, singing and instrument playing was sublime; including a surprise additional acting scene involving Gillespie staff! We had a special surprise visit from Dwight Pile-Gray who leads Music Education Islington who was really impressed with our talented children. A huge thanks to all staff and parents who helped our children with costumes, practising their lines and with rehearsals. A special thanks to our music maestro (director and producer) of the play Orlando Clarkson.

A huge thanks to our amazing FoG team and to many Gillespie staff who ran a fantastic winter fair after school on Wednesday, continuing the winter festivities in to the evening! And many thanks to Fatma, Jackie, Gani and Mavis our school catering team who provided a brilliant Christmas dinner yesterday enjoyed by all.

It has been a fantastic and hardworking Autumn term. I know all of our staff are exhausted and most of our children are in need of a holiday as well. They have worked and played hard all term! A big thank you to everybody who, as ever, has contributed to our lovely school to ensure that our children get the best possible education. We hope you all have a good rest over the Christmas holidays and come back refreshed and ready for the New Year.

Farewell Zois

A big thank you to Zois who has been teaching our Year 5 class this term. We will all miss you and wish you good luck in the next stage of your life. Chloe will be our Year 5 teacher from the Spring term and we look forward to welcoming her to the Gillespie family.

Attendance Matters



Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
12/12/2022

Year 4

Class	Attendance percentage WB 12/12/22
Nursery	71.54%
Reception	88.47%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	95.67%
Year 3	92.67%
Year 4	96.67%
Year 5	93.21%
Year 6	86%
Total school attendance	91.02%

Head lice

We have had several cases of head lice (nits) reported in classes across the school and encourage families to check their child's hair over the Christmas break and treat where necessary. There are lots of different treatments available over the counter in the pharmacy which can be used immediately and repeated before the spring term to ensure any lice are cleared before school returns.

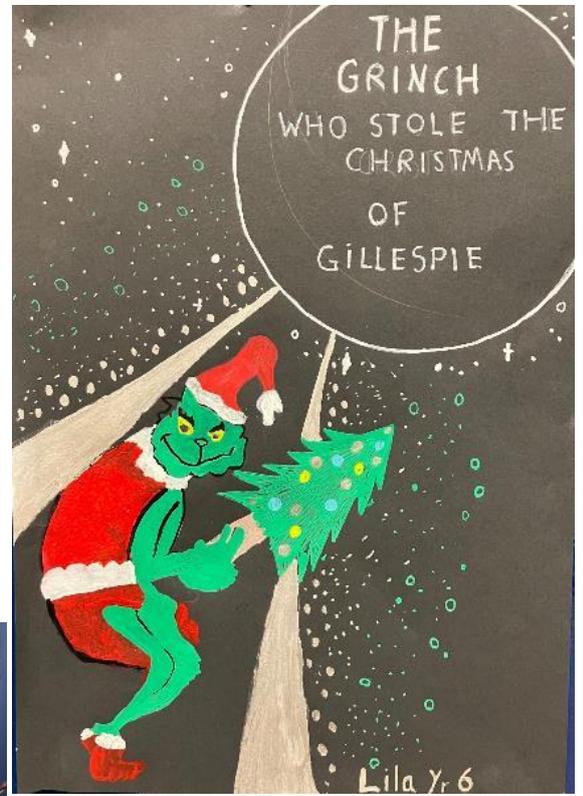
Choose self care

What can I do to help?
Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. Check everyone in the house and treat them on the same day if they have head lice.
The first step is to try the wet combing method with everyday conditioner.

Treatments available to buy over the counter include head lice combs and medicated lotions or sprays. Always read the information leaflets provided with the medicine before using the treatments on your family.

When should I see a GP?
If you or someone in your family have enlarged glands in the neck, and/or a sticky, weeping scalp. Or if after many attempts, you cannot clear the head lice infestation.

Festive Fun!



A Winter Wonderland

How beautiful did Gillespie look this week in the snow. The foundation stage certainly made the most of it.



Reception Learning

Last week Reception Class visited St Thomas's Church in Finsbury Park to learn about the nativity story. Thank you to Reverend Alice for a wonderful trip!



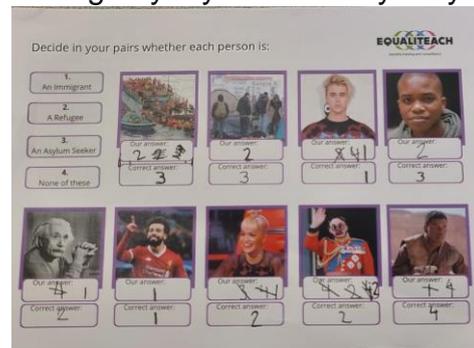
Year 2 Learning

Y2 explored the poem 'This is the City' by Kathy Henderson. They ordered statements & exclamations to create a city poem linked to our whole class reading text, Claude in the City. They finished by writing city poems describing the sights, sounds & feelings of the city.



Year 6 Learning

Y6 loved their EqualTeach 'Home from Home' workshop discussing themes of immigration- increasing young people's knowledge of immigration issues and combating any myths that they may hold.



Year 5 Learning

Year 5 engaged in a workshop provided by EqualTeach as part of their PSHE learning about stereotypes and discrimination. The children developed their confidence by discussing and sharing opinions about visible and non-visible disabilities in our society.



Winter Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch programme this winter is offering eligible children and young people from Reception to Year 11 free healthy holiday activities with a meal. The programme will run from 19 – 23 December and 28 - 30 December.

Who is Eligible? **Families whose children:**

- are eligible for benefits-related free school meals (FSM)
- have Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCP)
- have social workers or family support workers

Find out what activities are on at www.islington.gov.uk/lunchbunch

For further support, please contact the Family Information Services: fis@islington.gov.uk

What's been happening in Lab 13?

Firstly, I would like to say a very big thank you to all the Year 5 and 6 pupils who helped support younger pupils undertake inventing lessons whilst celebrating the work of black scientists. Many of them gave up part of their break. It was a great opportunity for them to improve their leadership and communication skills.



Similarly, pupils from Years 4 – 6 have displayed great maturity helping out each week at the Year 1 and 2 after school science club. Over the last couple of weeks pupils have been matching animals to their x-rays and have been stating why they know which animal group they belong to. I have thoroughly enjoyed strengthening the pupils' understanding of the sciences; familiarising them with scientists and helping them to see what it means to behave like a scientist. The Year 1 and 2 pupils embraced the activities over autumn with enthusiasm and it has been a pleasure teaching them. I look forward to meeting the Year 3 and 4 pupils in the New Year at our spring science club.



In November, pupils from our science committee (Years 1 – 6) undertook and led science activities alongside pupils from other Islington schools. They made a poster celebrating the achievements of Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock and worked together well to deliver activities related to space. Paul Brown MBE, manager of the Mechanical Instrumentation Workshop in the Department of Physics at Imperial College and Alfred John, a British Standards Institution engineer joined in, made presentations and answered questions. Thank you to the parents who attended and completed the activities.



Our Gillespie Eco-Committee have now developed an action plan in response to their findings from the environmental review. They will communicate their aims in the New Year to the whole school community at assemblies and via the newsletter.

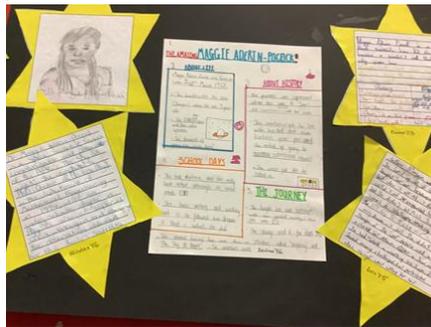


Year 3 visited Lab_13 to review rock types and how they are formed. They demonstrated their understanding by making different types of rocks out of chocolate. Well done to their teacher Florie. I was very impressed by the knowledge they displayed.

Year 4 thought about, and discussed how they might test the effectiveness of a new whistle for the referee at the World Cup. They had some great ideas for how to carry out different investigations. They used data loggers to measure the loudness of a whistle at different distances; discussed the results and what might have affected the results; and then represented their findings in a bar chart.

At the Christmas Fayre, pupils created some beautiful pictures of the Northern Lights and took home information about auroras. Thank you to the Institute of Physics who provided Winter Activity and Superhero resources for families to take home.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday.
Meg in Lab_13





HUGE thanks to everyone who helped make the Winter Fair such a success.

There are too many people to list here, but it wouldn't have been possible without all the help from parents, carers, teachers, school staff, and former pupils.

This was the first winter fair since before the pandemic and we're really interested to hear what you think worked well and what we could do improve for next time. We're collecting feedback through [this form](#).

Thank you to all FoG members (that's all of you!) for everything you've done this year to support Friends of Gillespie events and raise money for activities that all of our children enjoy, including forest school, strings tutor, History Off the Page. We'll update you on FoG plans for the spring term in January.

Parent Pledge Secret Auction

Thanks to everyone who pledged and bid for items the FoG Parent Pledge and thank you to Jacqui Barrett for the amazing effort to mastermind and run it. *The highest bids combined totalled £4,500 - an incredible total!*

If you were the highest bidder you'll have heard from Jacqui. Payment can either be through the [donation portal](#) (please don't add Gift Aid as these payments aren't eligible) or a bank transfer (Friends of Gillespie, 95164553, 60-08-22, your name as the reference). If you bid and haven't heard from Jacqui, this means sadly you weren't a winner – she's hoping to contact all bidders, but there were hundreds. Thank you all for your generosity!





Carol Singing Bucket Shake Saturday 17 December, 5pm



Please join us in singing Christmas songs and collecting money for FoG this Saturday before the Arsenal match. Song sheets provided. We'd be thrilled to see as many Gillespie families as possible join in: if singing Christmas carols isn't your thing, your help would still be appreciated - e.g. helping the children hold the fundraising buckets.

We'll meet outside school at 5pm then walk down to near Arsenal Tube station to do the singing. We'll be finished by 6pm when the match starts. More info from Jenny Maresh (07974689701)

Support FoG while you do your Christmas shopping!

If you're buying gifts this month, remember we have two ways of giving while you shop:

- If you shop at Amazon, you can donate 0.5% of the cost of each purchase by buying through Amazon Smile and linking your account with Friends of Gillespie. [More on how to do that here.](#)
- [The Giving Machine](#) allows you to donate to FoG every time you shop at over 2000 online retailers. Register Friends of Gillespie as your cause, and then go through the website or app to your chosen retailer and a portion of your purchase will be donated to FOG.

It's also 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. [Read more about this in newsletter no.378.](#) 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



Ongoing reminders – the information below has not changed

Spring Term After School Clubs

After School Clubs – Spring term

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ready Set Stage				
Performing Arts	Arts & Craft	Singing	Gymnastics	Games
Football (Years 3-6)	Basketball	Football (Years 1&2)		
Elizabeth House				
Break Dance (4-11yo)	Yoga (4-11yo)	Cooking (4-8yo)	Coding (7-11yo)	Cooking (8+yo)
Coding (4-7yo)				

Ready Set Stage

Registration for clubs will open from Monday 5th December. We are pleased to welcome Reception children to clubs this term too! Any questions please get in touch directly with RSS.

Children who are eligible for free school meals will continue to receive one club free of charge, please complete the survey sent via text ASAP.

Where to sign up	www.readysetstage.co.uk from Monday 5 th December
Clubs begin week beginning	Monday 9 th January 2023
Clubs finish week beginning	Monday 20 th March 2023

Elizabeth House

Elizabeth House will be continuing its after school activities during spring term. The clubs are opened to all local children, but places are limited and must be booked in advance and paid for a full term (11 weeks). We will give places on a first come first served basis. Once the classes are full, your child(ren) will be added to a waiting list for the following term.

Prices and times vary slightly so please check each individual activity. All you need to do is complete and submit the form for the club you would like your child(ren) to attend and we will confirm your place before the holidays.

All information is included in the links below or contact Elizabeth House for further information.

- [Monday – Breakdance Club](#) (4 to 11 year olds) 9th January – 27th March (11 sessions)
- [Monday - Coding Club](#) (4 to 7 year olds) 9th January – 27th March (11 sessions)
- [Tuesday – Kids Yoga](#) (4 to 11 year olds) 10th January – 28th March (11 sessions)
- [Wednesday – Cooking Clubs](#) (4 to 8 years olds) 11th January – 22nd March (10 sessions)
- [Thursday – Coding Club](#) (7 to 11 year olds) 12th January – 30th March (11 sessions)
- [Friday – Cooking Clubs](#) (8+) 13th January – 24th March (10 sessions)

A number of families requested coding club for 5 to 6 yr olds, so we have scheduled a class for a Monday. However, we need to have at least 9 children booked in for it to run.

Note that prices do not include school pick-ups as this would require additional staffing. This can be discussed if there are many children from the same school attending one club or if your children attend our after school childcare provision until 6pm.

Working families who need childcare can still book their child into a club and we will look into offering a reduced rate for our after school childcare provision from 3.30 to 6pm.

Our team has worked hard to find amazing tutors and great activities for your children at Elizabeth House.

Please note that these clubs will only run if there are enough children booked for each club.

Make sure, you book your child(ren) by **Monday 12th December** so we can confirm your place before the holidays. Book early!

To book or for more information email ChildrensActivities@elizabeth-house.org.uk

Flu Vaccination Clinics

Has your child missed their
Flu Vaccination at school?



We are running catch up clinics in your
area for the following age groups:

Flu Vaccinations: Reception - Year 9

If you would like an appointment to attend,
please email us at: appointments@v-uk.co.uk
or call 0203 343 2400