



Friday 3rd March 2023

Newsletter 390

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@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

World Book Day Friday 3rd March 2023

We had some incredible costumes in each class this WBD, it was great to see the creativeness of the children and adults at home shine through in the costumes.

We had a very special guest in assembly today. Marianne Levy, Gillespie parent and author of the Ellie May series and Accidental Superstar series came in to talk about how she became an author, the inspiration for her books and to answer questions we had about becoming a writer. She went down to Nursery and Reception and read each class her favourite children's book. Thank you Marianne, we were all very inspired!

We have been reading some of Marianne's books in class. If your child would like to continue to read them, or read a different book in the series, Marianne's books are available to borrow from our school library (these are signed copied!), at the N4 library on Blackstock Road and available to buy at The Book Bar on Blackstock Road.



After School Club collection

Please can we remind families that collection from clubs at Gillespie is 4:30pm and parents should ensure they are outside the main entrance by this time. Thank you.

Attendance Matters



Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
27/02/2023
Year 3 100%

Class	Attendance WB 27/02/23
Reception	90.76%
Year 1	94.17%
Year 2	99.17%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	98.67%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	98.35%
Total school	95.87%

Minor illness & appointments

The most common reason given for children missing day sat school is illness. We appreciate that all children are ill at some time and need to stay home, however, most of the time when children are only mildly unwell they can continue to attend school.

Early morning aches and pains often pass, so we encourage you to bring your child to school. Children can attend school with a slight cold and cough or where they complain of a slight headache. Tell the office how your child is feeling and they will let the class teacher know. School will phone you if your child continues to feel unwell during the day.

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.

For further guidance on whether your child is well enough to attend school at any time, Islington School Nursing have produced a leaflet for parents as a general guide, called '**Minor Illness and School Attendance – a guide for parents/carers**' and can be found [here](#).



NSPCC Number Day

Thank you so much to families who have generously donated to the NSPCC following children's Number Day challenges. We raised an amazing total of £1,087 for the NSPCC!

Year 4 Learning

This week, Year 4 went to the Natural History Museum. We took part in a show about Earthquakes and Volcanoes and explored the different galleries, learning about earthquakes, volcanoes, rocks, and mountain formations.



Support for those affected by the Turkey and Syria Earthquakes

- [Supporting Turkish, Kurdish, and Syrian Londoners' mental health needs – Thrive LDN](#)
- <https://thrivedn.co.uk/latest/news-and-blog/all/supporting-turkish-kurdish-and-syrian-londoners-mental-health-needs/>

Eco-Committee Articles

Do you know what the Five Rs are?

The Eco-Committee performed an assembly all about the 5Rs. We want to remind you at home what the 5Rs stand for and how you can use them to be more eco-friendly.

The 5Rs stand for reduce, reuse, repair, refuse, recycle. You can reduce the amount of rubbish that goes into landfill sites by doing the following:

- Use and buy alternative materials to plastic e.g. cloth bags and metal, paper or pasta drinking straws.
- Buy and use reusable water bottles and coffee cups which can be refilled.
- Recycle paper, cardboard, tins, glass and plastic in the recycling bin.
- Reuse plastic bags, containers and cardboard for arts and crafts and constructing things to play with.
- Refuse to take a plastic bag, use a cloth one.
- Repair clothing by sewing up holes.

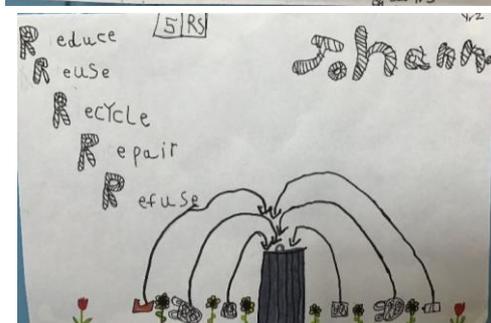
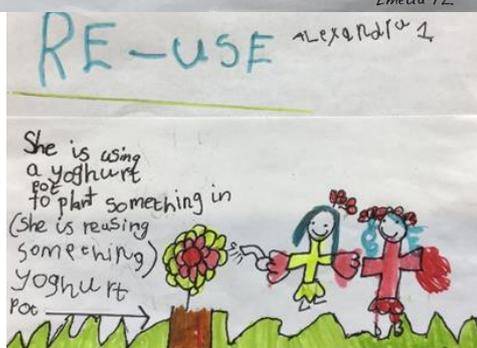
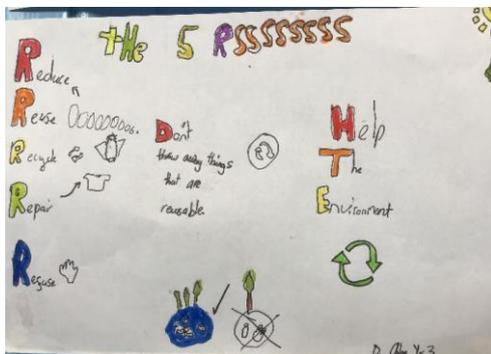
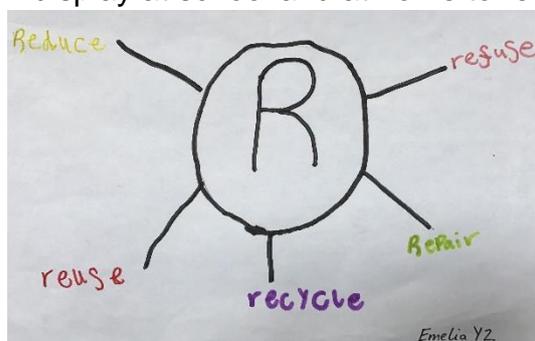
Now that you have heard of some ways you can reduce, reuse, repair, refuse and recycle, please remember the 5Rs and help the planet.

By Alice, Annam (Year 6) and Meg

Hello, my name is Eli. I am one of the Year 4 Eco-Committee representatives. I want to let you know how single-use plastics are bad for the environment. Single-use plastic is plastic that can only be used once. Some examples are cling wrap, drinking straws and glitter. Once they have been used, they go into landfill sites and take a very long time to disintegrate. Did you know that a plastic water bottle can take approximately 450 hundred years to break down? Where will we keep putting this mass of plastic? It is much better for the environment if everyone makes an effort to avoid using single-use plastics and that they start using alternatives to plastic wherever possible. Here are some alternatives you could use at home: pasta, paper and metal drinking straws; environmentally friendly glitter (made from plant materials) and beeswax wrappers to replace cling wrap.

I told pupils in an assembly about the 5Rs. Do you know what the 5Rs are? They are reduce, reuse, recycle, repair and refuse.

Please reduce the amount of plastic that goes into landfill sites at home by reusing and recycling it. That is what we are doing at school. Here are some posters that Eco-Committee pupils made to display at school and at home to remind everyone how to help.



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Spring term 2	
Monday 6 th March	International Women's Day
WKBG 13 th March	Year 5 bikeability
Wed 15 th & Thu 16 th March	Planned NEU Industrial Strike Action
Friday 31 st March	Last day of Spring term. School will finish at 2pm
Summer term	
Monday 17 th April	INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 18 th April	First day of Summer term for pupils
WKBG 18 th April	Y5 2 week intensive swimming lessons
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday – King's Coronation (school closed)

Science of Surgery – Monday 3rd April, 11am-4pm

Want to do something fun, FREE, and family-friendly over the Easter holidays? Then make sure you visit the UCL/WEISS annual science fair, Science of Surgery. On Monday 3rd April 11am-4pm UCL/WEISS scientists and staff will lead hands-on demonstrations to children and adults, showcasing the cutting-edge medical research that they are working on. Use a medical ultrasound scanner, try simulated keyhole surgery, and go on behind-the-scenes tours of their labs to see robot surgeons. For more info visit: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/interventional-surgical-sciences/events/2023/apr/science-surgery-2023>



FoG News

FoG Meeting – Friday 24 March

There will be a FoG meeting straight after school drop-off on Friday 24 March. All members (that's you) are very welcome. The FoG team will give an update on fundraising and what the money we've raised together is paying for, as well as what activities are planned for the rest of the year. We hope to see lots of you there!

Could you run a school movie night?

We're hoping to hold a movie night open to all classes from Reception to Y6 this term, and are looking for one or two parent/carer volunteers to run it after school sometime before Easter. This would involve agreeing a date with the school office, organising ticket sales, buying the snacks and getting together a small team of helpers to run the kitchen and screening on the day.

It's good fun and there are a couple of experienced movie night organisers who will be able to show you the ropes and explain how it all works. If you're up for getting involved, please speak to Sean (07986792367) or Sarah (07970606543).



Remember you can also 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 playground gates.