



Friday 10th March 2023

Newsletter 391

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@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

International Women's day - Wednesday 8th March 2023

This week, teachers and children in class have been talking about International Women's day and why we celebrate it. We came together for an assembly that focused on the importance of being able to recognise gender inequality and talked about the need to challenge any inequality in order to bring about change and to make the world a more inclusive and fair place for all.

We touched on the 'digital gender gap'. We talked about why it is important that women today are able to access technology like the internet in order to develop the necessary skills to engage in digital spaces that will impact their chances of moving into careers and jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related fields.

Children also shared things they had learnt during the week and talked about what they thought was important.



Year 5 Learning

For International Women's Day Y5 went to the Institute of Physics and met lots of inspiring men and women with careers in science.



Sporting Success

Tuesday 7th March was a mighty day for the Gillespie Football teams. BOTH the girls and boys teams came away with a win! With an amazing runaway goal from Alexandra and two incredible shots from Aran - both were able to capture the wins. Go Gillespie!



Medicines in bags

We would like to remind families of our school medicine policy and that any medication required during the school day **MUST** be given to the school office and the appropriate paperwork completed. Children should **NOT** have any medicines in their school bags.

Family Physics Funfair

On Thursday 20th April Meg, the Science Committee and Toby from the Institute of Physics will be hosting a *Family Physics Funfair* 3:30 - 4:30pm at Gillespie Primary School. Save this date! There will be more information to come in future newsletters.

Seeking a Photographer!

Do you have the photography kit and skills or know someone who has, who can volunteer and help us with some new photos for our school website? We are keen to update some of the professional photos we have on our website and are seeking the help of someone in the local community who might be able to come in and snap and process some photos of children at school, capturing the wonderful life at Gillespie. Please contact the school office to discuss.



Ready Set Stage Easter Holiday club

Thank you to those families who registered their interest in RSS Easter clubs. Unfortunately there was not enough interest for the club to be financially viable so it will not run this Easter.

Attendance Matters



Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
06/03/2023

Year 3

Class	Attendance WB 06/03/23
Reception	96.27%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	96.33%
Year 3	97.42%
Year 4	92.67%
Year 5	96.79%
Year 6	92.33%
Total school	94.83%

Absence reporting

Parents/Carers should call or email the school office to report absence by 9:30am. This is important so we can ensure the kitchen has the correct numbers for lunches. Please remember to include the reason for absence for our records. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Spring term 2	
WKBG 13 th March	British Science Week Year 5 bikeability
Wed 15 th & Thu 16 th March	NEU Industrial Strike Action Nur/Y4/Y5 Open Rec/Y1/Y2/Y3/Y6 Closed
Thursday 23 rd March	FOG Movie Night
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
Thursday 20 th April	3:30-4:30pm Family Physics Funfair
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday – King's Coronation (school closed)

Year 2 Learning

Y2 have been Curious Camels in their investigation of the history of the Emirates Stadium. They learned about where Arsenal used to play - the old 'Highbury' football ground - and why a new stadium was built. They used maps, aerial photos and Google Earth to investigate what features of the local area make the site of the Emirates stadium such a good location. Then they visited both sites to compare them in real-life.



Arsenal Holiday Camp

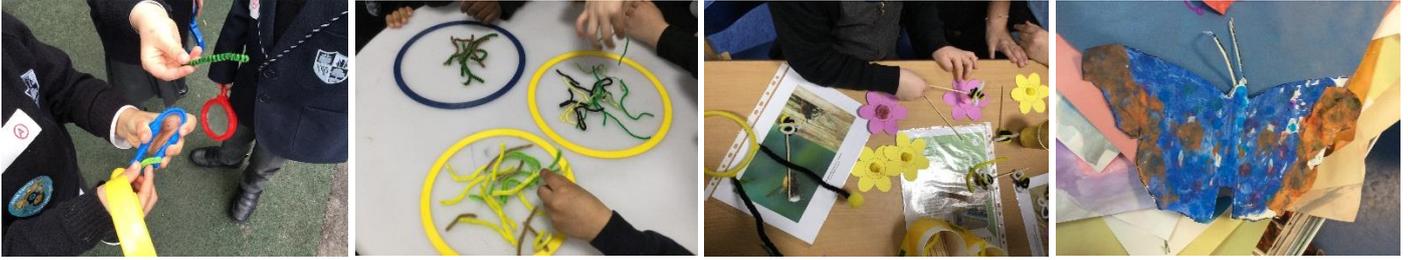
Arsenal in the Community are running a free holiday camp for KS2 girls. The camp will run every day between 9.30am and 12.30pm from Monday 3rd April to Thursday 6th April at The Arsenal Hub, which is located by the Emirates Stadium.

It is not just a football camp; half the time is spent doing workshops and creative activities. If you would like your child to attend please complete the 'Expression of Interest Form': [Click here for the 'Expression of Interest Form'](#). There are limited spaces so please fill in the form as soon as possible to ensure a place for your child. Once you have completed the 'Expression of Interest Form' you will receive further information on the camp.

Lab_13 News

We have had yet another jam-packed week in the lab, ahead of next week's British Science Week!

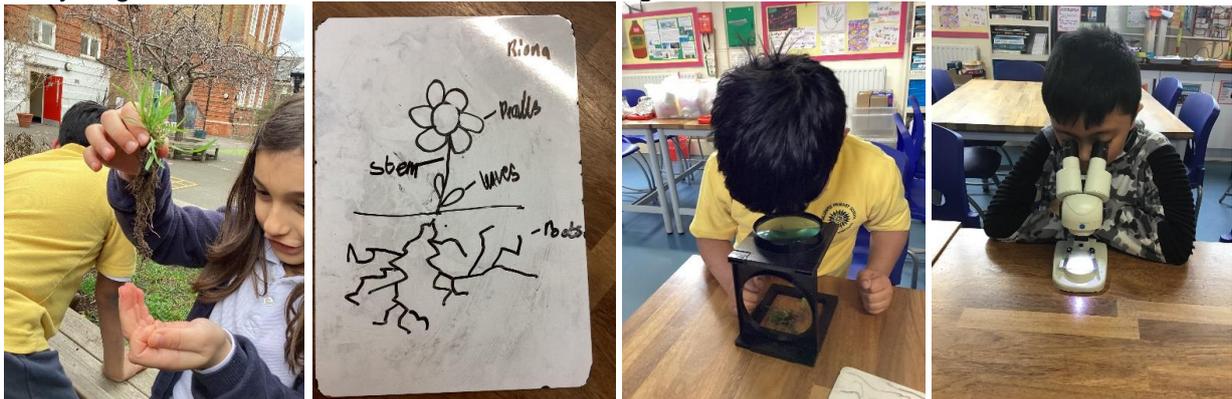
Science for Life: Meg and Abby delivered mini beast activities to Reception pupils at Whitehall Park School which included a caterpillar hunt and sort; creating butterflies with symmetrical wings and exploring pollination.



Eco-Committee made beeswax wraps to use instead of cling wrap. They observed a reversible change: solid wax melted when heated to become a liquid and then became a solid again when cooled.



This week some Y3 pupils investigated answers to their own science questions about plant roots in Lab_13. They looked closely at grass roots; hair-like structures extending from roots and cross-sections of roots.



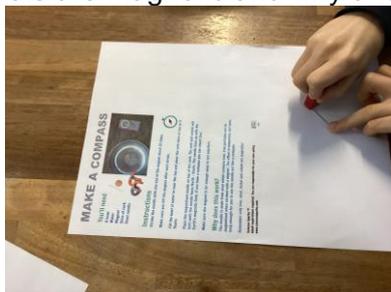
Nursery pupils visited Gillespie Park with Meg to build houses out of straw, sticks and bricks for the three little pigs. They found out which material was strongest when the wolf came and blew them down.



Reception pupils set up an investigation with Meg, Toby and Amanda so they can observe what happens when grass seeds are grown under different conditions. They watered some seeds and put some in the dark.



Some Y3 pupils investigated answers to their own science questions about magnets and compasses in Lab_13. They reviewed which metals are magnetic and why and made simple compasses



Pupils in Y3 & 4 science club have set up an investigation to answer the question: How does compaction of soil affect the time it takes for water to drain through it? They had to decide which variables to change and which to keep the same.



Wishing families a lovely weekend. Mark Owen, Headteacher



FoG News

Bake sale and used uniform – Friday 17 March

Year 2 are running a bake sale to raise money for FoG next Friday, accepting payment by card or cash. Thanks in advance to all the year 2 bakers.

Do your bit for the environment and help us reuse and recycle school uniform. There are lots of shorts and dresses in great condition, so come and stock up for spring and summer! As usual, no payment is necessary for uniform. Donations to FoG for uniform are optional and can be as much or as little as you can afford (in cash on the day or later to the office, or through the [usual donation link](#) (see below)). There are lots of shorts and dresses, so come and stock up for spring and summer!

Movie night! Thursday 23 March

Huge thanks to Francesca (Giulia and Lorenzo's mum) for volunteering to run a movie night! **If you would be able to help Francesca on the day (setting-up/cooking pizza/handing out popcorn/shhng excited children), please text her (07763102589).**



The film will be shown straight after school on Thursday 23 March and open to children in all classes from Reception to Y6. Information about arrangements and how to buy tickets will come home next week and be in next Friday's newsletter.

FoG Meeting – Friday 24 March

There will be a FoG meeting straight after school drop-off on Friday 24 March. All members (that's all parents and carers) 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!

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.