



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023

# Newsletter 402

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



@GillespieSchool

## Message from Claire Bolderson, Chair of Gillespie Governing Board

Dear parents and carers,

After 18 years as a Gillespie governor - 17 of them as first the Vice-Chair, and then Chair, I am stepping down from the Board. It has been a real privilege and a great pleasure to work with Mark and his amazing staff as they've made Gillespie the fantastic school that it is. However, much as I've enjoyed my role, it's time to move on. I leave you with a diverse, informed, active and committed Board of Governors under the leadership of new Chair, Dan Hamilton.

On a less positive note, I'm afraid I also leave an education sector that is increasingly starved of funds and indeed, of interest at senior government levels. Unfortunately Gillespie can not escape the extraordinary budget pressures now being felt in schools all over the country. The board is acutely aware that every bit of belt-tightening we have had to do piles further pressure on hard-pressed staff. We have all been impressed by, and grateful for the innovative ways the school has developed to ensure the very best for the children, but with fewer and fewer resources. It is that commitment, together with their high quality teaching, and support from a wonderfully engaged parent community, that makes Gillespie so special.

Best wishes  
Claire

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Gillespie's Summer Music Concerts

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**10am – Years 1, 2 & 3 and**

**2pm – Years 4, 5 & 6**

Families are invited to watch our two separate summer concerts next Friday, which the children have been busy rehearsing for in music lessons with Orlando. The shows will only feature children in the year groups as above and therefore families with children in the infants and the juniors may choose to attend one or both concerts.

Due to limited space there will be only 90 seats available per show, please book your free ticket online via Eventbrite. Please note there is a maximum of 1 ticket per family, per show. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gillespie-summer-music-concert-tickets-660267326347?aff=oddtcreator>



## Attendance Matters

Class	Attendance WB 12/06/23
Nursery	99.10%
Reception	98.75%
Year 1	98.33%
Year 2	98.33%
Year 3	96.67%
Year 4	92.50%
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>99.54%</b>
Year 6	99.17%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>97.68%</b>

Attendance Cup  
Winner  
Week Beginning  
12/06/2023  
  
**Year 5**



### Ready Set Stage Performing Arts Club Reminder

Due to a missed session this term the performing arts sessions on 26<sup>th</sup> June & 3<sup>rd</sup> July will run from 3:30pm – 5pm. Collection arrangements/EH as usual.

Performance of performing arts and singing club- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 4:15pm bottom hall

### Healthy Eating Week

Following on from last week's postponement, we have decided to invite families in for lunch with their children in the Autumn term. We are already planning dates for next term and will share this information with families once it is available.

As part of this, Caterlink would like feedback from children on school meals. This will be a useful ahead of us inviting parents in, in the new school year. The survey will close on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M67CD59>

### Ongoing reminders - Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	School nurse health and well-being clinic
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Gillespie Summer Music Concerts 10am – Years 1, 2, 3 and 2pm – Years 4, 5, 6 3:30pm Reception bake sale and used uniform sale
WKBG 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5/6 Cardfields School Journey Year 3 Bikeability
WKBG 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 4 Bikeability
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	2:30 Y1 Class assembly
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	12-3pm Summer Fayre
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	2:30 Y5 Class assembly
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year reports home
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports day at Clissold Park EYFS & KS1 AM, KS2 PM
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	10am Year 6 Leavers show
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term for pupils – school finishes 2pm

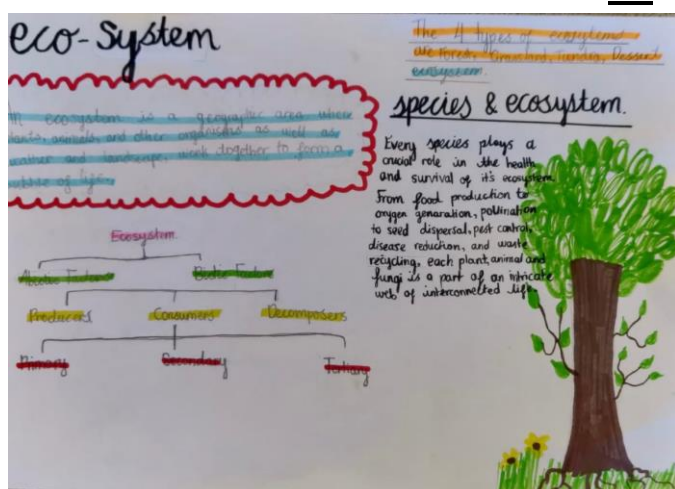
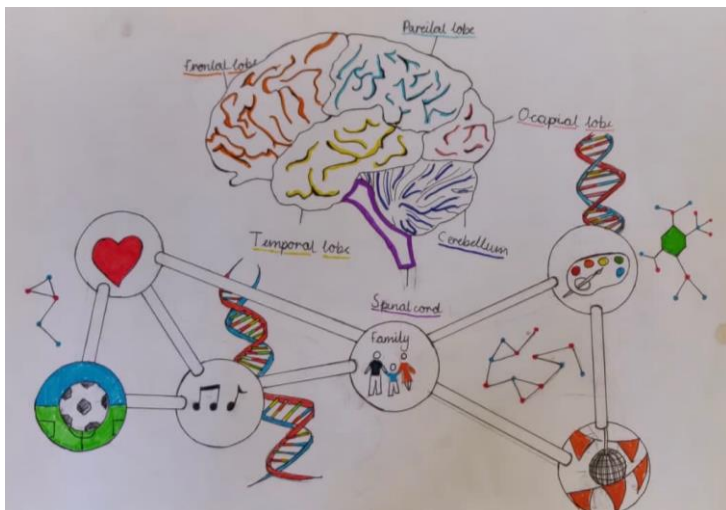
Wishing families a wonderful weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Owen Headteacher

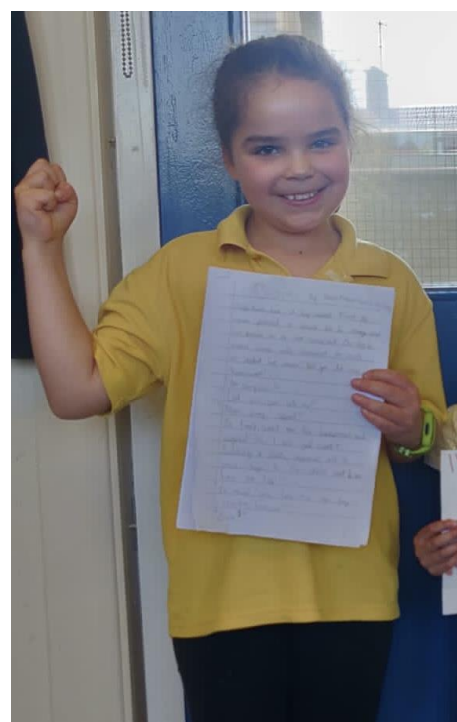
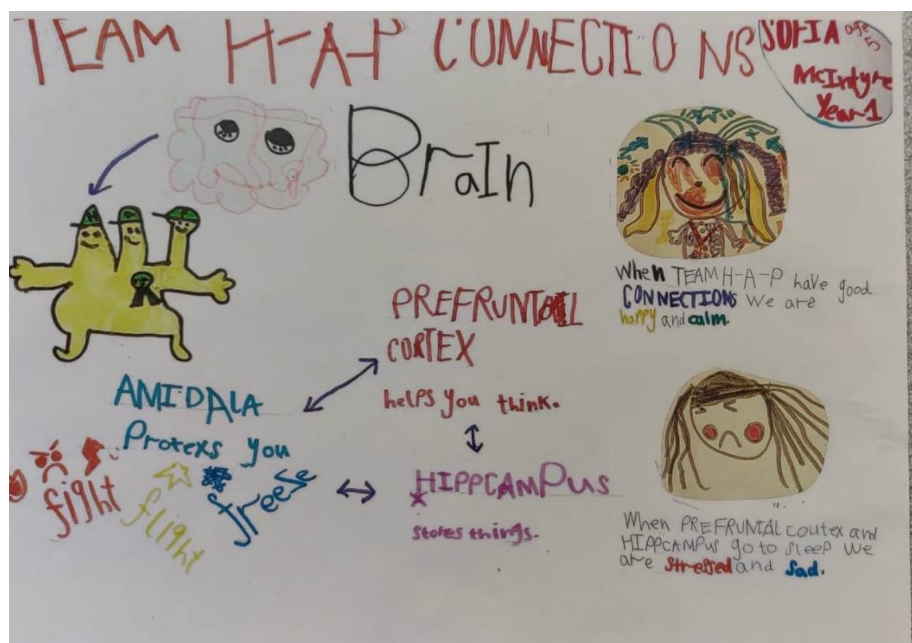
## Gillespie Science Week News

Thank you to everyone who entered for all the wonderful, creative entries to the Gillespie Science Competition for Science Week. Here are some examples of the high calibre of entries received!



## Science Competition Winners!

The winners of the Gillespie Science Competition were Maeve in Y4 and Sofia in Y1. Well done for your fantastic entries. We hope you enjoy your science prizes!





## Wear it Wild Day

Thank you to the staff and pupils for Wearing It Wild yesterday to raise awareness of the work of the World Wildlife Foundation. Thank you to families who have donated money on the Just Giving page. You can still make donations here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gillespiewearitwild>



## Wear It Wild Food and Drink Stall

Yesterday, the Science Committee ran a food and drink stall to raise money for the World Wildlife Foundation. The Science Committee members gave up their time to help me in Lab\_13, and also at home, to help prepare food and drinks to sell at the stall. Committee members did a great job running the stall. I would like to extend a **HUGE** amount of thanks to the pupils and their families for all they did to help the stall be such a success. Thank you to those who stayed behind to help tidy up and thank you to our Premises Manager Pete for always being there to help me at science events. We raised £141.35. This has been donated to the Just Giving page. Congratulations to the Science Committee members who took part: Ayub, Jacob, Cleo, Ruby, Audrey, Alexander, Emma, Katja, Aaliyah, Kie, Rowan, Lois, Zerina and Nicolas.

Meg, Lab\_13



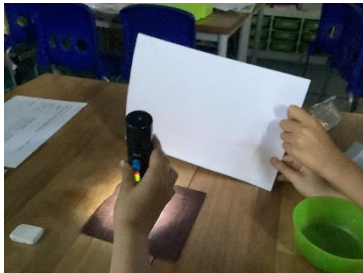


## **Gillespie Science Week – Resident Scientist**

On Monday, Hassan, our science lead, some Year 6 pupils and I (dressed as an entomologist) ran a Mini Beast workshop for Reception pupils. Pupils undertook the following activities: learning what an entomologist does; a caterpillar hunt and sort; viewing insects and insect parts (through microscopes); making bees and acting out pollination; making the life cycle of a butterfly; enjoying role-play with mini beast props and entomologist dolls; putting mini beast parts together; camouflaging butterflies in garden scenes and painting symmetrical butterflies. The Year 6 pupils did a great job leading and questioning the children and encouraged lots of talk.

Year 3 visited Lab\_13 and enjoyed looking in the dark tent. They were surprised at what they could not see without light. They shared their experiences of being in the dark. Next, they explored the connections between light and different surfaces. They made excellent use of scientific vocabulary to describe different materials and the reflections made when light was shone on to them. They were able to draw conclusions about how light is reflected from different surfaces.

Meg, Lab\_13



## **Year 4 Learning**

In RE, Y4 have been learning about 'How people decide what is right and wrong'. As part of this unit of work we have also looked at what temptation is and how it can affect people's behaviour. We read and talked about the story of Adam & Eve and painted our own pictures.





# FoG News

**We're accepting used uniform donations again!** Thanks to Amelie and former Gillespie pupils Micol and Mia who have run so many used uniform sales this year, stocks are running low, especially in smaller sizes (reception/Y1/Y2).

Please bring your donations to the office next week. **These should be washed and in good condition** (no stains or holes, please).

## Summer Fair – we need you!

The Summer Fair (Saturday 8 July) is FoG's biggest fundraising event and a fantastic opportunity for Gillespie families to get together for a fun afternoon in the sun. Organising and running it is a huge team effort so we're hoping to get as many parents and carers involved as possible.

Class reps will be asking for help with class stalls, but there are some other things we need help with below. If you want to run another activity, feel free to contact Sarah (07970606543) or Sean (07986792367).

## Donations of toys, children's books and (adult) tombola prizes – 26-30 June

We are looking for as new/great condition toys and children's books (no adult books, please) for the toy and book sale. Also tombola prizes – e.g. food cupboard items (no nuts), as-new gifts, bottles of alcohol/non-alcoholic drinks. *Please bring your donations to the school office between 26 and 30 June.*

## Salads and cakes – on the day

Everything on the bake sale and salad station comes from Gillespie families, so we need your help! Home-made or shop bought are equally welcome. *We'll ask for these to be dropped off on the morning of the fair, with homemade items labelled with ingredients. No nuts.*

## Help on the day

Could you help serve on the front desk, bouncy castle or food stall for 30 minutes during the fair? Can you spare an hour or two between 9:30 and 12 on the morning of 8 July to help set the fair up? Or stay for 30 minutes at the end to help tidy? *Please contact Sarah (07970606543)*

## Loans of umbrellas/gazebos

Do you have an umbrella or gazebo you could lend us to provide extra shade? *Please contact Sarah (07970606543)*

Remember, you  
can support FoG  
through a one-off  
or regular 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.**





## WHITTINGTON PARK

### PAY AND PLAY FOOTBALL

These fun football sessions are delivered by qualified coaches and are available to all abilities.

Class	Duration	Day and Time	Cost
Age 5-12	1 hour	Monday and Wednesday 5-6pm	£2
Age 5-12	2 hour	Saturday 10am-12pm	£4
Age 4-5	45 minutes	Saturday 11.15am-12pm	£3

No need to book. Pay cash on the day.

No sessions on bank holidays, or the Mon/Wed during half-term.

For any info please contact [IFDP@GLL.org](mailto:IFDP@GLL.org)

If you would like to find out about our holiday camps please go to [Linktr.ee/IslingtonFootball](http://Linktr.ee/IslingtonFootball)

