



Thursday 20th July 2023

Newsletter 407

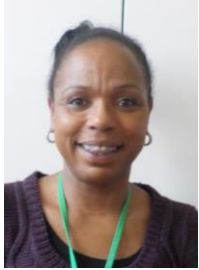
www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Farewells



Pauline Hawthorne

Farewell to Pauline our teaching assistant who has been working at Gillespie School in a range of roles for almost 18 years. Pauline has supported children and classes across the school and used her creative talents to teach African drumming and dancing to generations of children at the school. Pauline's own children attended Gillespie School. We will all miss her and wish her well for her future adventures! Pauline has decided to leave education and start a new career in beauty therapy.

Natalie Wind

Natalie joined Gillespie in January to take over our Year 4 class. We have been very delighted to have found such a wonderful and dedicated teacher at such short notice. Natalie has been able to provide continuity and support to our Year 4 class and we are grateful for all her work. Natalie is moving on to pastures new and we wish her the best for the future.



Claire Bolderson

Claire recently stepped down as our Chair of Governors. I have been privileged to work with Claire for the last 18 years in her role as Vice Chair and then Chair of Governors. All of our Governors volunteer their time to carry out their responsibilities and I cannot thank Claire enough for the dedication she has shown over many years in supporting the school and leading a very robust and effective Governing Body and for the personal support and guidance that she has given me and my leadership team. Claire leaves us a strong legacy. Dan Hamilton has stepped up to be our new Chair of Governors and is looking forward to meeting the parent community in the coming period.



End of year achievement assembly

Today we celebrated all of the achievements of our pupils across the school including the many pupil leadership teams. Year 6 treated the rest of the school to some of their favourite songs routines from their very successful leavers show (Aladdin) this week and we said our own special goodbyes to this lovely class. We are always sad to see them moving on but are delighted to know that they are well prepared for the next stage in their educational journey. They are a very talented group of children and we know that they will do really well.

Sports Day

A huge well done to Ellen, with help from Florie, for organising a magnificent sports day this week. The weather was kind to us, the children performed so well!

Thank you!

We're so grateful to the many helpers and supporters we have in the Gillespie community, from FoG for organising all our wonderful events, to Governors who oversee the school. A special thanks to Amelie, Mary and Deidre this term for ensuring the Friday morning library sessions can go ahead and to ex pupils Mia and Micol for their help gathering and sorting used uniform allowing us to run many successful stalls this year. Without these teams of people we wouldn't be the fantastic community we are. And finally a big thank you to all Gillespie staff who have made an incredible effort this year to make the school as successful as it can be. I am very proud of all of their efforts and wish staff, parents and pupils a happy summer holiday and a well deserved rest.

Attendance Matters

Class	2022/23
Reception	94.22
Year 1	95.74
Year 2	97.59
Year 3	97.52
Year 4	95.82
Year 5	94.73
Year 6	96.93
Whole school	96.08%

Attendance Cup
Winner
2022/2023

Year 2!



Well done to Year 2 who have won the attendance trophy this academic year. It was a VERY close call with Year 3 who also had a fantastic year of attendance, well done to both classes!

We thank families for their continued support. Attendance is closely linked with academic success and we really appreciate families working so well with us on this. We look forward to another successful year, next year!

Ongoing reminders - Diary Dates

We look forward to welcoming families in to their child's new class in September at our Meet the Teacher events – please see dates and times below

Date	Event
Friday 21 st July	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
Autumn term 2023	
Monday 4 th September	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 5 th September	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
Wednesday 6 th September	First day of Autumn term for pupils
Tuesday 12th September	Meet the Teacher: 3:40-4:10pm – Year 1 4:30-5:00pm – Year 2
Wednesday 13th September	Meet the Teacher: 3:40-4:10pm – Year 3 4:30-5:00pm – Year 4
Thursday 14th September	Meet the Teacher: 3:40-4:10pm – Year 5 4:30-5:00pm – Year 6
Saturday 16 th September	Welcome/back to school family party

Wishing families a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you back on Wednesday 6th September.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen,
Headteacher





FoG News

THANK YOU!... to all Friends of Gillespie members – families, children and school staff – for your contributions this year.

There have been some fantastic community events which only happen because people (too many to name here, but you know who you are) give up their time to organise them.

We've raised more money than we thought we could this year, thanks to your enthusiasm for the events and generosity with regular and one-off donations. Special shout out to Cinnamon Village, who supplied the food for the summer fair BBQ free of charge, which takes the total raised up to a fantastic £5,000.

All this means we've been able to keep funding a range of enrichment activities for Gillespie children like forest school, strings tuition, school trips and history workshops, as well as continuing to give each teacher a £200 pot of money for classroom extras, and buying new football kits, recycling bins and gym mats.

We'll give a full update on money raised and spent this year at the FoG annual general meeting in Sept/Oct.

FoG is recruiting! Would you like to support Gillespie to provide the best possible educational experience for pupils and families? Do you have ideas about fundraising to enrich our children's education or events to get the Gillespie community together? Then FoG would love to hear from you!

Sarah's term as co-chair of FoG is ending and we're looking for someone to join Sean as co-chair next school year. This involves coordinating a fun and friendly team to organise fundraising events and working with Mark and teachers to decide what money raised is spent on. The idea is to do a year as the new co-chair and then a second as an old hand so that we keep the FoG team fresh and give more people the opportunity to get involved in shaping FoG's work.

There are also other opportunities to get involved with the FoG team. **If you're interested in hearing more, please get in touch with Sean (07986792367).**

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

Save the date! Sat 16 Sept,
welcome/back to school family party. Bring a
dish to share.

**Can you help on the day? Text
Deidre (Y4 Y2) 07541482932**

All 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.**

Ready Set Stage (RSS) After School Clubs – Autumn term 2023

www.readysetstage.co.uk



READY SET STAGE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Gymnastics	Arts & Craft	Singing	Performing Arts	Games
	Basketball	Football (Reception - Year 2)	Football (Years 3-6)	

Autumn term registration to be made online at www.readysetstage.co.uk

1. WC 18/09/2023 for **Y1-6 only** x5 weeks
2. WC 23/10 Half term
3. WC 30/10/23 clubs recommence – Reception children able to join – x7 weeks
4. WC 11/12/23 last week of clubs

Reception Class pupils

Reception class families can register for clubs now to begin after the October half term.

To register please use the following codes*. This will deduct £40 (the x5 weekly fee for September/October).

Code: RECEPGYM for GYMNASTICS CLUB

Code: RECEPARTS for ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

Code: RECEPBASK for BASKETBALL CLUB

Code: RECEPFOOT for FOOTBALL CLUB

Code: RECEPSING for SINGING CLUB

Code: RECEPPERF for PERFORMING ARTS CLUB

Code: RECEPGAMES for GAMES CLUB

Free School Meal eligible pupils

Children eligible for Free School Meals are entitled to **one free club per term**. Please sign up using the RSS website and enter the following code* FSMCLUBS which will deduct any payment at the end. You can only use this code once per eligible pupil. If you are unsure if your child is eligible for Free School Meals please contact the school office.

Code: FSMCLUBS for all clubs

*Code eligibility will be checked with the office. Families who incorrectly use a code risk their child being removed from the club until full fee payment is made.

Book Your Workshop Now:
www.octobergalleryeducation.com

october gallery

JOIN THE
OG YOUTH
COLLECTIVE
TAKE
OVER!
AND
EXHIBITION
27-29 JULY

OG Youth Collective Take
Over Exhibition
27 July - 29 July
2pm - 5pm

Comic Book Art Workshop
Thursday 27 July
10am - 12pm
For 12-16 year olds
Free

Creative Professional
Development
Friday 28th July
10am - 12pm
For Youth Workers

Cor - Creative Portfolio
Mentorship
Friday 28 July
10am - 12pm
For over 16 year olds
Free

Family Art Day
Saturday 29 July
10am-12pm
Free Drop-in Session Led by
OG Youth Collective
Members

www.octobergalleryeducation.com
24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AL

THE
GARDEN
CINEMA

Camden
Spark



october gallery

FAMILY ART DAY

FREE ART AND PLAY AT OCTOBER GALLERY

10AM - 12PM

USUALLY
LAST SATURDAY
OF THE MONTH

FREE
DROP-IN
FOR ALL
AGES

SATURDAY 29 JULY

OCTOBER GALLERY, 24 OLD GLOUCESTER ST.,
LONDON WC1N 3AL

JESS@OCTOBERGALLERY.CO.UK
WWW.OCTOBERGALLERYEDUCATION.COM



Mimi's Rainbow Adventure

Find out the answers to big questions about the world!

Free family-friendly exhibition and events programme

Have you ever wondered if carrots can really help you to see in the dark? Or why some energy is green and some isn't? Join us for a multi-colour adventure this summer and find out how science can provide the answers to these questions. Perfect for families with children aged 5-9.

37 Caledonian Road, N1 9BU | 24th July – 1st September 2023,
Monday – Friday, 10.00 – 16.00 (Excluding Bank Holidays)

Plan your visit: iop.org/Mimis-Rainbow-Adventure



IOP Institute of Physics

What are your big questions about the world?

Mimi has lots of questions; about the sky, the sea and everything in-between! One summer, when Mimi is staying with her Granny, they go off on an adventure, with Colin the dog and Dave the robot, to meet lots of inspiring scientists to help her finally get some answers to her big questions.

Experience this new story come to life at the Institute of Physics' new family-friendly exhibition: **Mimi's Rainbow Adventure**.

Get hands-on with fun physics experiments for all the family, be creative with arts and crafts activities, read an inspiring book in our chill-out corner and find out how physicists can answer your big questions about the world. Have your own rainbow adventure this summer with a season of free activities for all to enjoy.

Your journey doesn't end with your visit to the exhibition! Visit the IOP website to download free activity packs, including the new storybook 'Mimi's Rainbow Adventure', discover the amazing stories of our scientists, and book your visit to special events happening throughout the summer.

iop.org/Mimis-Rainbow-Adventure



Free Events in Islington

Family days will take place at the Institute of Physics (37 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9BU), with other events happening across the London Borough of Islington (see details below).

- Thursday 27th July, 10:00 – 16:00,
Family Day

Join us for a special launch event for the exhibition during its opening week. Be one of the first to visit the exhibition and take part in hands on activities and experiments! Free refreshments will be available.

Registration required.

- Wednesday 2nd August, 12:00 – 16:00,
Islington PlayDay, Paradise Park N7 8SE

The IOP will be bringing along outdoor activities to be part of the PlayDay.

No registration needed.

- Wednesday 9th August, 14.00 – 16.00,
IOP at the Summer Reading Challenge, Central Library N5 1PF

With Islington Libraries.

No registration needed.

- Saturday 19th August, 10:00 – 16:00,
Family Day

Join us for a special Saturday opening of the IOP building. Visit the exhibition and take part in a drop-in creative workshop to design new green energy solutions! Free refreshments will be available.

Registration required.

- Tuesday 22nd August, 14:00 – 16:00,
IOP at the Summer Reading Challenge, North Library N7 6JX

With Islington Libraries.

No registration needed.

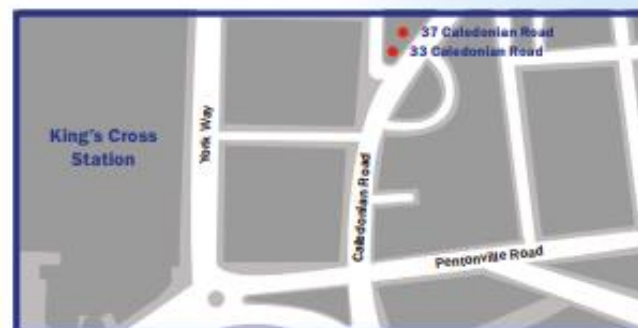
For full events information, registration and exhibition opening times, please visit: iop.org/Mimis-Rainbow-Adventure

Join us for a Rainbow Adventure this summer!

- Go online to download resources and join the conversation on social media #RainbowAdventure
- Pick up a copy of our brand new storybook 'Mimi's Rainbow Adventure' to take home and enjoy
- Explore our hands-on exhibition
- Two special family days (27th July and 19th August) with free activities for the whole family
- Events around Kings Cross throughout the summer

Visit iop.org/Mimis-Rainbow-Adventure to plan your visit and find out more!

How to find us



By Tube: King's Cross St Pancras is the nearest station and has access to the Victoria, Northern, Piccadilly, Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith and City lines.

By Bus: There are many buses going through King's Cross, but the 10, 17, 59, 91, 259 and 390 all stop across the road from our building.

Having problems finding us? If you arrive in King's Cross but are having problems finding the building – call us and we'll give you directions + 44 (0)20 7470 4800.