



8th September 2023

Newsletter 408

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to 2023/24

We hope families had a wonderful summer break and are rested and ready for the new school year ahead. We have some very exciting things planned over the coming year and cannot wait to invite parents in to the many activities/events we have planned, starting with the meet the teacher events next week followed by the Friends of Gillespie Afternoon Tea on Saturday 16th September! We look forward to welcoming all new families in Nursery and Reception as well as year groups throughout the school to the Gillespie community. We know you will all make them feel very welcome!



We will continue to update families on school life via the weekly newsletter as well as sharing snippets on Twitter (@GillespieSchool) and please pay attention to the diary dates section which will be updated with all that's coming up.

Meet the teacher events

We hope to see you all next week at the meet the teacher events. These are an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher, hear about the year ahead and ask any questions you may have. These will take place in your child's classroom.

The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday 12 th September	3:40-4:10pm Year 1 4:30-5:00pm Year 2
Wednesday 13 th September	3:40-4:10pm Year 3 4:30-5:00pm Year 4
Thursday 14 th September	3:40-4:10pm Year 5 4:30-5:00pm Year 6

School communication

- Please ensure the school office always has the most up to date contact details.
- The school office frequently contacts families via our text messaging service – Teachers2parents. Unfortunately our system only allows us to text one parent per family. We **do not** recommend you download the app as you do not receive notifications for new messages and you become responsible for checking the app for updates. Without the app you will receive messages/notification via text message.
- The school has a Twitter account. You can follow us @GillespieSchool and see regular updates of events and things happening throughout the school. Our social media policy can be found on our school website.

Medical and Dietary needs

If your child requires medication in school, this must be handed in to the office and a form completed prior to administration at school. We will contact you if medication already at school has expired. If your child has any medical information which has recently changed, please ensure the office is informed in writing/by email and this can be recorded on our system.

School meals

To ensure we can provide the kitchen with the correct number of children having a school lunch please ensure the office has been updated if your child is having a packed lunch. The latest Caterlink menu is available [here](#).

Attendance Matters!

Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life. Last year we reached our school target of 96% attendance which is fantastic and we hope to achieve the same this year! The class with the best weekly attendance will be celebrated in assembly as well as having awards and prizes at the end of terms.

With this in mind we urge families to continue to support us by ensuring where possible appointments are made after school, at weekends or in the school holidays. Families are responsible for notifying the office by call or email before 9am if a child will be absent, including the reason for absence. The school will not authorise holidays in term time and will only authorise leave under exceptional circumstances – for which you must apply using an ‘application for leave form’ obtained from the office.

The information below shows how attendance can affect your child’s future progression.

Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year (12 sessions)

Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.

95%: 10 days absence a year (20 sessions)

These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week absence every year can only achieve 95% attendance.

90%: 19 days absence a year (38 sessions)

The Government classes young people in this group as “Persistent Absentees”, and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work. Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by the Local Authority.



Punctuality

School begins at 8:55am at which time the sunflower will be brought out in to the playground. Children should quickly and sensibly make their way to their classroom ready to start their morning learning. Please support your child by ensuring they have all the equipment they need for their day including bag, water bottle, instrument if applicable etc.

School Uniform

- We remind families of our school uniform policy which can be found [here](#).
- We regularly have used uniform stalls where parents are able to help themselves to uniform for a voluntary donation to FoG.
- PE kit should consist of a sensible t-shirt and shorts/tracksuit bottoms and suitable footwear.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
12 th – 14 th September	Meet the teacher events
Saturday 16 th September	3-5pm FoG Afternoon Tea and used uniform stall
WKBG 19 th September	Hour of Code week
October	Black History Month
Thursday 5 th October	World Poetry Day
Tuesday 10 th October	Mental Health Day – universal human rights
Wednesday 18 th October	Individual and sibling photographs
Thursday 19 th October	FoG Halloween Disco
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October	Half term

Important
Dates

Message regarding (RAAC) Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub.

I hope that this offers reassurance.

Safeguarding at Gillespie

Finally, safeguarding children is extremely important so if you have any questions or queries regarding safeguarding please contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.



Gillespie Primary School's Designated Safeguarding Leads



Mark Owen
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Katrina Moses
Deputy Headteacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Lyn Jones
Assistant Headteacher
SENDCo
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Congratulations!



We are so proud to announce that Gillespie pupil Emya has been awarded a London Music Fund Scholarship for the violin from the academic years 2023-24 to 2026-27! The whole Music Education Islington team are delighted to welcome Emya back to the Music Centre as an LMF scholar. This is very well deserved for her incredible hard work and dedication for learning the violin.

Fun in the sun!

Children have enjoyed the glorious sunshine this week, bringing their learning outdoors and working well together, across year groups, in the Creation Station.



Wishing families a wonderful, sunny weekend.
Yours sincerely, Mark Owen, Headteacher



FoG News

Welcome back everyone!

With the new school year now well underway, FoG are starting to put things in place to support the school and the wider Gillespie community to get the most out of the year ahead. The first of these initiatives is the following:

Gillespie School Afternoon Tea 🍷 🎮 🎵

The school will be hosting a welcoming event on the **16th September between 3-5pm**.

Families are invited to bring along some baked goods and snacks (shop bought just as good as homemade!) to share with others over a hot or cold beverage. This informal event is designed to give people the opportunity to meet some of the other families in the school, pick up some extra uniform or to simply catch up with friends after the summer break.

****Please remember that there is a no nuts policy for all school events****

Friends of Gillespie will also have a small information stand set up on the day, so attendees will also be able to find out more about the group, who is involved and opportunities to support the work it does.

On that note...

FoG is recruiting

Would you like to support Gillespie Primary School 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!

We have a number of different roles that we are aiming to fill for the coming academic year, so there really is plenty of opportunity for people to get more involved and make 23/24 another successful year for the school. If you're interested in hearing more, please get in touch with Sean (07986792367).



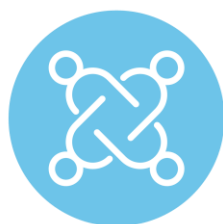
Finally, thanks again to everyone who organised, ran and attended the summer fair last term. With the final takings now confirmed, we can share that (despite the weather!) we were able to raise just over £5000!!! Who needs sunshine, eh?



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

All money raised by FoG goes towards extra-curricular activities for Gillespie children. 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.**

After School Club Notices – page 4-6



ELIZABETH HOUSE

Your local community centre

Please note that prices and timings may slightly vary, so we recommend checking the details for each individual activity. To secure a place for your child(ren) in the desired club, simply complete and submit the corresponding form, and we will confirm your enrolment prior to the start of the summer break.

All information is included below

(YOU MUST CLICK ON THE LINK FOR THE DESIRED CLUB BELOW AND COMPLETE THE FORM)*

Monday	Breakdance/Hip Hop Club	11 th September – 11 th December, 4pm – 5pm (13 sessions)
Monday	Coding Club	11 th September – 11 th December, 4pm – 5pm (13 sessions)
Wednesday	Cooking Club - FULL	13 th September – 13 th December, 4pm – 5pm (13 sessions)
Thursday	Coding Club	14 th September – 14 th December, 4pm – 5pm (13 sessions)
Friday	Kids Yoga Class	15 th September – 15 th December, 4pm – 5pm (13 sessions)
Friday	Kids Boxing Class	15 th September – 15 th December, 4pm – 5pm (13 sessions)
Friday	Cooking Club Friday	15 th September – 15 th December, 4pm – 5pm (13 sessions)

There will not be any clubs during half term (October half term Monday 23 October 2023 - Friday 27 October 2023).

Your child(ren) will not be booked on the class if you do not complete the form.

Note that there will be no Cooking Club week commencing 18th December

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 (not Gillespie School) attending one club or if your child(ren) attend our after school childcare provision until 6pm.

Working families who need childcare can still book their child into an enrichment club and you will get a reduced rate for our After School childcare provision till 6pm (£5).

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



**Guildhall School
of Music & Drama**
in partnership with
Islington Council

1. New beginners on the satellite course for Years 2& 3 - Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 at Gillespie:

<https://form.123formbuilder.com/6370200/mei-satellite-sign-up-2023-24>

2. Satellite to Music Centre transfer form (Y4 only):

<https://form.123formbuilder.com/6375029/mei-satellite-to-music-centre-progression-form-2023-24>

3. Music Centre sign up form (for year 4+ only) - Wednesdays at COLA Highbury Grove:

<https://form.123formbuilder.com/6369232/mei-music-centre-sign-up-form-2023-24>

4. Please also see the flyer below and our website for more information about our absence and cancellation policies at our Music Centres:

<https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/study-with-guildhall/children-and-young-people/music-education-islington/out-of-school/music-centres>

We cannot accept students to either the Music Centre or the Satellite course who haven't been signed up through the forms. MEI admin needs to have relevant details to communicate information.

A flyer for MEI Music Centres featuring a background image of children playing brass instruments. The flyer includes text about Autumn Term Dates, locations, and a QR code.

Autumn Term Dates:
W/C September 18, 25 | October 2, 9, 16, 30 | November 6, 13, 20, 27

Mondays at Arts and Media School Islington
Wednesdays at COLA Highbury Grove

Free places and bursaries available

Come and learn music with us! We offer musicianship lessons, instrumental classes, singing lessons and many more!

MEI MUSIC CENTRES

A QR code located in the bottom right corner of the flyer.

ISLINGTON
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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.

Free
refreshments
and
cakes

Stephens
Ink
Community
Centre

Stephens Ink
Estate
Tannington Terrace
Gillespie Road
N5 1LG



STEPHENS INK ESTATE COFFEE Morning

**Tuesday 12th, 19th, 26th
September 2023
10am-12 noon**

Dear residents local to Stephens Ink Community Centre,

We would like to invite you to join our free coffee mornings starting Tuesday 12th September, this is your opportunity to get together and meet neighbours and connect, with time to chat and enjoy light refreshments.

We want to hear from you on projects and activities, events you would like to hold at the Community Centre and the direction led by our community to whether residents would like to join the Residents Committee to run and manage the Centre or Tenants and Residents Association (TRA)

This your opportunity to have your say and bring change to your community, CONNECT, CONVERSE
TRANSITION

For more info please contact Vanessa/Ron
07925 890 968 / 07973 672 151
Vanessa.khan@islington.gov.uk



An Invitation for our young people to have
their say

Stephens Ink Estate Pizza Evening

**Tuesday 3rd October 2023
5.30pm - 7.30pm**

Come along to Stephens Ink Community Centre and have your say over pizza and a drink, an opportunity to get together and meet neighbours and connect, to chat on the types of projects and activities you would like held at your centre.

We want to hear from you, take part in your community to bring your ideas and thoughts on the direction you would like this centre to move forward to. Your input is valuable. Take part and be part of the conversation, to drive and voice change, what matters to you!

For more information contact Vanessa/Ron
07925 890 968 / 07973 672 151
Vanessa.khan@islington.gov.uk

