



15th September 2023

Newsletter 409

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Meet the teacher events

Thank you to families for joining us this week at our meet the teacher events, we hope you found them useful and a good introduction to the year ahead.

Happy Jewish New Year – Rosh Hashanah

Today in our whole school assembly some of our Year 5 pupils shared their knowledge and experience about Rosh Hashanah and what they and their families do to celebrate the Jewish New Year. The children then sang a traditional song to bring in the New Year. We wish all of our families celebrating, a lovely weekend.

Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 11/09/23
Reception	98.86%
Year 1	98.62%
Year 2	96.60%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	96.90%
Year 5	94.33%
Year 6	90.71%
Whole school	96.50%

Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
11/09/2023
Year 3!



As we enter the new school year and the autumn term when coughs and colds become a regular occurrence, we would like to share with families these useful guides on illness and attendance at school.

- [NHS – Is my child too ill for school?](#)
- [Whittington Health – Minor illness and school attendance guide](#)

After School Clubs

School clubs begin next week! A special note for Year 4 parents to remind you that Music Education Islington Music Hub is now open to our new Year 4 class. Parents will know that from this term Orlando and our strings tutor Claire will be introducing all our Year 4 children to learning to play string instruments. Orlando has spoken to some children today who have already expressed an interest in attending the Music Hub at Highbury Grove School on Wednesdays 4-6pm. We recommend you talk to your children as soon as possible and if any of them are interested in joining then please complete the MEI registration form [here](#) as spaces are limited.

Birthdays

Just a reminder that we are happy for children to bring in healthy fruit to celebrate their birthdays. As an officially accredited healthy school, the school does not allow cakes, sweets etc for these celebrations.

Year 5 Learning

Year 5 started their Properties and Changes of Materials Science topic with a QR materials trail in Lab_13!



School Nurse Health and Well-being Clinic Tuesday 3rd October 2023

The School Nursing Team will be at Gillespie next month to run their health and well-being clinic. The team are able to help with any of the following topics:

- Toileting routines including bedwetting and soiling
- Diet and nutrition including fussy eating or concern about weight
- Sleep hygiene/routines
- Dental health
- Health promotion activities
- Infections including management of head lice and threadworms.
- Body changes and puberty
- Emotional health of your child or yourself
- Support in managing health issues that impact on attendance.
- Referrals to services including CAMHS, dietician and healthy living service

If you would like to book an appointment with the team for the next clinic on 03/10 please email the school office for a referral form by **Friday 22nd September**.

You can also see more information about the team and their services on their website - <https://www.whittington.nhs.uk/default.asp?c=40796>

Admissions Information

Secondary School Admissions for children born between: 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013

- Apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk
- Deadline 31st October 2023
- Please email the office with dates of your child's school visits for our records
- See the Islington Admission's [Secondary School brochure here](#)

Primary School Admissions for children born between: 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020

- Apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk
- Deadline 15th January 2024
- To arrange a school tour please email the school office
- See the Islington Admission's [Primary School brochure here](#)
- Children in the Nursery Class do NOT automatically have a place in Reception Class. Families **must** apply online.

myHappymind

We teach a program to all year groups at school called myHappymind. myHappymind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves and to promote their well-being!

myHappymind is delivered in school by class teachers through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learnings throughout the day. To further embed this learning and ensure that you are able to engage in these topics with your child, myHappymind has developed a set of resources for parents. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The resources allow children to continue to practise some of the habits they have developed at school, such as Happy Breathing, for you to learn more about what they are learning in the program. Also included are activities for you to do together at home, to complement the in-school lessons.



To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code. Your authentication code is **100405**

Or scan this QR code to sign up.



We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please contact your class teacher.

If you have any technical questions about accessing the resources, please contact hello@myHappymind.org

Diary Dates

Date	Event
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
Tuesday 3 rd October	Islington School Nursing Team's health and well-being clinic
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
Wednesday 1 st & Thursday 2 nd October	Flu nasal spray immunisations

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen
Headteacher

Lab_13 News – Autumn Update

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all enjoyed a lovely summer.

This week we received our Green Flag: recognition for all the hard work the Eco-Committee did last year. Pete, our premises manager, will be putting it up in our playground over the coming week so watch out for it.

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, KS1 and 2 pupils were informed about The Science and Eco Committees I will be running this year. Interested pupils took home application forms to complete. They are aware that previous committee members and I are available at lunch times (Monday to Thursday) in Lab_13 to help them complete these if they want assistance. Forms are due in by the end of the day on Thursday 21st September. I will speak to all applicants before announcing this year's new committee members in the next newsletter.

This year, Science Committee will meet on Wednesday mornings 8:15 – 9:00 a.m. and Eco Committee will meet on Thursday mornings 8:15 – 9:00 a.m. On occasions, I will require pupils in committees to come to Lab_13 during their lunch break; however, I will ensure that this does not clash with any of their other commitments e.g. football, choir etc.

On Wednesday, pupils in Years 1 and 2 were given a letter about an after-school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) Club which I will lead and this will take place every Tuesday in Lab_13 from 3:30 – 4:30 during autumn term. If you would like your child to attend STEM club, please register your interest by returning the form to me, your child's teacher or to the office. Forms are due by the end of the day Monday 18th September. Priority will be given to pupils who have not attended an after-school science club previously and who return the slip by the due date. You will receive a text notifying you of the outcome.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail. My address is mbegley@gillespie.islington.sch.uk. If your child needs another committee application form or STEM club letter, please ask them to come and get one from me.

I am looking forward to working with your children.

Megan Begley- Scientist in Residence, Lab_13



FoG News



Gillespie School Afternoon Tea



The school will be hosting an 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.

ClayTime Mugs - Ready for collection

Did you or your child get to design your own tea mug at the Summer Fair this year? If so then the lovely people at ClayTime have dried, fired and glazed them for us - and they look great!

If you think that one of these mugs might be yours, get in touch with Sean (07986792367) before the October Half Term. Any unclaimed mugs will still find a happy home in the Gillespie staff room.



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).

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.**

Flu immunisation for pupils in school years Reception - Year 11

DEAR PARENT/CARER,

The flu vaccine is being offered at your child's school again this autumn/winter.

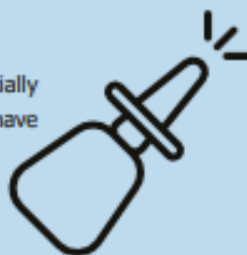
To give consent for your child to have the flu vaccine, please click here:

<https://london.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/islington>

Even if you do not wish for your child to have the vaccine, please complete the online form so that we can record your wishes.

THE NASAL FLU VACCINE

- ✓ Protects your child from the flu.
- ✓ Protects your family and friends from the flu (especially those who are elderly, young babies, or those who have serious health conditions).
- ✓ Is painless, quick and effective.
- ✓ Is free



THE IM FLU VACCINE



We also offer the flu vaccine as an injection, which is **gelatine-free**. This may also be the vaccine of choice for vegans. Please go to our website where you can find out more about the manufacturing of the flu injection, and then decide if the injection is more suited to your child.

You only need to complete one consent form for each child. If you later change your mind, please call your local team. If your child has this immunisation elsewhere after you have submitted the consent form, you **MUST** inform Vaccination UK rather than the school.

We understand that you may have questions about the vaccine. For more information, please go to our website, where you can find a list of FAQ's, as well as details of our community catch up clinics. We also have some FAQ's enclosed below.

You can also find informational videos on our YouTube channel, including subtitled versions for other languages.

Yours Faithfully,
Your Local Immunisation Team
Vaccination UK



Vaccination UK

ISLINGTON

Immunisation Team
Contact Details



islington@v-uk.co.uk



0208 017 7926

WORKING ON BEHALF OF

NHS
England

USEFUL INFO



We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If they are absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, you will need to attend one of our community clinics for the vaccine. Details of these can be found on our website or you can contact the team above.



PLEASE NOTE the flu vaccine will NOT be available to otherwise healthy children after December 15th at all, and so we urge you to return the consent form as soon as possible in case we are not able to visit your child's schools for a second visit this year.



Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season. If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to complete a second form.

USEFUL LINKS



www.schoolvaccination.uk/nasal-flu

www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk



PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2023/24 policy can be viewed here:

[Privacy Policy | Vukhschools \(schoolvaccination.uk\)](https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy)

For data protection queries, please contact:

dpo@vaccinationuk.co.uk



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there any side effects of the vaccine?

Possible side effects are: decreased appetite, headache, a runny or blocked nose, and sometimes a raised temperature. These are common, but they pass quickly and can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen if you feel your child needs it.

Are there any children who shouldn't have the nasal vaccine?

You should let us know if your child has any of the following:

- A very severe allergy to eggs, egg proteins, gentamicin or gelatine – it is important for us to know if your child has been admitted to hospital with a condition called anaphylaxis, triggered by these things.
- Are currently wheezy or have been wheezy in the past 72 hours with asthma. There is an alternative flu vaccine that we can talk to you about to ensure that your child is protected as soon as possible.
- Have a condition that severely weakens their immune system.

Also, children who have been vaccinated should avoid close contact with people with very severely weakened immune systems for around two weeks following vaccination (By severely weakened, we generally mean people who are isolating, such as those who have received some types of chemotherapy or people who have had a bone marrow transplant, for example). This is because there's an extremely remote chance that the vaccine virus may be passed to them.

Contact with other healthy children or adults does not need to be limited after having the vaccine.

We do not eat pork products.

Can my child have a different flu vaccine?

Yes. There is a flu vaccine available, in the form of an injection.

The nasal flu vaccine is the best vaccine for children and young people under 18 years of age as it is more effective at stopping the spread of flu and it is painless, but it does have a highly processed form of gelatine (porcine gelatine), which is used in a range of many essential medicines. The gelatine helps to keep the vaccine viruses stable so that the vaccine provides the best protection against flu.

If your faith or beliefs mean you would prefer a vaccine that has no pork (porcine gelatine) in it, please complete the consent for the flu injection only. You do not need to complete a form for both.

If your child is vegan, please note that the flu injection is a cell based vaccine. For more information, please see our FAQs page on our website:

[Nasal Flu Vaccine | Vaccination
UK Schools \(schoolvaccination.uk\)](https://www.schoolvaccination.uk)

You are invited to
Elizabeth House's

Annual Community Party

FRIDAY 29th SEPTEMBER
6:30-9:00PM
2 HURLOCK STREET, N5 1ED

30
YEARS



Highbury Vale Blackstock
Trust has been running
Elizabeth House for 30 years.

Join us for an evening of
music, food and memories.

We want food that celebrates
all of us, so we invite you to
bring a dish if you want.

RSVP AND SIGN UP FOR FOOD
INFO@ELIZABETH-HOUSE.ORG.UK
020 7690 1300



**ELIZABETH
HOUSE**
Your local community centre

Charity Number 1029704



Saddle and Sole

Festival of Walking and Cycling

Free family activities

Inclusive cycling

Everyone welcome

Sunday 24
September

12 – 6pm

Highbury
Fields,
London, N5

To find out more, email
cycletraining@islington.gov.uk or call 07977 267282

Things to do on the day:

- 🚲 All ability cycling with Pedal Power Cycling Club
- 🚲 Joyriders – women's cycling group
- 🚲 Pop-up stalls from local shops
- 🚲 Free bike checks with Dr Bike
- 🚲 Family fun activities including face painting and a bouncy castle
- 🚲 Second hand bike market
- 🚲 Rollapaluza static bike racing
- 🚲 Showcase of vintage bikes
- 🚲 Guided bike rides around the borough – book your place: islington.coordinate.cloud/courses/led-rides
- 🚲 Led walks – sign up on the day
- 🚲 Free bike security marking
- 🚲 Crazy bikes
- 🚲 And loads more!

