



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

# Newsletter 410

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



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Hour of code week

This week is national Hour of code week. The theme this year is A.I. so the children have been engaging in some activities including training the A.I. to detect rubbish in the ocean. We also worked with Micro:bits in the Lab and in class – see below.

### Year 2 Learning

Children took part in a range of coding activities including programming a micro:bit to write their name and training A.I. to detect rubbish in the ocean.



### Year 4 Learning

Y4 were exploring micro:bits (small computers that can be given coded instructions). They instructed them to make name badges using the LED display. Some went further to get micro:bit to display the LED lights in the formation of solid, liquid and gas molecules!



## Class assemblies

Thursdays at 2:30pm, top hall. Families invited to attend, we hope you can make it!

2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 2
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Year 6
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5

## School Library Friday Open Mornings

The school library is open from 8:00am-8:50am for parents and their children together to relax and share books in our beautiful, calm library environment. Our open mornings are being run by our wonderful parent library volunteers. All welcome!

## Head lice

We have had several reports of head lice throughout the school. We ask that families check their child's hair and treat immediately if necessary. You can find further guidance [here](#). Long hair should be tied up.

## Bake sale – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

### Raising money for Morocco Earthquake Appeal and Libya Flood Appeal

Next week, parent and governor Hafsa will be running a bake sale in the playground after school, with funds going to the British Red Cross Morocco Earthquake Appeal and Libya Flood Appeal.

**We kindly ask families for sweet treats and cake donations which will be sold on the day!** Please leave them at the school office on the morning of the sale. Cash will be required to purchase cakes and goodies. You can also make donations to the appeals directly here:

- <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/morocco-earthquake-appeal>
- <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/libya-floods-appeal>



### Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 18/09/23
Reception	97.33%
Year 1	99.31%
Year 2	98.33%
Year 3	98.67%
Year 4	99.66%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	99.29
<b>Whole school</b>	

Attendance Cup  
Winner  
Week Beginning  
18/09/2023  
  
**Year 4!**



### Admissions Information

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

- Apply online at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk)
- Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk)
- Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Diary Dates

Date	Event
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	3:30pm Bake Sale raising money for British Red Cross appeals
October	Black History Month
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Islington School Nursing Team's health and well-being clinic
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	World Poetry Day
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Mental Health Day – universal human rights
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual and sibling photographs
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	FoG Halloween Disco
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> & Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Flu nasal spray immunisations

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen Headteacher





# FoG News

## Gillespie School Afternoon Tea

We wanted to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone who was involved in the planning, set-up and running of the welcome event last weekend - and for those that attended and brought along some delicious treats and snacks for everyone to enjoy! Special shout out to Deidre for all her efforts in planning the day and pulling in so many willing volunteers.



## 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).

## Date for the diary:

Halloween Disco - Thursday 19th October 5-7pm



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

All money raised by FoG goes towards support for the school and 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.

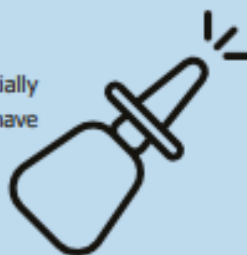
To give consent for your child to have the flu vaccine, please click here:

<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](mailto: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](http://www.schoolvaccination.uk/nasal-flu)

[www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk](https://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](mailto: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 \(schoolvaccination.uk\)](#)

Jonathan O'Sullivan  
Islington Public Health  
222 Upper Street  
London N1 1XR  
[www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)

20 September 2023

## **Re: Measles risk and vaccination advice**

Dear parent/carer,

As you may have recently seen in the news, due to a combination of increased cases of measles this year in London and low levels of vaccination, there is a risk of a large measles outbreak across the city. We are writing to you to provide more information about what measles is and how to keep your family safe.

### **What is measles?**

Measles is a viral infection which spreads very easily, through close or direct contact with an infected person, and can be serious, especially for vulnerable individuals such as babies, those who are pregnant and those who have weakened immune systems.

### **How can the risk of measles be reduced?**

#### **Vaccination**

The best way to reduce the risk of your family becoming unwell with measles is to make sure everyone is vaccinated. The MMR vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps, and rubella, is safe and very effective.

The MMR vaccine is free of charge on the NHS, with two doses needed. The first dose is usually given at 1 year of age and the second dose at 3 years and 4 months of age. But it's never too late to catch-up if anyone in your family has missed out.

You can check your family's vaccination status by looking through a child's red book or contacting your GP. If anyone isn't up to date, you can book an appointment with your GP to catch-up.

There are some catch-up clinics in local schools planned over coming months. You can check if your child's school is included by contacting Vaccination UK on 020 8017 7926.

#### **Self-Isolation**

To reduce the risk of transmission on to others, those with measles and unvaccinated contacts of those with measles may need to avoid school or work for a period of time.

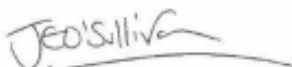
Those who catch measles are advised to stay off nursery, school or work until at least 4 days after the measles rash starts.

According to national guidance, children or adults who are exposed to measles and are not vaccinated may need to stay away from nursery, school or work for up to 21 days.

The best way to protect your family is ensuring everyone is up to date on their vaccines as soon as possible.

You can find out more about the measles vaccine, and other childhood vaccines, online:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan O'Sullivan  
Director of Public Health  
Islington Council

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](mailto:INFO@ELIZABETH-HOUSE.ORG.UK)  
020 7690 1300

 **ELIZABETH  
HOUSE**  
Your local community centre

Charity Number 1029704



You are invited to Messy Church at St Thomas's Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 4 – 6 pm for Messy Harvest. It's a jam-packed afternoon for all ages and stages including themed crafts, activities, and story-telling with a meal too, and it's all free! St Thomas's Church is located on St Thomas's Road, on the corner with Monsell Road.





# 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](mailto: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](https://islington.coordinate.cloud/courses/led-rides)
- 🚲 Led walks – sign up on the day
- 🚲 Free bike security marking
- 🚲 Crazy bikes
- 🚲 And loads more!

