



Friday 20th October 2023

Newsletter 414

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Keeping children safe at Gillespie

This term Gillespie staff and Governors have reviewed our key safeguarding policies taking account of the latest government guidance in [keeping children safe in education 2023](#). The following policies have been approved by Governors and are available on the website and here:

- [Child protection](#)
- [Behaviour](#)
- [Anti-bullying](#)
- [Online safety](#)

Anti-bullying workshop Thursday 2nd November 9:15-10:15am

We will be focussing on participating in the annual anti-bullying week – week beginning 13th November and will inform parents about the work that we do with children during that week. In addition, Heather Vacciana who is the Local Authority Home Safe Domestic Violence Prevention Officer and Anti-bullying Coordinator will be coming in to school to provide a parent anti-bullying workshop on Thursday 2nd November at 9:15am-10:15am - families can [sign up to attend here](#). Heather works with the school every year supporting older classes with a focus on keeping safe.

Special Assembly with Dwayne Fields

As shared in Newsletter 412 we organised for Dwayne Fields (godfather to Shecor in Y4) to guest host a special assembly to pupils today. Dwayne, a British explorer and TV presenter became the first black Briton to walk over 400 nautical miles to the magnetic North Pole. Dwayne shared his experience with us and took questions from the children. Thank you so much Dwayne!



School photos

Children had their individual and sibling photos at school on Wednesday. They should have brought home with them a form with QR code for you to register your account. Once you have done this Van Cols will send an email to let you know when the photos have been processed and are ready to view and order. We expect the photos to be available to view over the half term holidays. Please ensure you read all information including the order deadline to ensure free delivery to school.

Farewell Sally Langsdon

A big thank you to Sally who has decided to resign from her posts here at Gillespie School this term. Sally has been a teaching assistant at the school for the last 10 years and has also supported our breakfast club and music hub for many years. Sally has been a big part of the Gillespie community for more than 25 years and will be missed! We wish her the best of luck in the next stage of her life.



Music Classes for Year 2 & 3

We are pleased that the 'returner' music class for Year 2 & 3 pupils who were signed up and attended last year can finally start after the half term break on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30pm, starting 31/10/23.

There are still lots of places available in the 'new starters' class. The minimum for this class to run is 15 pupils and we currently have 5 registered. If we do not have enough by December, Music Education Islington have said unfortunately it will not be able to run. If we are successful, this class will start in the Spring term. For more information or to sign up click here:

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

Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 16/10/23
Reception	97.67%
Year 1	94.33%
Year 2	98.67%
Year 3	93.33%
Year 4	98.67%
Year 5	97.33%
Year 6	97.86%
Whole school	96.84%

Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
16/10/2023

Year 2&4!



Year 4 Learning

Year 4 have been talking about the work of artist Chris Ofili for Black History month. We looked closely at his famous painting called 'No Woman, No Cry' which features Doreen Lawrence, the mother of Stephen Lawrence who was killed in an unprovoked racist attack 30 years ago. We talked about the story behind the painting and about Doreen Lawrence who today sits in the House of Lords as a peer and campaigns tirelessly for equality and anti-racism in our communities following the death of her son. Chris Ofili was the first black artist to win the prestigious award for artists called the Turner Prize when he was 30 years old (he is now in his 50s).

Year 4 created their own portraits inspired by his work using mixed media.



Year 5 Learning

Year 5 have been listening and learning intently to an Arsenal football coach this term and have learnt so many new skills to try in and out of school



Year 5 having been testing the properties of different materials and learning how useful that is for STEM jobs!



Nursery Learning

This week in Nursery we have been exploring how to mix colours to make new colours. Using our story of the week (Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper), we have been looking at the colour orange. We mixed red and yellow food colouring to make orange water.



Year 1 Learning

As part of our Geography fieldwork, we met Hepsie at the Ecology Centre who showed us a map of Gillespie Park. First, we talked about what we could see on the map and then used the key to find specific features, like the woods or seating. Then we made our own map by putting features from Gillespie park on the table and joining them together with dots, just like on the real map. Next we found the different points on a compass and worked out which direction was North. Finally, we used our real compass and the compass on the map to find specific features using directions such as 'Furthest North' to find specific features. When we found them, we stuck the correct picture in the location we found ourselves in.



Year 2 Learning

Y2 visited the only synagogue in Islington. Rabbi Mendy shared Jewish artefacts and traditions and told us a traditional Jewish story. We spotted a mezuzah on the door – just like the ones we made!



Year 6 Learning

Year 6 visited The Ragged School and were transported back to the 1880s to experience first hand what Victorian schooling was really like!



Caterlink themed menu days

Wednesday 1st November



Bonfire Night Menu

Boom Burgers with Jumping Jack Wedges

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Sizzling Soya Chilli with Raging Rice

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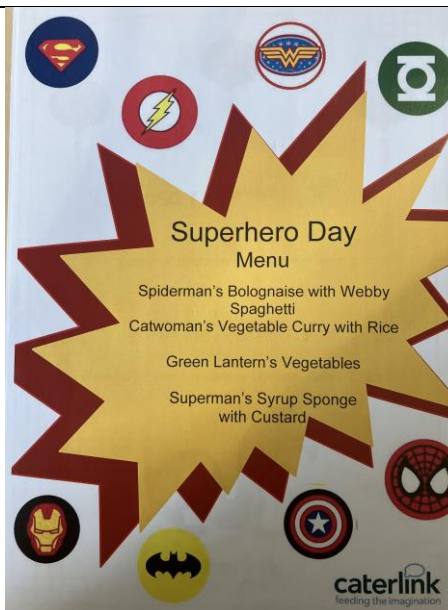
Bonfire BBQ Beans and Banging Broccoli

~

Catherine Wheel Cookie

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Thursday 18th January



Superhero Day Menu

Spiderman's Bolognese with Webby Spaghetti

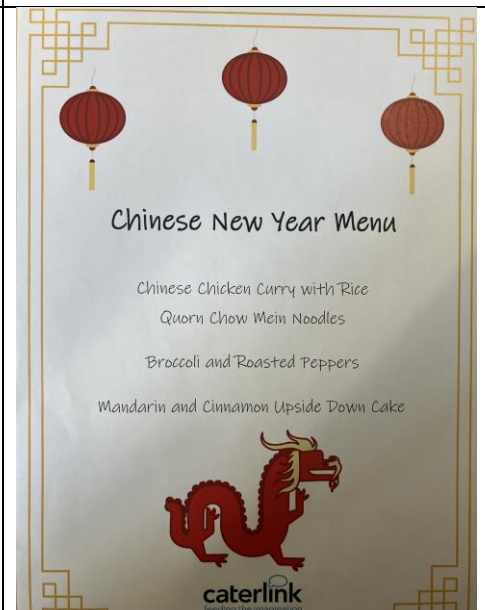
Catwoman's Vegetable Curry with Rice

Green Lantern's Vegetables

Superman's Syrup Sponge with Custard

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Tuesday 6th January



Chinese New Year Menu

Chinese Chicken Curry with Rice

Quorn Chow Mein Noodles

Broccoli and Roasted Peppers

Mandarin and Cinnamon Upside Down Cake

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Gillespie Primary Autumn/Winter Menu		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE		Planet Friendly Day				
W/C 30 October 20 November 11 December 15 January 5 February 4 March 25 March	Option one	Cheese and Tomato Pizza (V)	Roasted Cauliflower Curry & 50/50 Rice (VE)	BBQ Chicken with Chips	Lentil & Roasted Vegetables Pasty with Mash	Fishfingers with New Potatoes
	Option two	Chickpea Tagine with Cous-Cous	Mixed Beef Cottage Pie	Glamorgan Bean Sausages with Jacket Wedges (V)	Chicken Arabiata Pasta	Classic Miso & Cheese
	Vegetables	Cauliflower (VE) Green Beans (VE) Tabbouleh Power Salad (VE)	Broccoli (VE) Sweetcorn (VE)	Carrots (VE) Cabbage (VE)	Roasted Peppers (VE) Green Beans (VE)	Peas (VE) Baked Beans (VE)
	Dessert	Pear Crumble with Custard (V)	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit Station (V)	Mandarin and Cinnamon Cake	Banana Loaf (V)	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit Station (V)
WEEK TWO						
W/C 6 November 27 November 18 December 22 January 19 February 11 March	Option one	Golden Tortilla Stack with 50/50 Rice (V)	Mexican Bean Fajitas with 50/50 Rice	Roast Chicken, Skin on Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Sausages with Mash Potato & Gravy	Fragrant Butterbean Risotto
	Option two	Broccoli Pasta Bake (V)	Beef Lasagne (VE)	Lentil Wellington with Skin on Roast Potatoes (VE)	Hearty Spaghetti Bolognese (VE)	Battered Fish & Chips
	Vegetables	Roasted Tomatoes (VE) Broccoli (VE)	Sweetcorn (VE) Courgettes (VE)	Cauliflower (VE) Carrots (VE)	Red Cabbage (VE) Green Beans (VE)	Peas (VE) Baked Beans (VE) Roasted Veg Power Salad (VE)
	Dessert	Eves Pudding with Custard (V)	Pear & Ginger Slice (V)	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit Station (V)	S A Day Cake (V)	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit Station (V)
WEEK THREE						
W/C 13 November 4 December 8 January 29 January 26 February 18 March	Option one	Sweet & Sour Butterbeans with 50/50 Rice (VE)	Spicy Bean Burger with Jacket Wedges (VE)	Roast Chicken, Mash Potatoes and Gravy	Roasted Vegetable Pizza (V)	Salmon Fish Fingers and Chips
	Option two	Chilli con Carne with 50/50 Rice	Chicken Tagine with Cous-Cous	Jollof Rice, Quorn & Beans (V)	Chickpea & Vegetable Hot Pot with Mash Potato (VE)	Mexican Enchiladas and Rice (V)
	Vegetables	Roasted Peppers (VE) Green Beans (VE)	Sweetcorn (VE) Peas (VE)	Leeks (VE) Carrots (VE)	Broccoli (VE) Cauliflower (VE) Sweet Potato Power Salad (VE)	Peas (VE) Baked Beans (VE)
	Dessert	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit Station (V)	Apple & Raisin Strudel with Custard (V)	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit Station (V)	Peach Upside Down Cake with Custard (V)	Rice Pudding with Fruit Compote (V)
MENU KEY		Added Plant Power Planet Friendly Option Wholemeal Vegan (VE) (V) Vegetarian				
		Available Daily: - Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised) - bread freshly baked on site daily - daily salad selection - Fresh fruit and yoghurt is available daily				
		ALLERGY INFORMATION: If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross contamination.				
		caterlink feeding the imagination				

Ongoing reminders

Breakfast Club arrangements from 30/10/2023

You will have received our letter this week about our new breakfast club partnership with Calypso Gymnastics Club. We remind families that booking for BC should now be made directly to them here: <https://calypso-gymnastics.classforkids.io/camp/17>. You can also view a copy of the letter shared [here](#).

Class assemblies

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

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

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.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October	Half term
Monday 30 th October	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 1 st November	9:15-10:15am Family Learning (1 st of 4 weekly sessions)
Wed 1 st & Thu 2 nd November	Flu nasal spray immunisations
Friday 3 rd November	9:30am FoG AGM in bottom hall Y5 Bonfire night bake sale & uniform stall
Friday 10 th November	Remembrance assembly School Nurse Health & Well-being clinic
WKBG 13 th November	Anti-bullying week
Friday 1 st December	Y4 Christmas bake sale & uniform stall
Wednesday 6 th December	2:00-7:00pm Parent Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 13 th December	FoG Carol singing bucket shake
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas dinner
Wednesday 20 th December	10am & 2pm Christmas Shows 3:30pm FoG Winter Fair
Thursday 21 st December	Last day of Autumn term. School closes 2pm

Wishing our families a fantastic half term break and look forward to seeing children back at school on Monday 30th October 2023.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen Headteacher





FoG News



Halloween Disco



What an amazing night! From the decorations to the costumes, dancing crew and doughnut eaters, everyone gave it their all last night. FoG wanted to say a HUGE thank you to **Vicky Hatchett and her army of helpers** for all of their hard work in organising such a blockbuster event. Well done to the all the pumpkin carvers, and special shout out to the winning designs. Here's looking forward to next year!



Autumn Term Dates for your diary

Below is a summary of all of the FoG events for the Autumn Term.

Fri	3-Nov-2023	FoG AGM
Fri	3-Nov-2023	Yr 5 Bonfire Night Bake Sale & Uniform Sale
Fri	1-Dec-2023	Y4 Christmas Bake Sale & Uniform Sale
Wed	13-Dec-2023	Carol Singing Bucket Shake
Wed	20-Dec-23	Winter Fair



Gillespie Primary School Festive Card Project



THE DEADLINE FOR SHOP ORDERS IS 22nd OCTOBER. If you have any questions about the project or how to make purchases, please email Mary (the real brains behind this operation) marydecinque@gmail.com.



FoG Annual General Meeting Date confirmed



On Friday 3rd of November at 9.30am Friends of Gillespie will host its **Annual General Meeting**. This will be an opportunity for parents, carers and other stakeholders to learn more about the coordination and delivery of FoG activities.

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

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.**



**GILLESPIE PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



FAMILY LEARNING EVENTS



**Join us for fun activities and
story- telling, together with a song!**

Wednesdays 9:15am-10:15am

- 1st November
- 8th November
- 15th November
- 22nd November



**Gillespie Primary School
London N5 1LH**

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.

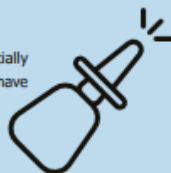
To give consent for your child to have the flu vaccine, please click here:

<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 FAQs, as well as details of our community catch up clinics. We also have some FAQs 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



ISLINGTON
Immunisation Team
Contact Details

islington@v-uk.co.uk

0208 017 7926

WORKING ON BEHALF OF



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:
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:

<https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/nasal-flu>