



Friday 17th November 2023

Newsletter 417

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,



Anti-Bullying Week

This week all classes have been engaged in Anti-bullying week activities. This year the theme is **'Make A Noise About Bullying'**. The theme is based on urging adults and children alike to come together to have discussions about what we mean by bullying behaviour, how we can tell the difference between 'banter' and bullying and how we can make changes to reduce bullying. Together, we can make a difference if we make a noise to stop bullying.

In our assembly today, classes shared their learning this week and demonstrated their understanding of what bullying is and what strategies they had learned to deal with bullying and to keep themselves safe. In Year 5 and Year 6 children created 'banter meters' to show when banter is genuinely fun and when banter becomes unkind and bullying. Children showed some real reflection and a determination to ensure that we oppose bullying at Gillespie School!

Children were stripey and spotty for Children in Need today. Thank you so much for your donations so far, this is appreciated as ever! Donations can still be made via our Just Giving page here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxw9u2y>



IMPORTANT Packed Lunch reminder

Gillespie is a nut free school! Please ensure if your child has a packed lunch in school or for a class trip that is a healthy, varied lunch containing NO NUTS/SEAME SEEDS inc dips such a humus. We have several children with severe nut allergies and it is vital families adhere to this school rule.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Next week we will be sharing letters with information on how to sign up for Parent Consultation Meetings. You can select a time that works for you using the online diary system 'School Cloud' and appointments will take place face to face in your child's classroom.

Please note the dates/times available for each year group below:

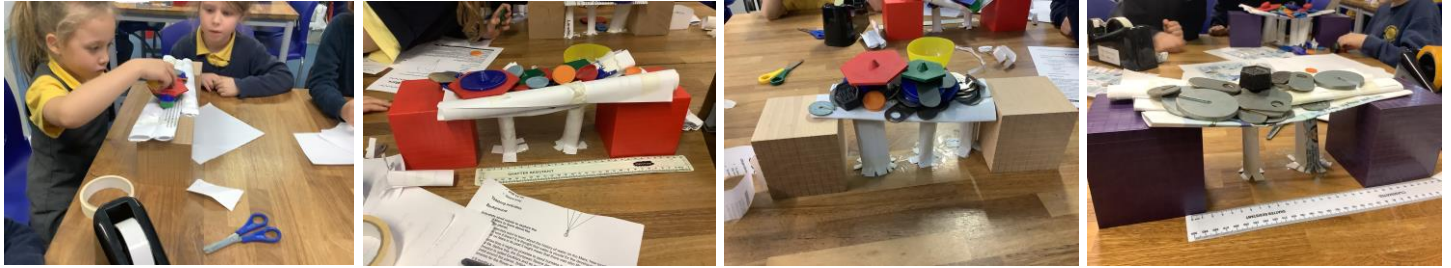
Nursery	Wednesday 6 th December	3:30-6:00pm
Reception	Wednesday 6 th December	1:00-6:30pm
Year 1	Monday 4 th December	3:15-6:15pm
	Tuesday 5 th December	3:15-6:15pm
Year 2	Wednesday 6 th December	2:00-7:00pm
Year 3	Wednesday 6 th December	2:00-7:00pm
Year 4	Wednesday 6 th December	2:00-7:00pm
Year 5	Wednesday 6 th December	2:00-7:00pm
Year 6	Wednesday 6 th December	2:00-7:00pm

Teachers2Parents text messaging service

We are pleased to say we have upgraded the text messaging service to allow messages to be sent to two contacts per family. Please check if this is the case for your child and email the office to add a contact where necessary. Thank you!

Lab_13 Learning

KS1 STEM Club Engineering: Pupils were very excited to discover that by creating cylindrical shapes for bridge spans and columns, their bridges could support far more weight than they ever expected. It was a delight to see them persevere and to work together to build their bridges. Meg, Lab_13



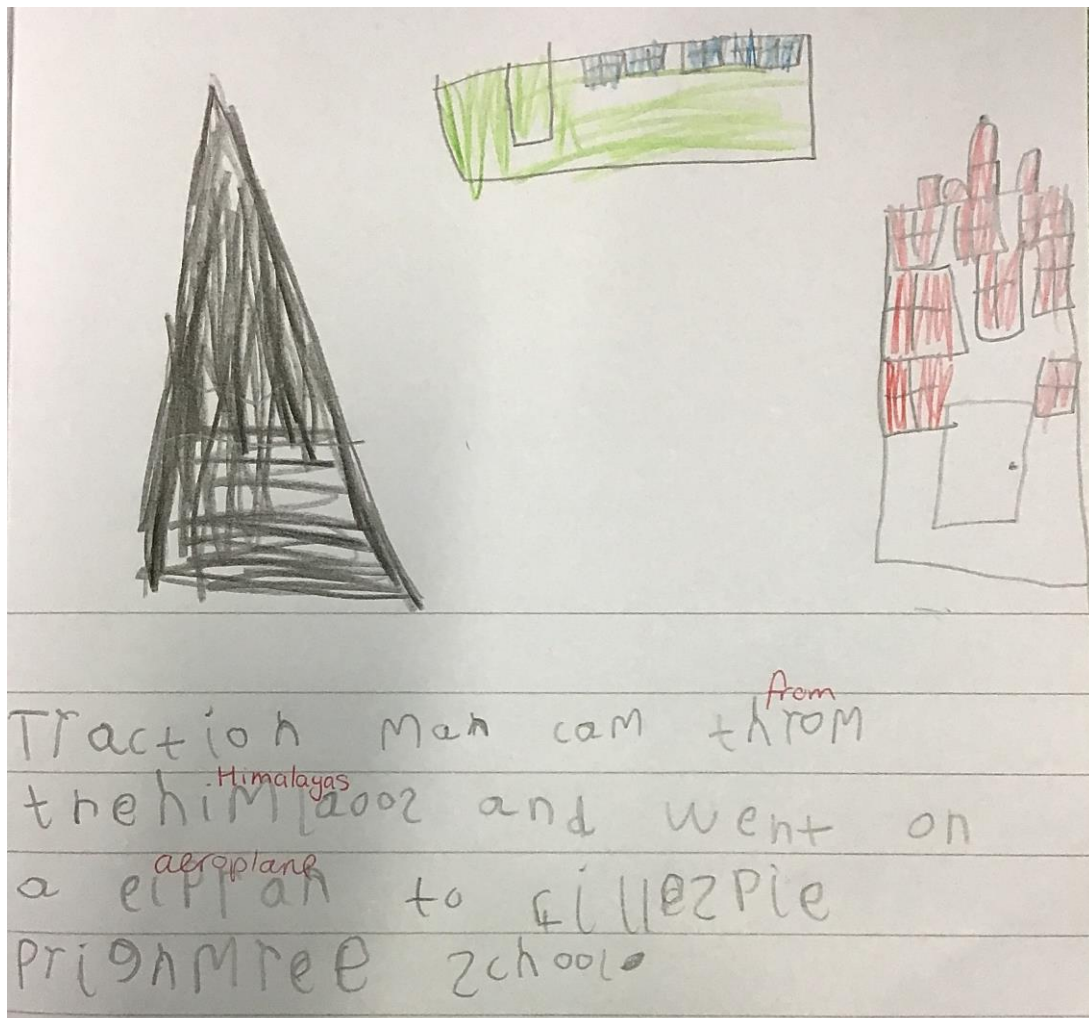
Year 1 Learning

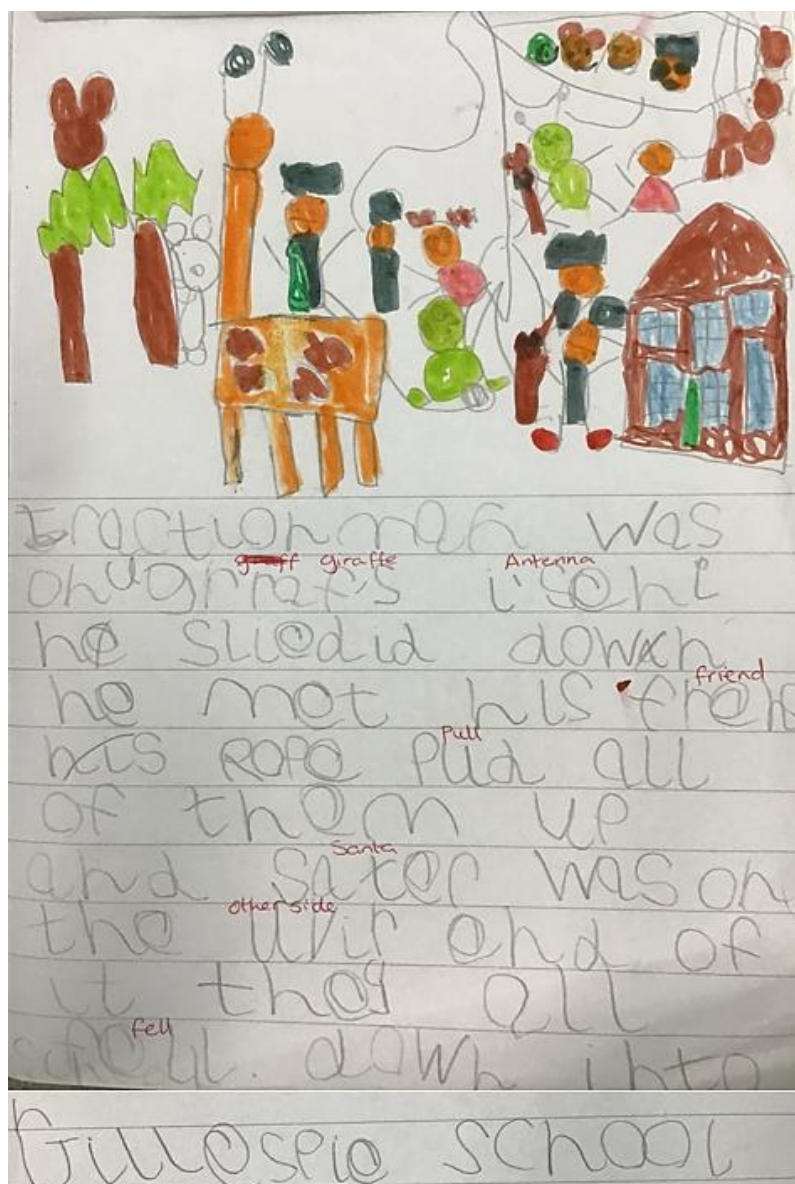
On Tuesday morning this week, a mysterious parcel arrived in the year 1 classroom. We thought we'd do our learning first and then open it after break. However, when we got back into class, to our huge surprise an arm had broken through the packaging. We opened it and found that it was Traction Man! We have been reading the Traction Man book in English, so we were really pleased that he had come to visit us. Whilst we were eating our lunch, he decided to go and explore the classroom and when we came back, we found him abseiling down the shelves.



We decided that we would try to work out how Traction Man got to Gillespie School so, we shared our ideas, drew a series of pictures to show his journey to us and wrote how he got here. We wrote these sentences completely by ourselves without any help from an adult. We are really happy that Traction Man has come to visit us and we can't wait to see what adventures he goes on next!

Here are some examples of the amazing writing in Y1. Follow us @GillespieSchool on Twitter for more examples!





Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 13/11/23
Reception	95%
Year 1	98.33%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	98.33%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	97.67%
Year 6	99.29%
Whole school	97.69%

Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
13/11/2023

Year 4!



Ongoing reminders

Class assemblies

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

Thursday 23 rd November	Year 6
Thursday 30 th November	Year 4
Thursday 7 th December	Year 5

Admissions Information

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
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

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen Headteacher

Libraries
ReadLearnConnect

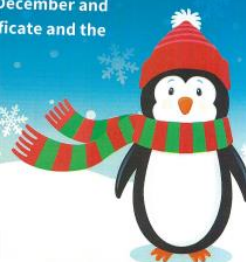
**JOIN OUR GREAT
WINTER READING
CHALLENGE**

Read 4 books between 1 December and
29 February to get a certificate and the
chance to win a prize!

Suitable for ages 0 - 16

**Ask a member
of staff today!**

For more activities taking place in
Islington Libraries, please visit
www.islington.gov.uk/libraries
or follow us on @islingtonlibs



To parents and carers

Children and Young People 222
Upper Street
London N1 1XR

T: 020 7527 5753
E: jon.abbey@islington.gov.uk
www.islington.gov.uk

Thursday 16 November 2023

To all parents and carers,

I wanted to write to you about the work Islington Council is doing to support our wonderful, diverse community in the borough at a time when many are concerned about the conflict in the Middle East.

Islington is a diverse place, with different communities from all around the world that have made it their home. It is the Council's priority to ensure our borough remains the cohesive, welcoming place we all know and love. We know there are many Islington residents who will have family and friends in the region, and our thoughts and sympathies are with all impacted families at this very difficult time.

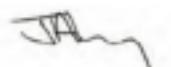
The conflict can be upsetting for adults, children and young people and we know that events in the region may have a knock-on effect on community cohesion and this has led to an increase in hate crime incidents. You may also be aware of images and videos being circulated on social media, as well as the increase in hate crime in the UK, that will be deeply troubling to students and their families across all our schools.

It is important that children of all religions, faiths and backgrounds feel safe and we have advised schools to continue to ensure that discrimination and hate activity are managed in accordance with their behaviour, anti-bullying, and safeguarding policies. It is also helpful to support children on how they should talk to each other and listen in a way that promotes understanding and co-existence. We have previously shared with all Islington schools the Department for Education's [Educate Against Hate](#) website which provides resources to support parents as well as schools. [Thrive LDN](#) is also offering mental health support services to those affected by the conflict.

There are many Islington residents who will have family and friends in the region, and our thoughts and sympathies are with all impacted families at this very difficult time.

As a community, we stand together and reject hatred, division, and violence in all their forms. If you see or experience any hate speech or harassment, please call the police on 101 or use the [Stop Hate UK online reporting tool](#).

Should you have any concerns, or need additional support that the council might be able to offer, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.



Jon Abbey
Director of Children's Services
Islington Council



2023 Carol Singing Bucket Shake



We will be doing our annual bucket shake and singing of Christmas songs to raise money for the school before the Arsenal v Brighton football match on **Sunday 17th December**. Get the date in your diary now!!!

We'll be meeting outside school at 12:30pm on the 17th and will be all finished by kick-off at 2pm.



Dates for your diary

Below is a summary of all of the FoG events for the Autumn and Spring Terms :

Fri	1-Dec-2023	15:30-16:30	Y4 Christmas Bake Sale & Uniform Sale
Wed	17-Dec-2023	12:30-14:00	Carol Singing Bucket Shake
Wed	20-Dec-23	tbc	Winter Fair
Spring Term			
Wed	24-Jan-2024	09:00-10:00	FOG Spring Term General Meeting
Fri	2-Feb-2024		NSPCC NUMBER DAY (Non FoG event)
Fri	9-Feb-2024	15:00 - 16:00	Year 3 Valentines Bake Sale & Uniform Sale
Thur	29-Feb-2024	15:30-18:00	Movie Night
Fri	15-Mar-2024		COMIC RELIEF (Non Fog event)
Fri	22-Mar-2024	15:00 - 16:00	Year 2 St Patrick's Bake Sale & Uniform Sale
Wed	27-Mar-2024	09:00 - 10:00	Open FoG Meeting

Make a note of any events you might want to attend or get involved in - we will always welcome the support!



Gillespie Primary School Festive Card Project



Remember, you can still place orders for these items, but will now need to pay for postage and packaging. 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.

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

Direct Donations

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.