



Friday 1st December 2023

Newsletter 419

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hanukkah whole school assembly

Today some of our children presented a beautiful assembly about the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah including sharing the significance of the lighting of the candles on the menorah to mark the ancient miracle of the lamp lasting eight days. We wish all of our Jewish families a happy Hanukkah when the celebrations begin next week.



Islington football league



Fantastic team spirit saw both teams score a win against Poole's Park in their second matches of the season. Well done to the boys' team who won 1-0 and the girls' team who won 2-0. Both teams played really well, keep up the hard word!

Christmas Shows

Wednesday 20th December 10am and 2pm

The children are busy rehearsing their lines and songs for the upcoming Christmas Shows. On the day they will be performing the same show twice with a morning performance at 10am and an afternoon performance at 2pm. Next week we will share a link with families to book tickets online. We have limited capacity so tickets are capped at 2 per family (you can choose the time which suits you) – tickets will be checked on the day. More information to come on affordable costume requirements and innovations!

Healthy Cooking week

This week classes have been busy cooking up a storm in Lab_13. The children are putting their culinary skills to the test to make healthy and delicious meals.

Year 5 had their cooking session this week where they got to make pizza from scratch. We chose a healthy recipe with healthy ingredients so they could practice these skills they may want to use at home. With minimal help from their teacher, they used skills such as chopping, kneading, sieving and baking to create these delicious looking pizzas. Florie couldn't believe how good their cooking skills were. As a treat, they got to eat it at school for an afternoon or morning snack! Here's some images to show you the process.

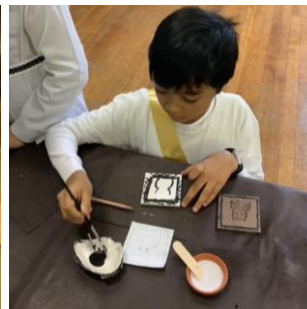


Year 6 spent this morning in the Lab cooking a hearty soup full of garlic, onion, carrot, tomatoes and other vegetarian ingredients.



Year 4 Learning

Y4 were transported back to Athens in ancient Greece for a day. They spent a busy day working hard at pressing olives to make oil, making wax tablets on which to write messages and designed and made their own mosaics, amulets and much more. A great historical day was had by all!



Year 4 did their class assembly this week presenting their learning about the ancient Greeks from this term. They beautifully shared interesting facts from their learning in history, geography, art and English lessons.



Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 27/11/23
Reception	95.33%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	99.67%
Year 3	99%
Year 4	99.33%
Year 5	97.33%
Year 6	97.50%
Whole school	98.17%

Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
27/11/2023
Year 2 !



Ongoing reminders

Class assemblies

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

Thursday 7 th December	Year 5
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Diary Dates

Date	Event
WB 4 th Dec	Parent Consultation Meetings
Sun 17 th Dec	FoG Carol singing bucket shake
Tue 19 th Dec	Christmas dinner
Wed 20 th Dec	10am & 2pm Christmas Shows / 3:30pm FoG Winter Fair
Thu 21 st Dec	Last day of Autumn term. School closes 2pm

Reminder for parent consultation meetings taking place next week in your child's classroom.

We also look forward to welcoming back Laura from maternity leave next week. She will be teaching in Reception class on Thursdays and Fridays.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen, Headteacher



Calypso Breakfast Club and morning gymnastics and dance classes

Families will now know that Calypso gymnastics club took over the running of breakfast club in October 2023. They are now successfully up and running and we are excited to announce they will be running morning activity classes at school from January 2024! These classes are separate to breakfast club and children will not be served food. Full details of the clubs on offer are below including a link to sign up.



CALYPSO
GYMNASTICS CLUB

STARTING JANUARY

GYMNASTICS AND DANCE CLASSES

DANCE

KS 1 WEDNESDAY 8-8:55AM
KS 2 FRIDAYS 8-8:55AM

OUR DANCE CLASSES ARE THE PERFECT
WAY TO START THE DAY!

HAVE FUN LEARNING NEW MOVES AND AT
THE END OF THE TERM THERE WILL BE A
FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE SHOWCASING
ALL YOUR FABULOUS NEW SKILLS!

£8.50 per session - Bookings
must be made for the whole
term.

Places limited and on a first
come first serve bases.

NO FOOD IS SERVED,
THESE ARE ACTIVITY
CLUBS.

Bookings can be made here:

[calypso-
gymnastics.classforkids.io/term/41](https://calypso-gymnastics.classforkids.io/term/41)

For more information please
contact us on

info@calypsogymnasticsclub.com
07435 965919

GYMNASTICS

KS 2 THURSDAYS 8-8:55AM

IN THE CLASSES YOU WILL WORK ON A
WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS BUILDING
YOUR STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY,
CONDITIONING AND CONFIDENCE ALL
IN A FUN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

AT THE END OF EACH TERM YOU WILL
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN
YOUR PROFICIENCY AWARDS.



NATURE CONNECTION

In our busy city, children need access to their local wild spaces to enjoy the outdoors and immerse themselves in nature through free play.

Building dens, making fires and using nature's loose parts to make things, helps children to learn more about the natural world and offers children the time to be awe inspired by nature and supports their creativity and sense of wonder.

At Forest School children observe and interact with our natural environment, stimulating their natural curiosity and enhancing their social and emotional well-being. Playing with others in a natural environment helps children form strong friendships and build empathy and personal resilience.

Join us for our Easter camp on Hampstead Heath and help your child to flourish in the outdoors.

"strong roots produce greater fruits"

BOOKINGS NOW AT:
www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk
info@urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

WHITTILING & GREEN
WOODWORKING
FIRE LIGHTING & COOKING
TOOL USE
KNOT TYING
WEAVING & FELTING
NATURAL ARTS & CRAFTS
COLLECTIVE GAMES
BUG HOUSES
NATURAL PAINTS & DYES
FOOD FORAGING
MUD KITCHEN
TREE CLIMBING



AFTER SCHOOL FOREST SCHOOL CLUB

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT ABBY 07950481279





Urban Outdoors
ADVENTURES IN NATURE

After School Forest School Club pick up at Gillespie School

Fridays 3.30-5.30pm
visit our website
www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk

Ready Set Stage After School Clubs

Ready Set Stage (RSS) After School Clubs – Spring term 2024 www.readysetstage.co.uk				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ready Set Stage				
Gymnastics	Arts & Craft	Singing	Performing Arts	
Football (Years 3-6)	Basketball	Football (Reception - Year 2)		

Spring term registration to be made online at www.readysetstage.co.uk

Dates:

- Clubs begin week beginning 15th January 2024 x4 weeks
- *no clubs during half term week beginning 12th February
- Weeks recommence week beginning 19th February x5 weeks
- Last week of clubs week beginning 18th March
- Total 9 weeks

Free School Meal eligible pupils

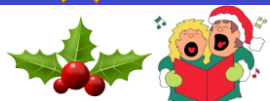
Children eligible for Free School Meals are entitled to one free club per term. Please sign up using the RSS website and enter the following code* FSMSPRING24 which will deduct any payment at the end. You can only use this code once per eligible pupil. If you are unsure if your child is eligible for Free School Meals please contact the school office.

Code: FSMSPRING24 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.



FoG News



Gillespie Carol Singing Bucket Shake 2023



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.



Winter (Fair) is coming...



With the date set for **Wednesday 20th December 3.30 - 5.30pm**, work is in full flow to ensure that we are offering the usual festive fun, warm food/drinks and various stalls and activities to get everyone in the mood for the holiday season. As with previous years, we are aiming for different classes to each run an individual stall, so do **keep an eye out for requests from your class reps for helpers**.



We're also looking for people to help with set-up, tidy-up and plenty of other key jobs in the run up to the fair, so if you are willing and able to get involved please contact Sean (07986792367) or Max (07812 633 827). Also...

We need your skills or treasures for our annual Parent Pledge Auction!!!

Some examples of pledges have included offering to bake a cake, holding a masterclass in your chosen skill (French plaits, music, law, make up), cooking your signature dish for a dinner, painting a portrait or a couple of hours doing some DIY or gardening. Or maybe you have a special thing that you could donate e.g. a Banksy or a bottle of Bacardi. **To add your offer to the pledge list, no matter how random, just message Jacqui (07900188328).**

Thanks in advance for any contributions and pledges - we can't do this without you!

Dates for your diary

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

Sun	17-Dec-2023	12:30-14:00	Carol Singing Bucket Shake
Wed	20-Dec-23	15:30-17.30	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

FOG WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS BEEN ABLE DONATE (TIME, MONEY, IDEAS, MORAL SUPPORT) OVER THE LAST YEAR



Due to the generosity of all our parents and carers FoG **raised a record-breaking £30,000 last year** to support a range of education enhancing initiatives for all our children. This has been critical in supporting Gillespie be the brilliant and special school that it is in what continues to be challenging financial times. Thank you!



Donate to FoG here!†

This year we want to be able to continue to provide our children with access to the same fantastic extra-curricular activities. In addition, there are new needs that Mark and the teachers have highlighted, for example enhanced IT equipment for use in classrooms or access to additional reading resources.

To support this, and to maintain our existing level of provision, we need to continue **to generate income through events and donations.**

Example activities supported

Strings tuition for all pupils Y4 and above

Forest school across Reception and Y1

School trips for all year groups

Sports equipment

£200 budgets for use by each class

We know and appreciate that not everyone is able to directly support charitable initiatives. And to be crystal clear **there is no expectation or pressure to donate at all.** However, if you feel like you can and would like to contribute, here are some example ways in which you can help:

- A monthly regular direct debit donation of as little as £5 [DONATE TO FOG HERE!](#)
- A donation of an item which we can put to one of our auctions (last year we raised almost £3k by auctioning Glastonbury tickets, golf tickets and a signed England shirt)
- Running a stall at an event, helping on the door or just acting as an extra pair of hands (**for example at our Winter Fair on the 20th December**)
- One off donations of any amounts are always welcomed

Once again we thank everyone for their support. This is truly a whole school effort with many parents contributing in different ways.

For any questions, further information or feedback please contact Sean (07986 792 367), Max (07812 633 827), James (07775 791 445) or any other member of the FoG committee. You can also contact us via your class representative.



Free early learning and childcare is increasing

Free early learning with a nursery or childminder supports your child's development.

Social skills: spending quality time with other children and adults

Learning: young children learn while they play and explore

Routines: children gain confidence, independence, and a sense of security

Free hours are available for 38 weeks a year, or some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over more weeks, using fewer hours each week.

How many hours of childcare can you get a week?

Age 3-4 years

All parents

15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours
Now	Apr 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Working families

30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours
Now	Apr 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Age 2 years

Families receiving some additional forms of government support

15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours
Now	Apr 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Working families

15 hours	15 hours	30 hours
Apr 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Age 9-23 months

Working families

15 hours	30 hours
Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Free hours are available from the start of the term after your child turns the relevant age by 31 March, 31 August, or 31 December.

Current offers

Age 3-4

15 hours a week – for everyone; no need to apply.
Contact early years providers to ask about a place.

30 hours a week – for eligible working parents*.
Apply at Childcare Choices – childcarechoices.gov.uk

Age 2

15 hours a week – for families receiving benefits or on a low wage.
Also, for children looked after, families with no recourse to public funds, children receiving DLA or with an EHCP.
Apply at islington.gov.uk/free2

New expanded childcare offers

Age 2

15 hours a week – for eligible working parents*; both parents need to be working. Available from April 2024.
You can apply from January 2024 to take up a place from April 2024.
You must apply by 31 March 2024.
Go to childcarechoices.gov.uk

Age 9-23 months

15 hours a week – for eligible working parents*; both parents need to be working. Available from September 2024.
You can apply from April 2024 to take up a place from September 2024.
You must apply by 31 August 2024.
Speak to your local childcare providers to find out what they are offering.

30 hours free childcare

From September 2025 eligible working parents* of children from the age of 9 months until they start school, will be able to get 30 hours free. Eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds can already receive this.

*Eligible working parents – this means that each parent is working and earning under £100k per year and at least £167 per week (equal to 16 hours at National minimum or Living Wage)



Sign up for updates at
childcarechoices.gov.uk



For more information contact
Islington Family Information Service (FIS)
020 7527 5959
fis@islington.gov.uk
Follow us on Facebook
[@IslingtonFIS](https://www.facebook.com/IslingtonFIS)