



Friday 8th December 2023

Newsletter 420

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Outstanding news

Thank you for all the lovely feedback we have had from our parent and carer community this week following the release of our Ofsted report. I am so proud of the whole Gillespie community. We look forward to continuing our adventure in the future. Letter shared [here](#) and full Ofsted report [here](#).



Christmas Jumper Day Tuesday 19th December



This year we will be raising money for Save the Children by taking part in their annual Christmas jumper day. Families do not need to buy a jumper for the occasion; we would love to see some reused and recycled jumpers as well innovative creations. Donations to Save the Children can be made here: <https://tinyurl.com/3u9ch2mx>

Christmas shows

Wednesday 20th December at 10am and 2pm

The children will all be performing in the two shows so families can choose a time that suits. Please note due to limited capacity families are limited to two tickets per family. Tickets will be checked at the door and can be booked for free using the link.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gillespie-primary-school/e-xgkoxm>

Christmas show costumes

This year's show is based on the classic film 'The Nativity'. Feel free to take a look at the film for costume inspiration. As ever families are not required to buy a costume. Please reuse/recycle clothing from home for the costumes.

Years 1-6

Children have been allocated a character. They will be one of the following:

- **Child-** festive colours/Christmas jumpers/Santa hat etc (reds/greens/gold/bright!)
- **Parent-** casual wear
- **Teachers:**
 - Mr Maddens-** smart/formal wear – dark trousers/shirt/cardigan/tie (if you have a tie)
 - Mr Poppy-** casual wear
 - Mrs Bevan-** smart/formal wear – smart dress/skirt/trousers/cardigan & necklace
 - Miss Rye & Miss Smith** – smart/formal wear
- **Animals** – your child knows what animal they have been assigned. A costume in the animal colour works. Homemade animal ears work very well!
- **Stars** – bright yellow/gold/silver and anything with sparkles!
- **Lord Mayor** – very formal wear – blazer/tie/makeshift robe
- Year 6 angels, Mary and Joseph characters will receive a note about costume.



Nursery and Reception children will receive a separate message about costumes.



Islington football league

This week both teams fought hard against St Marks' school and were beaten by the boys and girls teams. They continue to work on their skills and teamwork and are keeping up their spirits for matches to come in the New Year.

Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 27/11/23
Reception	96.43%
Year 1	97.80%
Year 2	98.14%
Year 3	97.41%
Year 4	98.94%
Year 5	96.75%
Year 6	97.03%
Whole school	

Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
27/11/2023
Year 4!



Year 3 Learning

On Monday Year 3 travelled back in time to the Stone Age at their trip to Celtic Harmony. The children loved this interactive and immersive day!



Year 4 Learning

Year 4 enjoyed cooking a meal from scratch this week – they worked in teams preparing the healthy, delicious, vegetable pasta bake. It tasted great!



Year 5 Learning

In Year 5, we took part in immersive and practical History experience where they travel back to 878 AD in Britain through the time of the Battle of Edington!



Gillespie Eco-Committee Cut Your Carbon Challenge

Through our involvement with Eco-Schools, the Gillespie Eco-Committee is challenging all young people and families in our school to take action on their carbon footprint. Completing these 9 simple actions with families and friends will raise awareness, change behaviours, and Cut Your Carbon - a greenhouse gas responsible for driving climate change.

So grab a magnet, stick the sheet on your fridge, and get going... the time to act is now!

Make at least one journey more sustainable. Transport is responsible for around 20% of global CO₂ emissions. So how about turning a car-ride to school into a bus-ride to school? Or perhaps a bus to the shops could become a bike to the shops?

Go meat-free for a day. Farmed animals are responsible for around 14% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, so choose a day to go meat-free and discover how delicious cutting carbon can be. As an extra challenge, try going entirely plant-based for the day (meaning no dairy or eggs either) or attempt a meat-free day each week during November.

Have a no food-waste weekend. Prepare only what is needed, eat everything edible on your plate, and ensure any leftovers are saved for another time or used to create a new meal. Growing, processing, and transporting food releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and even more gases are released if this food is binned and sent to landfill.

Turn down the heating by 1° for a week Heating is the biggest source of CO₂ emissions in many homes. Dropping your heating 1° below your usual temperature for a week can reduce your carbon footprint and save your family money. You could even go further and commit to 18° for a week, as recommended by the World Health Organization.

Design a flight free holiday. Flying is bad for our planet, so for this challenge, we're asking you to appreciate exciting destinations closer to home – sit with your family and decide on a future trip you'd like to take that doesn't involve flying. This might be to visit Stonehenge in Wiltshire, try surfing in Cornwall, or go hiking in the Lake District.

Say 'no' to a new item. Write a list of every non-essential item you bought, or that was bought for you, last month and categorise each - e.g., clothing, toys, cosmetics. Choose a category and commit to not purchasing any items in this category for a month, because every item you buy has a carbon footprint.

Donate something you no longer need. Manufacturing new items releases carbon into the atmosphere. For example, producing a book releases about 1kg CO₂, a t-shirt 7kg, and an iPhone, a whopping 60kg! Passing on things you no longer need is a great way to prevent emissions, so, swap a book with a friend, donate clothing that doesn't fit to charity, or pass on an unused device to a relative.

Substitute 4 baths for 4 showers and limit them to 4 minutes. Swapping a bath for a 4-minute shower can use up to 44 litres less water, saving the energy required to clean, transport, and heat this water. We recommend using a 4-minute song as a timer that you can sing-along to!

Share carbon-cutting advice with someone. To conquer climate change, we all need to work together, so share three pieces of carbon-cutting advice with people you know. You might remind a brother or sister not to waste food, challenge a grandparent to time their shower or share a plant-based recipe on social media.

Get additional insight into your family's emissions.

Check out WWF's Carbon Footprint Calculator: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>



1. Make at least one journey more sustainable

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2. Go meat-free for a day

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3. Have a no food-waste weekend

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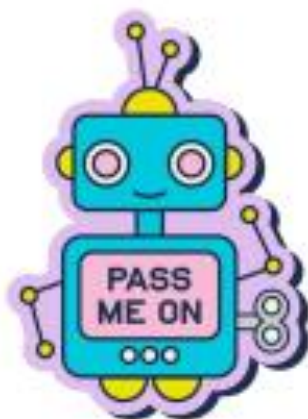
4. Turn down the heating by 1° for a week

☐

5. Design a flight-free holiday

☐

6. Say 'no' to a new item

☐

7. Donate something you no longer need

☐

8. Substitute 4 baths for 4 showers and limit them to 4 minutes

☐

9. Share carbon-cutting advice

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COMPLETED BY

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Elizabeth House clubs

Elizabeth House is excited to inform you that we are now taking bookings for next term's (January – March 2024) After School Enrichment Clubs.

If you are interested in securing a spot for your child(ren) in one of our enrichment clubs listed below, please email ChildrensActivities@elizabeth-house.org.uk. These clubs are open to all local children, but availability is limited. To ensure a place, it is necessary to book in advance for the full term of 9 weeks (from the week commencing 15th January to the week ending 18th March 2024). We will allocate spots on a first-come, first-served basis. If the classes reach capacity, your child(ren) will be placed on a waiting list. Bookings will remain open until all spots are filled.

Please note that prices and timings may vary slightly, so we recommend checking the details for each individual activity. To secure a place for your child(ren) in the desired club, simply complete and submit the corresponding form, and we will confirm your enrolment week before the end of term.

Monday	<u>Breakdance/Hip Hop Club</u>	15th January – 18th March, 4pm – 5pm (9 sessions)
Monday	<u>Coding Club – Mini Coders (Reception to yr 3)</u> You can explore the course more <u>HERE</u>	15 th January – 18 th March, 4pm – 5pm (9 sessions)
Wednesday	<u>Cooking Club</u>	17 th January – 20 th March, 4pm – 5pm (9 sessions)
Thursday	<u>Coding Club (Yr 3 to 6)</u> You can read more about the course <u>HERE</u>	18 th January – 21 st March, 4pm – 5pm (9 sessions)
Friday	<u>Kids Boxing Class</u>	19 th January – 22 nd March, 4pm – 5pm (9 sessions)
Friday	<u>Cooking Club Friday</u>	19 th January – 22 nd March, 4pm – 5pm (9 sessions)

There will not be any clubs during half term (February half term Monday 12th February 2024 - Friday 16th February 2024).

Your child(ren) will not be booked on the class if you do not complete the form.

Prices do not include school pick-ups as this would require additional staffing. This can be discussed if there are many children from the same school (not Gillespie School) attending one club or if your child(ren) attend our after school childcare provision until 6pm.

Working families who need childcare can still book their child into an enrichment club and you will get a reduced rate for our After School childcare provision till 6pm (£5).

Please note that these clubs will only run if there are enough children booked for each club.

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

Ongoing reminders

Admissions Information

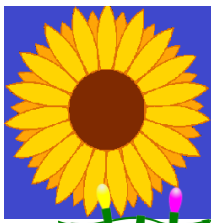
Primary School Admissions for children born between: 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020

- 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
Sunday 17 th December	FoG Carol singing bucket shake
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas dinner & Christmas jumper day
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



FoG News

Special Request: All of the Lights!

Calling all you resident festive decorators! FoG are planning to take more of the Winter Fair stalls outside this year and we need illumination! If you can, can we please ask for any temporary donations of:

- Fairy lights
- Camping lamps
- Extension cord reels
- Anything else that can provide us with some light and festive cheer!

If you have anything to spare, please drop them at the front office for collection before **Friday 15th December**. If you would like items returned, please put them in a bag labelled with your name and contact details so we can get them back to you after the fair. Thank you!



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**, 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).**

↓Donate to FoG here!



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.

We know and appreciate that not everyone is able to directly support charitable initiatives. 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 amount are always welcomed.

Islington Life

Libraries ReadLearnConnect

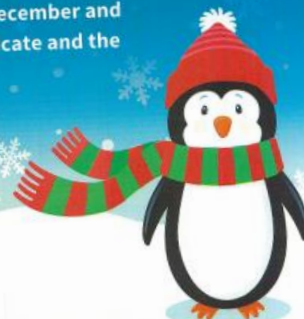
JOIN OUR GREAT WINTER READING CHALLENGE

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



ISLINGTON
For a more equal future



You are invited to Messy Church at St Thomas's Church on Sunday 10 December from 4 – 6 pm for Messy Christmas. It's a jam-packed afternoon for all ages and stages, getting ready for the joy of Christmas, including themed crafts, activities, and story-telling with a meal too, and it's all free!

CHRISTMAS PANTO 2023
19TH DECEMBER @ 4:30-5:45PM
CHILD £9 / ADULT £12

SPACED OUT Christmas
What on Earth is going on?

BOOK NOW

Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre
71 Ronalds Road, N5 1XB

020 7359 5916

HIGHBURY ROUNDHOUSE
Raising the Heart and the Hand

www.highbury-roundhouse.org.uk

films for the family



Join us on Sat & Sun mornings and in the school holidays for our favourite family films + free activity.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN

THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939)
SAT 21 OCT / SUN 22 OCT / TUE 24 OCT

HOCUS POCUS (1993)
SAT 28 OCT / SUN 29 OCT

COCO (2017)
SAT 4 NOV / SUN 5 NOV

OVER THE HEDGE (2006)
SAT 11 NOV / SUN 12 NOV

THE BORROWERS (1997)
SAT 18 NOV / SUN 19 NOV

MADLINE (1998)
SAT 25 NOV / SUN 26 NOV

HAPPY FEET (2006)
SAT 2 DEC / SUN 3 DEC

PADDINGTON (2014)
SAT 9 DEC / SUN 10 DEC

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (2011)
SAT 16 DEC / SUN 17 DEC

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (1992)
SAT 23 DEC



www.thegardencinema.co.uk
@thegardencinema



Christmas at St Thomas's

Saturday 2 December, 10am – 5pm

Two Christmas Crafts workshops for adults

Saturday 9 December, 8pm

Christmas concert by Highbury Chamber Choir

Sunday 10 December, 4pm – 6pm

MESSY CHRISTMAS

Crafts, songs, story and food for the whole family

Sunday 17 December, 6pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A traditional service of carols and readings, with guest soprano Emilie Cavallo from Opera on the Move. Followed by festive refreshments served in the hall

Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve, 3pm

CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE

The Christmas Story especially for children with songs and dressing up. Children are invited to bring a wrapped present for The Toy Project.

Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve, 11pm

MIDNIGHT MASS

The first Eucharist of Christmas

Monday 25 December: Christmas Day, 11am

PARISH COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS DAY

St Thomas the Apostle, St Thomas's Road, N4 2QP



@stthomasfp

www.stthomaschurch.co.uk

october gallery

FAMILY ART DAY

FREE ART AND PLAY AT OCTOBER GALLERY

10AM - 12PM

USUALLY

**LAST SATURDAY
OF THE MONTH**

**FREE
DROP-IN
FOR ALL
AGES**

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER



OCTOBER GALLERY, 24 OLD
GLOUCESTER ST.
LONDON WC1N 3AL

EDUCATION@OCTOBERGALLERY.CO.UK

WWW.OCTOBERGALLERYEDUCATION.COM



Nature Craft Workshops

FREE Nature and Art Club Saturdays 10am-12pm
Children ages 5-11 are welcome
Come along and have some nature craft fun!!

DEC	9	2023
JAN	6, 13, 20	2024

Olden Community Garden, 22, Whistler Street, N5 1NU
<https://urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk/>

N4Library
ReadLearnConnect



FAMILY ART CLUB

Arty fun for all the family! Materials are provided, or you can bring your own. Suitable for children of all ages. Meets monthly.

Saturday 23 December, 2-3pm

N4 Library
26 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW
020 7527 7800