



Dear Parents/Carers,

### The Nativity

A big thank you to all the staff and parents who have supported our talented children in their preparations for this year's Christmas show. We were particularly impressed with the number of children who had so many lines to learn and who did it so brilliantly and performed fantastically. Particular thanks to Orlando who adapted and wrote the entire script for the show, directed and produced all of the acting and the music. It was an ambitious show but the children smashed it!



### Winter Fair

A huge thank you to Sean, Max, Oliver and the FoG team who organised our best yet winter fair! The outside area twinkled with Christmas lights and festive fun and children, adults enjoyed lots of festive activities including carol singing in the hall and of course we had a special visit from Santa Claus!

### Christmas Jumper Day

On Tuesday the school was awash with festive spirit with Christmas jumpers aplenty. The dining hall was a sea of red, green and all things festive with children enjoying their Christmas dinner cooked and served by the wonderful Fatma and team. Thank you so much for the donations so far, totalling just over £300! Donations can still be made online for Save the Children here: <https://tinyurl.com/3u9ch2mx>



### Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 18/12/23
Reception	92.91%
Year 1	92.67%
Year 2	96.67%
Year 3	98.28%
Year 4	95.83%
Year 5	87.92%
Year 6	91.96%

Attendance Cup  
Winner  
Week Beginning  
18/12/2023

**Year 3!**



### Learning in Lab\_13

Two of Gillespie's Eco-Committee members represented our school at Gillespie Park to celebrate the planting of a pine tree. Rosie and Haroun joined pupils from Ambler, Grafton and Pooles Park; as well as, Councillor Michelline Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families. Gillespie pupils have been invited to return in spring to see more trees planted and to join in some celebratory events.



### Year 3 Learning

It was lovely to see the whole class outcome of Year 3's learning journey in art this term which focussed upon Stone Age cave paintings. Children combined all of their individual efforts to create a wonderful collaborative cave painting which is displayed in the Year 3 classroom. Stunning!

### Year 3 and 4 Spring After-School London Transport Museum Future You Pilot Project Offer

This week Year 3 and 4 pupils were given a letter inviting you to express interest in your child/ren participating in the *London Transport Museum Future You Pilot Project* with me in spring after school.

- **What:** Pupils will participate in activities that develop 21st Century Skills: curiosity, communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving. They will learn that experimentation and failure are key to innovation and skills development and about their own skills, strengths and uniqueness. Pupils will visit the London Transport Museum and a celebration event will take place in April.
- **Who:** There will be space for 30 Year 3 and 4 pupils. Priority will be given to pupils who have not attended an after-school science club previously and who return the slip by the due date. The club will be run by myself.
- **Where:** Lab\_13, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Gillespie Primary School
- **When:** 3:30 – 4:30 Tuesdays: 16<sup>th</sup> January – 12<sup>th</sup> March. More dates will be announced in spring.
- **Cost:** The club will be free of charge.

If you would like your child to take part in this project and you have not received a letter, **please request another one and register your interest by returning the permission slip to me, your child's teacher, or to the school office by Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.**

### Spring Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of Spring term for pupils
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	9am – School wellbeing service coffee morning *flyer below
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	NSPCC Number Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer internet day
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Chinese New Year
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term

Wishing all Gillespie staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors a wonderful Christmas break and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming children back on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024!

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen  
Headteacher



## School Wellbeing Service Information Coffee Morning

### The School Wellbeing Service (SWS) Coffee morning for Parents

- Sharing information about our service and how we work
- Some information about anxious feelings in children and some tips on how you can support them.
- A chance to ask questions around mental and wellbeing.
- Signposting to other family support services in the borough

### When?

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Where?

Gillespie Primary School

### What time?

9am

### Who with?

Claire Males and Lisa Bliedtner (SWS), William Morgan (CAMHS)

### How can I find out more information?

Lyn Jones

### Coffee Morning Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, 9am

We invite you to a coffee morning with Islington School Wellbeing Service and CAMHS Clinician William Morgan. We are looking forward to introducing the wellbeing support we offer for children and parents at Gillespie Primary School and to answering questions. **All parents and carers welcome.**



School Wellbeing Service

[nclwaitingroom.nhs.uk/ICAMHS-SWS](https://nclwaitingroom.nhs.uk/ICAMHS-SWS)  
[nclcb.sws@nhs.net](mailto:nclcb.sws@nhs.net)



STARTING JANUARY

## GYMNASTICS AND DANCE CLASSES

### DANCE

**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](mailto:info@calypsogymnasticsclub.com)  
07435 965919

### GYMNASTICS

**KS 1 WEDNESDAY 8-8:55AM**  
**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.

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>, 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

☐

2. Go meat-free for a day

☐

3. Have a no food-waste weekend

☐

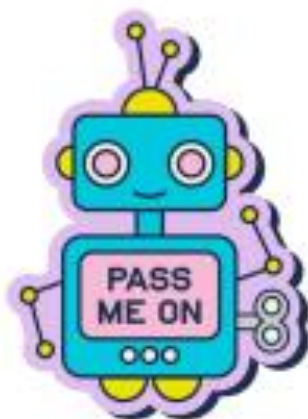
4. Turn down the heating by 1° for a week

☐

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

☐

COMPLETED BY .....

## Islington Lunch Bunch

Our Lunch Bunch programme gives young people the chance to enjoy a wide range of free activities with a healthy lunch.

### Winter Programme – 2 to 5 January 2024

Booking for the Lunch Bunch Winter Programme are now open.

The Winter Programme is running **from 2 to 5 January 2024** and will include activities that you can attend and some you can do at home.

Each young person can book up to **four sessions and a food hamper**.

### Eligibility

We offer this programme to Islington residents who are enrolled in schools from Reception to Year 11 (aged 4 to 16 years old) and who meet at least **one** of the following conditions:

- qualify for **benefits-related** Free School Meals (FSM) - please note that while all primary school children receive FSM, this does not mean your child qualifies for benefits-related FSM
- have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- can be referred by a social worker, family support worker or other professional.

### Register and log in to book activities

To book activities you need to use our booking system Plinth (previously known as Time to Spare). You will need to register if you don't have an account or log in if you do.

**If your child is already registered**, please [visit our booking system](#), click the 'Sign Up / Log In' link and enter your details. You can start booking activities once the booking system opens on **Thursday 23 November 2023 at 6pm**.

If your child is not registered on our system

1. [Create an account on Plinth](#).
2. Confirm your email address using the link sent to your email - if you register using a Google or Facebook account, you can skip this step.
3. Log in and register your child or children by completing the form.

You will receive an email saying that you have registered. We will then start checking your child's eligibility.

We will let you know by email if your child can get free places after we have done eligibility checks. Please note that we make checks daily, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm.

### Book activities

Once registered, you can search for and book **up to four activities and a food hamper for each young person**. More activities may get added to the booking system so please keep checking.

<https://book.plinth.org.uk/calendar/NYxYIFMJBJ9bQ0EmPML7>