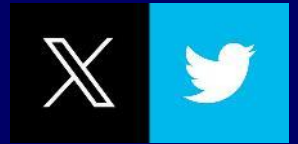




Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

# Newsletter 426

[www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk](http://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk)



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

In our bumper edition end of term assembly led by our Year 5 teacher and PSHE Leader Florie, our wonderful and hardworking Gillespie children fed back on their learning this week following our Safer Internet Day. Children reported on how they can keep safe online and shared their strategies with each other. Children also shared their creative ideas about how they can influence and make positive change on the internet. Some children shared their ideas about the kind of influencers they would like to see on the internet.

Children also reflected on the work they have also done as part of Mental Health Week to promote well-being and happiness. Children thought about how family and friends can support with resilience and happiness, particularly on occasions when you might feel a bit down or sad.

We also celebrated Chinese New Year which many of our families will be celebrating this weekend. We talked about the significance of the year of the dragon and the importance of the colour red to this celebration and Orlando finished with a beautiful Chinese song about the jasmine flower.

## Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February



On Tuesday we celebrated Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is '**Inspiring change. Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online**', we also explored the following sub-themes:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline

Useful information for parents can be found here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>



## ISLINGTON Digital Charter

Children's  
COMMISSIONER  
Digital 5 A Day



Islington wants to promote the safe, happy and creative use of technology. In consultation with our children, parents and staff we have developed our very own 'Digital Charter'



**Mobile-free mealtimes**



**Real books at bedtime**



**Be kind online**



**Create, don't consume**



**Balance online  
and physical activity**



**Think before you share**



**If something upsets  
you, tell an adult**



**Age appropriate  
content only**

<https://islington-gov.j2bloggy.com/Islington-Computing-Online-Safety/>



## Class photos

A reminder children in Reception to Year 6 need to wear full school uniform on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February for our class photos. Children really stand out when they are wearing colours that are not part of our uniform! Order forms will be sent home shortly afterwards.

## Year 4 Learning

Year 4 have been learning about still life compositions in art. We created these mixed media pieces in pairs, thinking carefully about the light source, composition, tone & shade.



## Year 1 Learning

We took the tube from Arsenal to London Bridge to visit Francis Drake's ship, The Golden Hinde and experienced what life was like on board a 16th Century galleon as it circumnavigated the world. We learnt how to raise an anchor, load and fire a canon, where the crew slept and what the job of the barber surgeon was! We created a story map about our journey and wrote instructions for how to get there. We had our very first go at editing our work with a green pen.



## Reception Learning

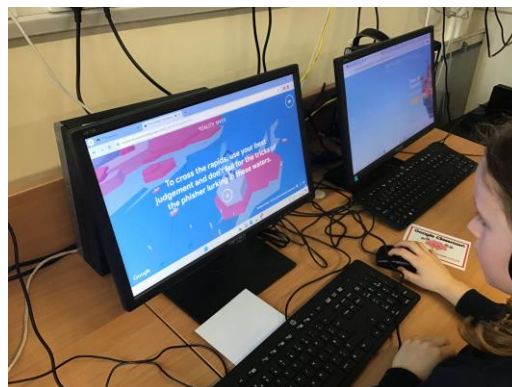
Reception class have been learning about the festival of Chinese New Year. Wing brought in a special Chinese calendar from his grandma! Also, Bronte's mummy Charlie helped us to make these beautiful Chinese lanterns. Happy New Year of the Dragon everyone!





## Year 2 Learning

For Safer Internet Day Y2 recapped the SMART rules for staying safe online. Then we read stories about unexpected things that can happen when playing games online and learned how to deal with this – telling a trusted adult, reporting and blocking them. We played 'Be Internet Legends' to help us to understand how to be safe explorers of the online world by thinking about what we share, questioning what's real, keeping personal information private, respecting others & speaking up when something is not right.



## Spring Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Chinese New Year
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	First day back Ready Set Stage clubs restart
19 – 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 4 bikeability
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Class photos and Y6 individual photos (full school uniform)
26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 bikeability
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	School Nurse Health & Well-being clinic (ask the office for a referral form)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day FoG Movie Night
WKBG 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Last week of Ready Set Stage clubs
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Spring term. School closes at 2pm

## Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 05/02/24
Reception	96.90%
Year 1	95.86%
Year 2	95.33%
Year 3	96.55%
Year 4	97.33%
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>98%</b>
Year 6	89.29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>95.61%</b>

Attendance Cup  
Winner  
Week Beginning  
05/02/24  
**Year 5!**



Wishing families a restful spring term break. Please ensure children get plenty of fresh air and do lots of reading for pleasure in the holidays.

To those celebrating, we wish you a very happy Chinese New Year!

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen Headteacher





## FoG Finance update

A big thank you to those who attended the **General Meeting** this week. A key outcome of the meeting was to provide a summary of the funds raised by FoG so far this year. In total we have raised **£11k** with a spend of **£10k** which sits on top of a healthy bank balance of **£38k**. Key highlights from fundraising and spending last term were:

### Fundraising:

- Halloween disco £1.6k
- Parent Pledge auction £2.5k
- Winter Fair £1.3k
- Carol singing bucket shake £1k

### Spending:

- Autumn term trips/workshops £3k
- Strings tutor and equipment £2.5k
- Forest School £1.6k

Thank you to **everyone** who's been involved in making all of these events such a success. Moving forward, FoG is seeking to create a number of new initiatives to support the school including ways to expand fundraising opportunities. This term we hope to launch a website where donations can be made to specific school events/requirements as well as providing support for the new playground refurbishment and an appraisal of the school comms strategy. Watch this space!

## Movie Night - date for your diaries



**Movie Night** for Gillespie School students will be held on **Thursday 7th of March**.

We are still putting the call-out for some volunteers to make this work! Help is needed for:

- Pre-event planning - date and timings, event promotion, ticket sales, refreshments and of course... movie choice!
- Set up and clear up support
- Supervision during the movie

If you are able to offer any support then please get in touch with **Sean on 07986792367**

## Toys and books still wanted!

We are still looking to replenish our toy and book supply so that we can continue to offer stalls and prizes for the children (big and small) to get their hands on at future events. **If you have any items that you would like to pass on then please drop them in to the front office (in bags or boxes please!) for collection.** Not only will you help boost our stock, but you'll also be supporting the school's ongoing efforts as an Eco-School!

### ↓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
- One off donations of any amount are always welcomed.