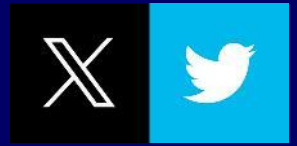




Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

# Newsletter 430

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



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Glorious garden fun!

Children have had great fun using their imagination to play in our new garden area. It has been exciting watching the development of this project this term. Our fantastic landscapers used their great skills to quickly complete this project in excellent time. The cubes in particular are proving very popular with the children! We have not named our area yet and will have a school competition to come up with a name for the new garden area. A big thank you to our parent fundraisers for helping us with this project.



In all the excitement we have allowed children to play in the garden before the start of school this week but from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March we please remind parents of the usual rules that children do not play in any of the garden areas before school as they are not supervised by staff. Teachers have reminded children of this today.

## Music Education Islington Music Show

On Wednesday our Gillespie music hub children took part in the end of term music hub concert at City of London Highbury Grove School. We were very proud that Gillespie children played a very prominent role in ensemble and individual performances.

First the choir performed 'Earth' by Russel Hepplewhite. Lyra in year 6 performed The Girl I Left Behind Me on violin and Bella followed up with German Dance by Joseph Haydn. Betty performed 'Blues in D' on her electric Bass; next Caspian and Ben performed 'Oh Yeah' by The Subways in the Green Guitars group. Anna, Ben, Caspian, Codjoe, Isaac, Nathan and Emma played Jolene by Dolly Parton in the guitar/drum band. To conclude, Isla in Year 6 introduced the grand finale to all of the parents and guests. Lyra, Bella, Emya, Margaux, Amalia, Scarlett, Arielle, Isla, Daphne and Betty took part in the strings ensemble who played 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' by Edvard Grieg.



## London Marathon fundraiser- go Hassan go!

Hassan our Year 6 class teacher is running the London Marathon this April 2024. He would like to raise money to support Gillespie School and specifically to repair and renew our beautiful and unique sunflower playground gate that has fallen in to disrepair and needs a facelift!

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/GillespieHassanMarathon2024>



## Year 2 Learning

Y2 shared their wonderful adventure stories, inspired by Claude in the City, with some other lovers of the story - Year 3! They then recommended other books that they love to each other.



## Year 4 Learning

Year 4 spent the morning at the Arsenal Hub and participated in different workshops to celebrate International Women's Day. It was an enjoyable and active morning.



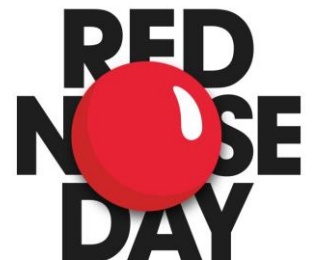
Year 4 enjoyed their day at Sadlers Wells. As part of the Primary Associate school sharing day they spent the day getting a tour of the theatre, practising their dance in the rehearsal studio and then performing on a stage to an audience of children and Sadlers wells staff. They did Gillespie proud. Thank you to all the organisers of the event.



## Red Nose Day

Thank you so much for your generosity, raising just over £500 for Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. The page will close on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March so any last minute donations can be made here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/mark-owen-1709905821511>



## Smart watches

We have noticed that some children are coming in to school wearing smart watches which include cameras, games, messaging as well as telling the time. They can obviously be a distraction to children and one was temporarily lost and found. Children can wear standard watches but no smart watches please!



## Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	No Ready Set Stage clubs this week
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Spring term. <b>School closes at 2pm</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of summer term for pupils
WKBG 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Ready Set Stage clubs begin
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
WKBG 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term

### Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 18/03/24
Reception	98.62%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	94.67%
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>100%</b>
Year 4	96.67%
Year 5	96.55%
Year 6	86.79%
<b>Total</b>	<b>95.47%</b>

Attendance Cup  
Winner  
Week Beginning  
18/03/24  
  
**Year 3!**



### Islington U11 district football team

We are pleased to see Gillespie pupil Artie make the front page of the Islington Tribune last week along with the Under 11 district football team. The article is all about supporting girls' football in Islington.

# Islington Tribune

Friday 15 March 2024 No 1043    An independent paper    [www.islingtontribune.com](http://www.islingtontribune.com)    X @islingtontrib    'Open to All, Coerced by None'

Archway • Holloway • Barnsbury • Canonbury • Highbury • Finsbury Park

## What a save! Football team back from brink See page 9



by CHARLOTTE CHAMBERS

HALF a year ago the future for girls football in the borough looked bleak. A team, started by former Arsenal and England player Ellen Maggs, had experienced success in its short life but was facing closure without anyone to fund it.

But what a difference six months can make. "The last time you came to us it was because we didn't have any money," Ms Maggs said yesterday (Thursday) as the team posed for a group photo at Highbury Fields football pitches with their new sponsors.

In September the *Tribune* ran an story calling out the inequalities between the genders in football after a newly-formed girls' team, the Islington district team, looked as if it would have to disband after just one year, and sporting success, simply because nobody wanted

## Gooaaal! District girls' team plays on after *Tribune* appeal for support



to pay the £2,500 it cost to run it annually.

Ms Maggs said: "We were struggling to run this district team. So I just wanted to celebrate the fact that we were able to find the money and run two district teams and we also have a structure in place now where we can go again next year, and potentially add a county team."

Thanking the *Tribune* for the role the paper played in giving their plight publicity,

Year 6 and Year 7, with Ms Maggs hopeful they will play at a county level next year, which would see the best girls in London playing those outside of the capital for the first time ever.

Councillor Nurullah Turan, who was key to obtaining funding for them, said: "I am honoured and pleased that as part of our goal to make Islington a fairer, more inclusive place, we are supporting our women and girls' football which in turn makes our borough a better and more welcoming place."

ISHA's chief executive Ruth Davison joked: "It was the *Tribune* what won it!"

■ Pictured above and on page 1 with the team: from left, Coach Ebony Cabey, Cllr Nurullah Turan, ISHA chief executive Ruth Davison and coach Alex Shepherd

### Last week of term reminder!

Parents and carers please remember that school closes promptly at **2:00pm** next week on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen  
Headteacher

## Summer Term Club Page

### Breakfast Club with Calypso

Summer Term Breakfast Club:

<https://calypso-gymnastics.classforkids.io/camp/23>

Summer Term Wednesday Morning Gymnastics KS1:

<https://calypso-gymnastics.classforkids.io/info/352>

Summer Term Thursday Morning Gymnastics KS2:

<https://calypso-gymnastics.classforkids.io/info/351>

### Ready Set Stage After School Clubs

[www.readysetstage.co.uk](http://www.readysetstage.co.uk)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Ready Set Stage</b>				
Gymnastics	Arts & Craft	Singing	Performing Arts	
Football (Years 3-6)	Basketball	Football (Reception - Year 2)		

Families eligible for Free School Meals to call the school office to book their child's free club.

Ready Set Stage Dates:

- Clubs begin week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> April – x5 weeks
- \*no clubs during half term week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> May
- Weeks recommence week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 6 weeks
- Last week of clubs week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> July
- Total 11 weeks



## 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](http://www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk)  
[info@urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk](mailto: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



After School Forest School Club pick up at Gillespie School

Fridays 3.30-5.30pm

visit our website

[www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk](http://www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk)

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT ABBY 07950481279





## Tonies and Yoto Card Donation Request

The Reception class are the excited recipients of a generously donated Tonies audio story box and Yoto audio story box. Now all they need are some stories!

If any families have unwanted / unused Tonies story figurines and/or Yoto story cards then please consider donating them to the reception class by dropping them off at the school office.

## ↓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 YEARS.**

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.

## Community pages



