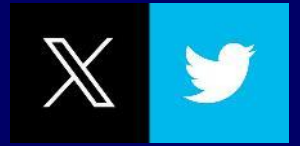




Friday 3rd May 2024

Newsletter 434

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

International Food Evening & Eid Party

A big thank you to all our wonderful parents who contributed to our food evening and Eid party. We were sooo lucky with the weather and though the skies were grey it stayed dry throughout the entire event and great fun was had by all. We had delicious food that reflected our international community from Eritrean homemade bread, beautiful Somalian chickpea curry to a range of tasty European puddings and Australian meat pies made by Megan. A big shout out to Mariam's mum who brought a giant pot of delicious chicken biryani and to Governor Hafsa and staff member Mariam who helped with our beautiful Eid display and decorations and to Hafsa's niece, who celebrated with families by creating beautiful mehndi patterns for our children and adults. Parents and carers will hopefully have noticed that we made our food evening as eco-friendly as possible and ensured that all the cutlery, plates, bowls and cups were used from our school kitchen. A big thank you to parents and staff who helped clear up and helped with the washing up in the kitchen. The eco-team have set a target for the school not to use non-recyclable materials and we were pleased to meet this target!



School Council visit Houses of Parliament

We were delighted on this important local council and Mayoral election week to have the opportunity to take our elected school council to a visit to the Houses of Parliament. The children discovered a statue of Emmeline Pankhurst the famous leader of the suffragettes who campaigned to get the vote for women. The children were treated to a special tour of the palace of Westminster during which they learnt about the history of this ancient house. They were given an introduction to its workings, including visiting the House of Commons and House of Lords. They were shown how our elected representatives debate and make laws that can affect all the people in the country. The children had a workshop about debating and democracy during which they had a special visit from our local MP Jeremy Corbyn who had a very active conversation with the children about parliament and democracy. We appreciated the time and insight he gave to our children. Our school council will be presenting their findings to whole school in an assembly soon.





Road safety reminder

Today in our whole school assembly I reminded children about road safety. We went carefully through the green cross code and reminded children why it is important to use this at all times whether you are 6 years old or 60 years old. This reminder has been prompted by three near incidents that have been reported to me in the last two weeks where some of our older pupils have been observed running across busy main roads including one child running on to a Zebra crossing without following safe procedures. Please remind your children how important it is to follow the green cross code at all times especially as traffic is getting more busy and complicated with bikes, scooters etc.

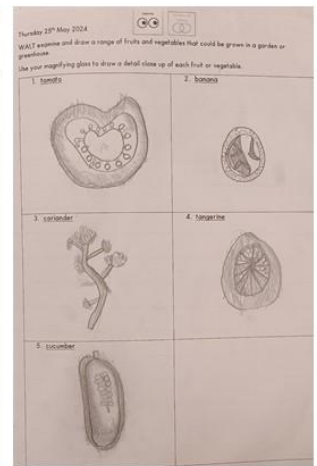
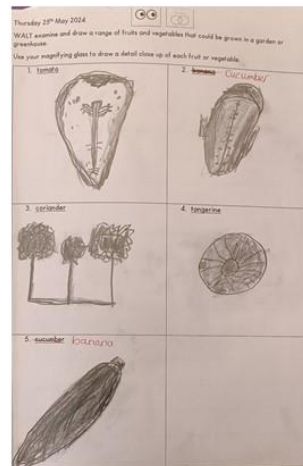
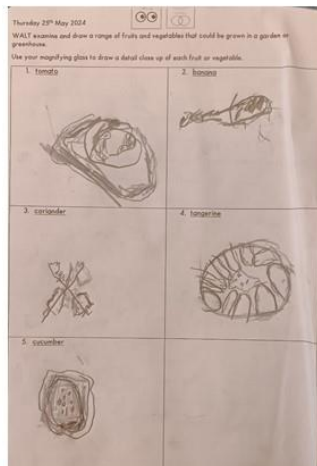
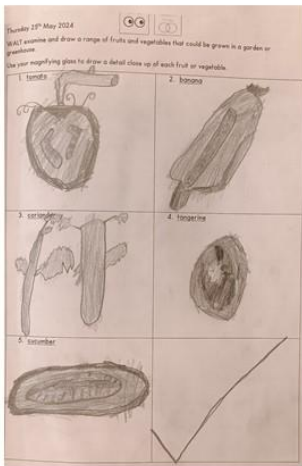
Islington Football League

Well done to both teams this week for fantastic performances. The boys managed a 2-0 win against Winton and the despite the girls not securing a win this week they continue to progress as a team!



Year 1 Learning

Year 1's science topic this term is plants. We cut some fruit and leaves up and use our observational skills to draw a detailed drawing of each of them.



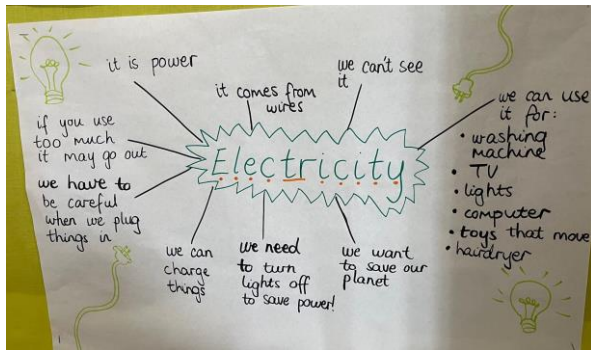
Reception Learning

It has been a very busy week in reception!

Spring Blossom Broccoli Painting: The children in Reception have been looking at blossom and spring blooms this week and have created some lovely spring prints using broccoli florets of all different shapes and sizes.



Reception have been busy sewing Sea-Creature Models. The children have been practicing their fine motor skills and learning sewing skills; using needle and thread to stitch around their wonderful sea creatures models.



Reception's topic this half term is the environment. The children have been learning about electricity and how we use it. At the writing table, the children were exploring some electrical items such as: switches, sockets, wires, lightbulbs and circuit boards.

Learning in Lab_13

Eco-Committee are delighted that birds have been seen using the bird feeders they made in the playground and in their gardens at home.



Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 29/04/24
Reception	92.76%
Year 1	91.33%
Year 2	99.33%
Year 3	98.67%
Year 4	94.67%
Year 5	98.62%
Year 6	99.64%
Total	96.43%

Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
29/04/24

Year 6!



Ongoing reminders – this information has not changed

Class Assemblies

Assemblies will take place on the following dates:

Thursday 23 rd May	Year 2 2:30pm
Wednesday 12 th June	Year 4 2:30pm
Thursday 20 th June	Year 5 2:30pm
Thursday 4 th July	Year 3 2:30pm
Friday 19 th July	Year 6 10:00am
To be confirmed	Year 1

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Thursday 23 rd May	FoG Quiz Night
WKBG 27th May	Half term
WKBG 10 th June	Healthy Eating Week
WKBG 24 th June	Y6/5 Cardfields residential
Saturday 6 th July	Summer Fair
Tuesday 9 th July	4:00-6:00pm Solo concert
Wednesday 17 th July	Sports day
Tuesday 23 rd July	Last day of term – school closes 2pm

Wishing families a lovely long Bank Holiday weekend.

See you all back Tuesday 7th May.

Mark Owen,
Headteacher



Science Committee and the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize 2023

Our Gillespie Science Committee spent many weeks reading, reviewing and judging the six shortlisted books for the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize 2023. They chose *Deadly and Dangerous Animals* by Ben Rothery as their favourite book; however, the overall winning book chosen by judging panels across the UK, was *Am I Made of Stardust?* by Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock.

The committee members did not only work hard judging books but also gave up a lot of their lunch times and meeting times to make a video which was entered in the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize Video Competition. Although they did not receive any prizes, they worked hard to make an original, creative and fun video about the shortlisted books. I would like to extend a very **BIG** thank you to Hannah Padfield, who gave up a lot of her own time to edit the committee's video entry. Please enjoy watching the video by following this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JCrpWxQuN5tpiPzRQdIGqbmCuP96h2Xj/view?usp=sharing>

Meg, Resident Scientist, Lab_13

Future You Pilot Project with London Transport Museum (LTM)

I would like to congratulate the Year 3 and 4 pupils who joined me after school over ten weeks to take part in the Future You Pilot project with the London Transport Museum.

The pupils helped an alien, using 21st century skills (curiosity, communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving), by thinking about sustainable solutions for a new planet. They did this by examining life in London in the past; life in London in the present and what they imagined London might look like in the future. Drama games were a big hit.

Each week they evaluated how their skills were developing. They learnt that experimentation and failure are key to innovation and skills development and also learnt about their own skills, strengths and uniqueness.

In week one, pupils created posters about what London transport might look like in the future. They were inspired by a poster from the LTM; AI images of future transport; past transport designs and biomimicry (using ideas from nature to solve problems).

A representative from the London Transport Museum visited Gillespie to teach the pupils about transport in the local area in the past. They examined photos and artefacts and then wrote postcards to the alien about transport in the past.

Pupils visited the London Transport Museum to participate in problem-solving workshops and to undertake a self-guided tour of the museum.

In weeks four and five, pupils carried out a wildlife and plant survey in the playground with help from a plant identification app. They compared their results against their hypothesis.

A STEM ambassador from Transport for London (TfL) came to our school and spoke to the pupils about how TfL is working to be more sustainable and fair for everyone. Pupils enjoyed sharing their own experiences of going on London transport.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed working together during tinkering sessions to explore solutions to the climate issues they had identified. They worked hard to create prototypes of bridges; a power station and a bus and bus stop, and added working circuits or lights to their designs.

To top it all off, the pupils' work was displayed at the London Transport Museum alongside the work of pupils from five other schools. I am very proud of their efforts.

Meg, Scientist in Residence



Thank you from the Eco-Committee and I to the staff, classes and families that participated in the *The Big Plastic Count*. We hope to encourage many more families to take part next year. We received a Gillespie Plastic Footprint based on the small amount of information we submitted which you can view here.

PLASTIC FOOTPRINT OF GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

IN ONE WEEK, GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL THREW AWAY:

962

PIECES OF PLASTIC

OVER A YEAR THAT'S EQUIVALENT TO:

50,024

PIECES OF PLASTIC

WHAT WAS GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL'S PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE USED FOR?



70%

FOOD & DRINK



11%

TOILETRIES & CLEANING



19%

EVERYTHING ELSE

WHAT HAPPENS TO GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL'S PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE?



17%

RECYCLED IN THE UK

Plastic waste that is sorted and processed in the UK then turned into new materials.



14%

EXPORTED

Plastic waste that is shipped overseas for processing, but much of it also ends up being dumped or burned.



58%

LANDFILLED

Plastic waste that is disposed of by burying it in the ground.



11%

INCINERATED

Plastic waste that is disposed of by burning it. This releases carbon, toxins and pollutants.

Please remember - this is not about individual responsibility. Too much single-use plastic is produced without reusable alternatives that suit everyone's needs.





FoG News



Gillespie Quiz Night 2024

This term will see the return of the award-winning **Gillespie Primary School Parent and Carers Quiz Night**. This event is one of the highlights of the year for FoG, as it is a chance for us to do something exclusively for the parents and carers of the school - goodness knows you deserve it! For those that are interested in supporting and/or taking part, please take note of the following information:



Date Change: The decision has been taken to move the date of the quiz from Thursday 23rd May to **Thursday 13th June**, so be sure to mark it out in your diaries and let the babysitter know!



Quiz Master Needed!!! Any quiz is only as good as the questions and challenges set, and FoG is on the lookout for a budding Quiz Master to put together a top-draw edition to really test our quiz teams. The role will also involve reading out (and undoubtedly explaining) the questions on the night, as well as the crucial role of adding up scores and settling points disputes!



Tech and General Set-up Support: Fancy helping out without actually having to do any quiz-related activities? Want to have a front seat to witness the slow descent into chaos as teams feel the pressure? Then please get in touch to let us know how you might be able to help. Laptop/audio/PowerPoint experience welcomed!

For any enquiries or interest in volunteering, **please get in touch with Sean on 07986792367**

KiDSiE Discount Offer

With the summer weather finally looking like it might arrive and longer/lighter evenings perfect for outdoor play, FoG are happy to announce a partnership with the pre-loved kids equipment company KiDSiE. This flyer includes information about a discount code for any purchase that you choose to make on the KiDSiE website. For every order over £50 families will receive a £5 discount and KiDSiE will donate £5 directly to FoG. Win win!

KiDSiE
Your Premium Outlet for Kids' Stuff

Some of the discounts and deals you can find on KiDSiE

- Huffy Bikes**
30% off RRP
- Scoot & Ride**
30% off RRP
- Skate Hut**
50% off RRP

Get BIG discounts on:
Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards, Roller Skates, Heelies, and more!

Use this referral code to get £5 off and we will donate £5 to your school PTA

GILLESPIEISLINGTON

www.kidsie.com

Diary Dates:

Summer Term			
Fri	10-May-2024	tbc	FOG Summer Term General Meeting
Fri	17-May-2024	15:30 - 16:00	Year 2 Bake Sale
Thu	13-June-2024	19:00-21:30	Quiz Night
Fri	14-Jun-2024	15:30 - 16:00	Reception Class Mid-Summer Bake Sale & Uniform Sale
Sat	6-Jul-24	12:00-15:00	Summer Fair

↓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 COURSE OF THE 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 **Quiz Night on the 13th June**).
- One off donations of any amount are always welcomed.

Bright Futures Islington

Would you like to be a Parent Champion?

- Share information with Islington Parents about activities, childcare, healthy living, employment and more on Islington's services.
- To encourage families to access Islington services.
- Help shape and develop Bright futures and other Islington services.
- Build on own knowledge, experiences, and confidence.
- Meet local parents with children of similar ages

What's on offer ?

- Travel reimbursement
- On-going Parent champion support
- Further training opportunities
- 12 places available
- Refreshments throughout training

Please contact Bright futures Participation lead to register your interest:

Email: Hannah.brewer@islington.gov.uk
Contact number: 07974604096
Or contact your local Bright futures outreach team to request a referral.

Who are Bright Futures parent champions?

- Mums, Dads and Carers
- Have children aged 5-19 years (or 25 with SEND)
- Use Bright futures services
- Able to volunteer 3-4 hours per week

