

# GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mark Owen B.Ed. Hon NPQH



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to let you know that I will be co-ordinating an Eco-Committee at Gillespie Primary School again this year. The committee will work with me to work towards maintaining our Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction. You can find out more on the Eco-Schools website here: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

Your child is invited to be part of the committee. Meetings will take place on Thursday mornings 8:15 a.m. – 8:55 a.m. I will collect pupils from the front entrance or breakfast club. Pupils who have not previously formed part of the committee will be given first preference; however, former members may apply. Application forms will be given to class teachers. I will be available to help pupils complete application forms during lunch breaks (Monday to Wednesday) if requested. Completed forms will be due by the end of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

With the world beginning to experience the effects of climate change; different species of plant and animals becoming extinct every day; and micro-plastics being found in the most remote locations on Earth - now, is the time to educate future generations about the impact of our actions on the planet we call home.

The Eco-Schools programme does this through providing a simple seven-step framework that has been designed to raise awareness of environmental issues whilst empowering young people to make a positive difference by taking a lead on environmental actions and projects in their school and local community.

Within Eco-Schools' simple framework young people have the freedom to decide on the environmental issues they would like to tackle, represented by ten Eco-Schools topics. Once young people have chosen their topics, they decide what actions they would like to take and how they are going to involve their school and community. The seven-step process takes around one academic year to complete and culminates in an Eco-Schools' assessor looking over a school's application and evidence, with a view to recognising and celebrating their achievements.

The Eco-Schools programme began in 1994, is delivered in more than 70 countries around the world and in England and is operated by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The programme not only positively impacts our planet (for example schools participating in the programme planted 54,591 trees during the last academic year), it also benefits young people, building teamwork and leadership skills whilst increasing confidence and reducing eco-anxiety.

As a key part of the Eco-Schools process is involving our entire school and wider community, I wanted to get in touch to let you know about our involvement. I also wanted to let you know what to expect over the coming months. There will be regular updates in our school newsletter and on X as well as invitations to participate in environmental events and projects.

If you have any queries, please contact me: [mbegley@gillespie.islington.sch.uk](mailto:mbegley@gillespie.islington.sch.uk)

Thank you,

Megan Begley, Eco-Coordinator



Associate  
School

