



Friday 5th September 2025

Newsletter 483

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@Gillespie School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back

Welcome back to the new school year! It is lovely to see all of our children back in their lovely school uniforms ready to learn and play at school. We hope all of our families had a lovely summer and are looking forward to an exciting year at Gillespie school. We will provide parents with important autumn term dates in a few weeks time once we have all our new nursery and reception families at Gillespie – we look forward to welcoming them to the community shortly!



Meet the teacher

Thank you to all the parents who attended our meet the teacher sessions this week. We like to hold them as soon as possible so you can have an early opportunity to meet your child's new teacher. We apologise for the short notice for these meetings as we normally advertise these in our last newsletter of the summer term and unfortunately I failed to do this. For those parents who weren't able to make the meetings the class teachers will ensure that presentations will be made available. All class teachers will provide you with their detailed class letter which will have information about timetables, the curriculum, class trips and everything you need to know for the new school year.

Class assemblies

Class assemblies will take place in the top hall at 10am on Friday mornings. Parents invited to attend their child's assembly. Please put these dates in your diaries.

17 th October	Year 6
24 th October	Year 3
7 th November	Year 2
21 st November	Year 4
28 th November	Year 5
5 th December	Year 1

Breakfast club and after school club

Breakfast club

- Breakfast club is run by Calypso Gymnastics Club. Bookings need to be made online and in advance here: <https://calypsogymnasticsclub.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>

After School Clubs

- Ready Set Stage clubs can be booked online here: www.readysetstage.co.uk. See Autumn term timetable below.
- Elizabeth House offer wrap around care until 6:00pm. They pick up from school at 3:30pm and after clubs at 4:30pm. See their website here: <https://elizabeth-house.org.uk/> for full details.



Ready Set Stage After School Clubs

The new clubs are live and ready to book. Clubs will begin week of 15th September. Families eligible for free school meals to contact Rebecca to book your free club.

After School Clubs – Autumn term 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ready Set Stage www.readysetstage.co.uk				
Performing Arts	Arts & Craft	Singing	Gymnastics (Years 1-6)	
Football (Years 3-6)		Football (Reception - Year 2)	Basketball/dodgeball/hockey (Years 1 – 6)	

READY SET STAGE

Yours sincerely, Mark Owen Headteacher

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

7th October – 31st October

Friday 19th December

Half Term

Last day of Autumn Term school closes 1pm

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January

Tuesday 6th January

16th – 20th February

Friday 27th March

INSET Day

First day of Spring Term for pupils

Half Term

Last day of Spring Term school closes 1pm

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13th April

Tuesday 14th April

Monday 4th May

25th – 29th May

Friday 17th July

Monday 20th July

INSET Day

First day of Summer Term for pupils

Bank Holiday (school closed)

Half Term

Last day of Summer Term school closes 1pm

INSET Day

Community page



ADVENTURES IN NATURE

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, using nature's loose parts to make things, helps children to learn more about the natural world and offers children time and space to be awe inspired by nature. Forest school 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.

We offer limited funded spaces for those on lower incomes, call us for details

Join one of our afterschool clubs and help your child to **flourish in the outdoors**.

"strong roots produce greater fruits"

Forest school Activities:

- WHITTLING & 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



GILLESPIE FOREST SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

FOR BOOKINGS
CONTACT ABBY
07950481279





Urban Outdoors
ADVENTURES IN NATURE

We collect from: Gillespie Primary School
For Forest School Afterschool Club At Islington Ecology Centre
on: Fridays 330-530pm
visit our website
www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk

MORE INFO & BOOKINGS AT:
www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk
info@urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk

For bookings and more information please visit our website here:

<https://urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk/events/gillespie-school-after-school-forest-school-club-autumn-2025/>

We aim to make Forest School accessible to all – so can offer reduced price spaces for those on lower incomes who are in receipt of certain benefits, email info@urbanoutdoorslondon.com for further details.

Elizabeth House Job opportunity

We are looking for part-time **Playworkers** to join our team.

All information on the role and how to apply can be found here: [Playworker Recruitment Pack](#)

We will be contacting shortlisted candidates as we receive applications to appoint new Playworkers from September to join our After School Club team. If you are interested, we would encourage you to send a brief cover email highlighting your experience and a CV as soon as possible.

Hours: some flexibility, but core hours for the After School club are 3 pm to 6 pm Monday to Friday (up to 16 hrs/week), and 8.30 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday (up to 43 hrs/week) during Holiday Playscheme.

Salary: £13.85 per hour (London Living Wage)

Contract: permanent or sessional contract (6-month probationary period)

With your CV and cover letter/email, please complete the [HVBT Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#) and add to your application.

Please note that the team will only be able to contact candidates who are shortlisted for the first exploratory call. If you have not heard back from us within 3 weeks of sending your application, you can assume that you have not been shortlisted.