



Friday 19th September 2025

Newsletter 484

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Early Years' families!

We have been welcoming families to the Nursery and Reception classes this past fortnight and now that all families are part of the community we can share some important information (reminders for many families) about procedures at Gillespie including first aid procedures, attendance information and our new office hours of operation.

Contact

- Please ensure the school office always has the most up to date contact details.
- The school office frequently contacts families via our text messaging service – Teachers2parents. We **do not** recommend you download the app as you do not receive notifications for new messages and you become responsible for checking the app for updates. Without the app you will receive messages/notification via text message.
- Class teachers contact families and send out information by email (address you provide in the admissions form). Please ensure you notify the office of any email address changes.



Office hours

In order for the office to run as efficiently as possible we are asking that families wanting to contact the office regarding non-urgent matters do so by email (office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk). If families need to call/visit the office we ask this takes place during the following times: 8:45-9:45am and 2:45-3:45pm. The office will of course be available between these hours for emergencies or instances where children need to be collected early from school etc. We appreciate your continued support.

First Aid Procedures at Gillespie

Communication regarding minor and more serious first aid incidents that happen during the school day.

- If a child has a serious injury including:
 - Bleeding
 - Head bump where a child complains of feeling dizzy or sick
 - Sprain or suspected broken bone

A first aider will make an initial assessment and we will always contact parents/carers by telephone and ask for the child to be collected – sometimes with a recommendation for further medical advice to be sought e.g.) GP or A&E.

- If a child has an accident that requires no further medical attention such as:
 - Head/face injury
 - Injury that will leave a large mark/graze
 - Nose bleed

We will send a courtesy text message home. A slip with accident details and head bump letter where applicable will be sent home with the child. The child will continue to be monitored in the classroom.

- All other minor first aid responses to children falling over or having knocks will be dealt with TLC, sometimes a magic paper towel! and the child will be given a first aid sticker so that you know that it has been dealt with and no further action was required. If you see the sticker, or your child tells you they received one, please do ask them what happened.
- If a child requires medication to be taken during the school day a form must be completed at the school office. Medication should not be kept in children's bags, this must be left with the school office. The school are not able to administer pain relief or medication that may mask a high temperature, this includes paracetamol or ibuprofen.



Attendance and punctuality policy changes

We are very proud to inform parents that Gillespie had the best attendance of any Islington primary school over the last two years! Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life. The class with the best weekly attendance will be celebrated in assembly as well as having awards and prizes at the end of the year.

The information below shows how attendance can affect your child's future progression.

Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year (12 sessions)

Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.

95%: 10 days absence a year (20 sessions)

These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week absence every year can only achieve 95% attendance.

90%: 19 days absence a year (38 sessions)

The Government classes young people in this group as "Persistent Absentees", and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work. Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by the Local Authority.

Absence from school

Where children have minor coughs and colds, parents are encouraged to bring them to school and will be contacted for pick up where minor conditions develop and worsen. **Families are responsible for notifying the office by call or email before 9am if a child will be absent, including the reason for absence.** The Islington & Whittington booklet on [Minor illness and school attendance: A guide for parents and carers](#) has useful information on childhood illness.

Parents/carers should make every effort to ensure appointments are made outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, they should get the school's agreement in advance and the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. Parents are encouraged to make appointments during the school day if absolutely necessary, between 9.30 and 1.00 to minimise recorded absences from school.

The school will not authorise leave in term time unless under exceptional circumstances – for which you must apply using an 'application for leave form' obtained from the office in advance.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!

Punctuality

School begins at **8:55am** for Y1-6 at which time the sunflower will be brought out in to the playground. Children should quickly and sensibly make their way to their classroom ready to start their morning learning. Please support your child by ensuring they have all the equipment they need for their day including bag, water bottle, instrument if applicable etc. Children who arrive after 9:05am will need to sign in at the school office.

Health and safety

Could parents please remember that when you are bringing children to school in the morning and collecting after school, that you are responsible for your child's safety when using playground equipment including trim trails. The school is not responsible before 8:55am and after 3:30pm. Thank you.



Important dates	
27 th September	2-4pm FoG Welcome Tea Party
30 th September	Y6 secondary transition meeting
October	Black History Month
2 nd October	National Poetry Day
3 rd October	Y6 bake sale
13 th -24 th October	Year 6 swimming
15 th October	Individual and sibling photos
16 th October	Flu immunisations
23 rd October	5-7pm Halloween Disco
27 th – 31 st October	Half term

Wishing families a wonderful warm weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mark Owen

Headteacher

This information has not changed...

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





Welcome back... and here we go again!

With everyone now having completed at least one full week back at school (well done the Reception crew!), FoG wanted to welcome everyone to the new school year and let you know some of the amazing things we have planned for the year. This term you can look forward to getting involved with some (or all!) of the following:

Saturday 27th September- Welcome Tea Party 2.00-4.00pm

Friday 3rd October- Year 6 Bake Sale 3.30-4.00pm

Thursday 23rd October- Halloween Disco 5.00-7.00pm

Friday 7th November- Yr 5 Bake Sale 3.30-4.00pm

Friday 5th December- Yr 4 Bake Sale 3.30-4.00pm

Saturday 13th December- Carol Singing Bucket Shake 1.00-3.00pm

Tuesday 16th December- Winter Fair 3.30-5.30pm



We will also be hosting the **Annual General Meeting** to discuss new plans for the charity and crucially **the next steps for the FoG Foundation** following the successful launch in the Summer Term. Times and dates for these will be confirmed in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for the comms.

Does your employer offer 'Volunteer Days'? FoG needs you!

Many of you will know of the amazing work that **Amelie Skierka** has done to rejuvenate the **school library** and also introduce and evolve the **second-hand school uniform stall** that is offered consistently over the course of the school year, but now she has turned her hand towards the FoG shed - and no surprise it looks fantastic! (The first picture is £170.00 worth of books that FoG are donating to a local children's charity).

If you work for an organisation that offers a 'volunteer day' scheme or equivalent, why not take the day and work with FoG and other parents to give an area of the school the 'glow up' it needs? Goodness knows Amelie will be able to put you to good use!

****If you are interested in offering some time then please get in touch with Sean on 07986 792 367 or speak to your class rep and we will add you to the growing list!****



Ways to Support Friends of Gillespie and the school community

1. **Financial donations:** A monthly direct debit donation of any amount you choose can be set up [here](#) in less than 5 mins, or you can use this QR code to access the site.
2. **Item donations:** Speak to your class rep about delivering the items, or simply drop them in the front office for a FoG member to come and collect them. Easy!
3. **Time donations:** If you would like to help out in this way then please do get in touch with your class rep or a FoG Committee member - we will certainly have something for you to do!



Community page

Help shape the future of summer holiday science!

Since 2019, the Institute of Physics (IOP) has run free family-friendly exhibitions at their building in Kings Cross and popping up in community spaces around Islington.

To help shape the future of their programme, the IOP is running a workshop with local parents and carers of children currently in primary school to find out more about what they want and need from a summer exhibition and how it can benefit everyone in the community. This is an opportunity to share your views about what appeals to you as a parent/carers (and what doesn't) and what the IOP can do to make its offering more relevant to you and your children.

By taking part in this workshop, you will be making an invaluable contribution to steering the future of the free science activities on offer to families in the borough and making sure that all young people can benefit from the opportunities that STEM can open up.

The workshop will be held at the IOP building at 37 Caledonian Road, N1 9BU on the 29th September for approximately 2 hours at either 3-5pm or 5-7pm depending on availability of participants. The workshop will include refreshments and, upon completion of the workshop, you will receive a small gift to thank you for your time and contributions.

To express your interest, please complete this short survey by 22nd September: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/IOPFamilySummerExhibition/>

If you have any questions about the workshop, please get in touch with engagement@iop.org



Putting Children First

Apply by 31 October 2025
for the best chance of a Year 7 place at your preferred school.

Apply now for Islington secondary schools

If your child was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015, apply now for a secondary school place at islington.gov.uk/admissions

Sign up for email tips and deadline reminders at islington.gov.uk/stayupdated



Putting Children First

Apply by 15 January 2026
for the best chance of a reception place at your preferred school. There is no automatic entry to reception from nursery.

Apply now for Islington primary schools

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, apply now for a primary school place at islington.gov.uk/admissions

Sign up for email tips and deadline reminders at islington.gov.uk/stayupdated