



Friday 26th September 2025

Newsletter 485

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,



FoG Gillespie Welcome Tea!



New (and seasoned 😊) Gillespie families – join us this Saturday, 2–4pm in the playground (or hall if raining) for a relaxed Welcome Tea! 🏠 ❤️



Meet other parents



Share some treats - (no nuts please!)



Pick up some school uniform

Bring a nut-free snack to share if you can – homemade or shop-bought, no stress!

Or just bring yourselves – the more the merrier!

Hope to see you there! 🎉 FoG team



Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 22/09/25
Reception	99.33%
Year 1	99.31%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	99.33%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	97.33%
Year 6	98.97%
Total	98.9%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 22/09/2025

Years 4!

The Friday Cooking Group

The Friday cooking group have been cooking up a storm in Lab_13 with weekly cooking sessions. We've made vegetarian pizzas, crumbly shortbread biscuits and yummy veg sandwiches. The children have been practising their fine motor skills with cutting, grating and spreading.



Learning in Year 5

Year 5 got to try out a brand new trip where they went to Sky Studios which linked nicely to our current PSHE topic - In the Media.

They spent the day creating a news report all about children's current mental health. We researched statistics and facts around the topic and learnt how important it is to look after our bodies and minds to help us stay positive and happy!

Year 5 got to try out different roles like camera operator, director, reporter and lots more... Smiles all round for the camera!



Important dates	
27th September	2-4pm FoG Welcome Tea Party
30th September	Y6 secondary transition meeting
October	Black History Month
2nd October	National Poetry Day
3rd October	Y6 bake sale
13th-24th October	Year 6 swimming
15th October	Individual and sibling photos
16th October	Rec – Y6 Flu immunisations Register here: https://ncl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/islington
23rd October	5-7pm Halloween Disco
27th – 31st October	Half term

Yours sincerely
Mark Owen, Headteacher

Community

N4Library
ReadLearnConnect

FAMILY ART CLUB

Arty fun for all the family! Materials are provided, or you can bring your own. Suitable for children of all ages.

Upcoming dates:

Saturday 18 October, 2pm
Saturday 29 November, 2pm
Saturday 27 December, 2pm

N4 Library
26 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW
020 7527 7800

FLU IMMUNISATION FOR PUPILS IN SCHOOL YEARS RECEPTION - YEAR 11

Prevent your child from being seriously ill this winter!
Vaccinating is crucial in protecting them and
vulnerable friends and family from flu.

NASAL VACCINE

No needles - just quick,
painless, effective flu
protection
(contains gelatine)

OR

THE INJECTION

We offer a PORK-FREE,
GELATINE-FREE injection
considered a
faith-friendly alternative.



Complete this form, even if you do not want the vaccine.

<https://ncl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/islington>

Secondary School students only: Young people under the age of 16 can give or
refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

CONTACT THE TEAM

✉ islington@v-uk.co.uk
☎ 0208 017 7925

Need more
information?
Please see our FAQs
sheet attached with
this letter.

Or visit our
website:



We endeavour to come to your child's school twice.
If your child is absent or unable to be vaccinated at
school, they can still receive this important vaccine by
attending one of our community clinics for the vaccine.

Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season.
If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to
complete a second form.

LEARN MORE

<https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/flu>
www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk

PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy
For data protection queries, please contact: dp@vaccinationuk.co.uk



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CONSENT INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with
parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is
born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth
certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly
witnessed and sent for registration to Principle
Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16
can give or refuse consent if considered
competent to do so by nursing staff.

Q WHY ARE CHILDREN BEING OFFERED THE FLU VACCINE?

Flu can make children feel very unwell and can
sometimes lead to serious complications like pneumonia
or ear infections. Some may even need hospital
treatment. It's especially important for children with
long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes, as flu can
be more dangerous for them.

Q HOW DOES THE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN WORK?

The nasal spray contains weakened flu viruses that help
your child build protection without causing illness.
Because flu strains change each year, the vaccine needs
to be given annually. Most children only need one dose.

Q IS THE FLU VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

Yes, it has a very good safety record and has been used
for over 10 years in countries like the US without any
major concerns. All vaccines available in United
Kingdom must pass strict safety testing before being
approved for use. The Medicines and Healthcare
Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) only approve
vaccines that have gone through rigorous safety testing
measures. The regulators continually monitor them all
the time.

Q SHOULD ANYONE NOT HAVE THE VACCINE?

Let us know if your child:

- Has a severe allergy to eggs, gelatine, or certain
antibiotics
- Has recently had severe asthma symptoms or is
wheezy on the day
- Has a seriously weakened immune system

Also, after vaccination, children should avoid close
contact with people who have very weak immune
systems for about two weeks—everyone else is fine to
be around.

Q ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects from the nasal spray are usually mild and
short-lived. These may include a runny or blocked nose,
headache, reduced appetite, or a slight temperature.
Paracetamol or ibuprofen can help if needed.

Q WE DO NOT EAT PORK PRODUCTS. CAN MY CHILD HAVE A DIFFERENT FLU VACCINE?

Yes. There is an injectable flu vaccine is available that
contains no pork (porcine gelatine).

While the nasal spray is generally more effective and
painless, we respect your preferences. Just complete
the consent form for the injection—no need to fill out
both.

Q NATURAL IMMUNITY

While natural immunity from the flu can occur, it's not
generally considered better than vaccine-induced
immunity. Natural infection carries the risk of severe
illness and complications, whereas the flu vaccine offers
protection with significantly less risk. Natural immunity
can be long-lasting against specific strains, but we know
that the flu virus changes (mutates) overtime so natural
immunity to one strain might not protect against a
different strain that emerges later. Vaccines are a safer
and more reliable way to protect against a wider range of
flu viruses.

Flu vaccines are updated for each winter to give
protection against the strains of flu that are most likely to
be going around. For this reason, we strongly recommend
that even if your child was vaccinated last year, they
should be vaccinated again this year.

Q MY CHILD NEEDS A DIFFERENT VACCINE

If your child needs another vaccine you can speak to our
team or attend one of our community clinics, all
information can be found on our website:
www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

Q I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

We run Q&A webinars which address frequently asked
questions and gives parents an opportunity to ask their
questions. You can find information and how to join on
our website.



GYMNASTICS OCTOBER HALF TEAM CAMP



- Gymnasts will work on strength, Flexability and gymnastics skills throughout the week.
- Our camp is a great way for children to meet new friends while having fun
- At the end of the week there will be badge testing where your child can earn a certificate and badge



PRICE

£40 per day
 £6 Early drop off
 £6 Late pick up



TIMES

10am - 3pm Day
 9am - 10am Early drop off
 3pm - 4pm Late pick up



PACKED LUNCH

Children must have a packed lunch with plenty of water. NO NUTS or nut products.



WHAT TO WEAR

Gymnasts must wear either a leotard or t-shirt and shorts or leggings. No skirts or jeans. Hair must be tied up and no jewellery.

27TH - 31ST OCTOBER
 AT GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL, N5



020 8044 2845



info@calypsogymnasticsclub.com

STREET DANCE OCTOBER HALF TEAM CAMP



Whether they're beginners or experienced dancers, our dance camp is designed to inspire creativity and develop technique in a supportive environment. We will be exploring different styles of dance each day while having fun and making new friends.



PRICE

£40 per day
 £6 Early drop off
 £6 Late pick up



TIMES

10am - 3pm Day
 9am - 10am Early drop off
 3pm - 4pm Late pick up



PACKED LUNCH

Children must have a packed lunch with plenty of water. NO NUTS or nut products.



WHAT TO WEAR

Dancers need to wear comfortable clothing and clean shoes.

28TH - 30ST OCTOBER
 AT GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL, N5



020 8044 2845



info@calypsogymnasticsclub.com