



Friday 17th October 2025

Newsletter 488

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Individual and Sibling photos

Children had their individual and sibling photos at school on Wednesday. They should have brought home with them a form with QR code for you to register your account. Once you have done this Van Cols will send an email to let you know when the photos have been processed and are ready to view and order. Please ensure you read all information including the order deadline to ensure free delivery to school.

Year 2 Learning

Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful workshop with Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharrat. We liked reading through a book we have in our class library already! Children followed along with the live drawing from illustrator Nick, very exciting!



Year 6 Learning

Year 6 put on a fantastic class assembly this morning. They shared a wealth of learning including diary entries, poetry, art, history and even a rap they had written themselves supported by a range of musical instruments. Well done Year 6!



Special Menu

This week, to celebrate Black History Month we had a tasty meal of spicy Caribbean chicken with rice and peas with a side of yam and plantain. The Jamaican ginger cake with ice cream were a huge hit. Thank you to the Caterlink team!

Attendance Matters

Class	Attendance WB 13/10/25
Reception	95.96%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	97.99%
Year 4	96.33%
Year 5	99%
Year 6	98%
Total	97.75%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 13/10/2025
Years 2&4!

Important dates	
16th October – 22nd October	Scholastic Book Fair (3:30-4:00pm Bottom Hall)
23rd October	5-7pm Halloween Disco No Ready Set Stage Clubs today
27th – 31st October	<i>Half term</i>
10th – 14th November	Anti-Bullying Week – ‘Power of Good’
11th November	Remembrance Assembly
14th November	Children in Need
26th November	2-7:30pm Parent Constulation Meetings
16th December	10am & 2pm Christmas Shows 3:45pm FoG Christmas Fayre
17th December	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas dinner
19th December	Last day of term. School closes 1pm

Reminder:
10am Fri 24th Oct
Y3 Class Assembly

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen, Headteacher

Black Scientist/STEM Person Poster Competition

STEM Committee are running a black scientist/STEM person poster competition in celebration of Black History Month.

Pupils from Nursery – Year 6 are being invited by the STEM Committee to create a poster about a black scientist or someone who uses science/STEM in their job. This will either be completed in class or set as homework. The posters will be due on Thursday 6th November.

STEM Committee are looking forward to judging these (in age categories) and awarding prizes to the winners.

The pupils will be given the following guidelines. Here are some suggestions for scientists to look at: Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE, Mary Seacole, Dame Elizabeth Anionwu, Charlotte Armah, Dr Donald Palmer, Dr Pearl Agyakwa, Dr Nira Chamberlain, Dr Paula Kahumbu, Mae Jemison, George Washington Carver, William Kamkwamba

More information about some of the scientists can be found here: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/blog/six-black-british-pioneers-of-stem/>

The poster must be on A4 or A3 paper (portrait or landscape).

The poster may be created using any chosen materials: paint, crayon, pastel, felt tips, pencil, collage etc. and must include the following:

- the scientist's/STEM person's name
- information about what they do
- a picture of the person

Tips for making your poster eye-catching

- include a fancy border
- include a background
- make sure your text and images fill the page and are large enough to read and see

Don't forget to put your full name and class on the back.

Meg, Lab_13



25/26 Curtain Raiser- Welcome Tea Party

So much of what we are able to offer Gillespie families is down to parents going that extra mile to run fun, friendly and inclusive events, and this year's Welcome Tea Party was no different.

A huge thanks to **Deidre, Jacqui, Amelie** and

all of you who gave up your Saturday afternoon to put on such a successful get together. All of the feedback was really positive and we hope to go from strength to strength with the rest of the FoG calendar. Speaking of which...



Are you ready for the best party of the year???

Time to dust off that Scooby Doo outfit and those plastic fangs - it's the notorious Halloween Disco 2025!

We'll be delivering all of the usual hits from previous years, so make sure you've got your dancing shoes on and some killer moves to go with them!

Tickets will be available to purchase in advance, so keep an eye out for sellers at pick up in the coming weeks. Also, we always need volunteers to help make this a monster hit, so if you can help out then please get in touch with **Vicky on 07877 984 367**

Festive Season Card Project - 2025 Edition!

The children have been busy designing festive artwork in class recently and we are soon going to be able to see some of their fantastic designs! If your child completed artwork, it will be sent home in the next couple of days with instructions on how to order cards, wrapping paper, mugs and present tags with their unique designs printed on them.

To order, follow the instructions leaflet attached to all the artwork and remember - all profits are donated directly to FoG. **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS THE 30TH OCTOBER!!!**

If you have any questions please email Mary at marydecinqe@gmail.com. Please note, you don't need to send the artwork anywhere - it has already been scanned in preparation for any orders placed.

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

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 we 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!



Gillespie School

HALLOWEEN DISCO



5-7pm

OCT
23

£3 entry or £5 family ticket
All children to be accompanied by an adult
Food and fun

Hotblack Desiato

The North London property experts,
in partnership with Gillespie School

hotblack desiato

Community page

Safeguarding alert regarding Andrew Cope books

Schools have been made aware of a recent safeguarding issue involving several popular children's book series by Andrew Cope, including *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups*.

Some editions of these books contain a printed web address on the back cover. This link previously directed readers to the author's website. However, the domain interrupted and no longer under his control and had been taken over by a third party leading to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, took swift action and have paused sales and distribution of affected lines, requested the removal of books from schools, libraries and retailers. The website has also been taken down.

Gillespie has removed any books from our library whilst this is ongoing.

What parents can do:

- Check Copies at Home. Inspect any *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, or *Spy Pups* books for website links on the back cover. Ensure children do not attempt to visit the site.
- Reading the Stories Is Still Safe. The concern is only with the outdated web link. The stories themselves remain appropriate for children.
- Talk to Children About Online Safety. Use this opportunity to remind children not to follow web addresses in books without checking with a trusted adult first.