



Friday 14th November 2025

Newsletter 491

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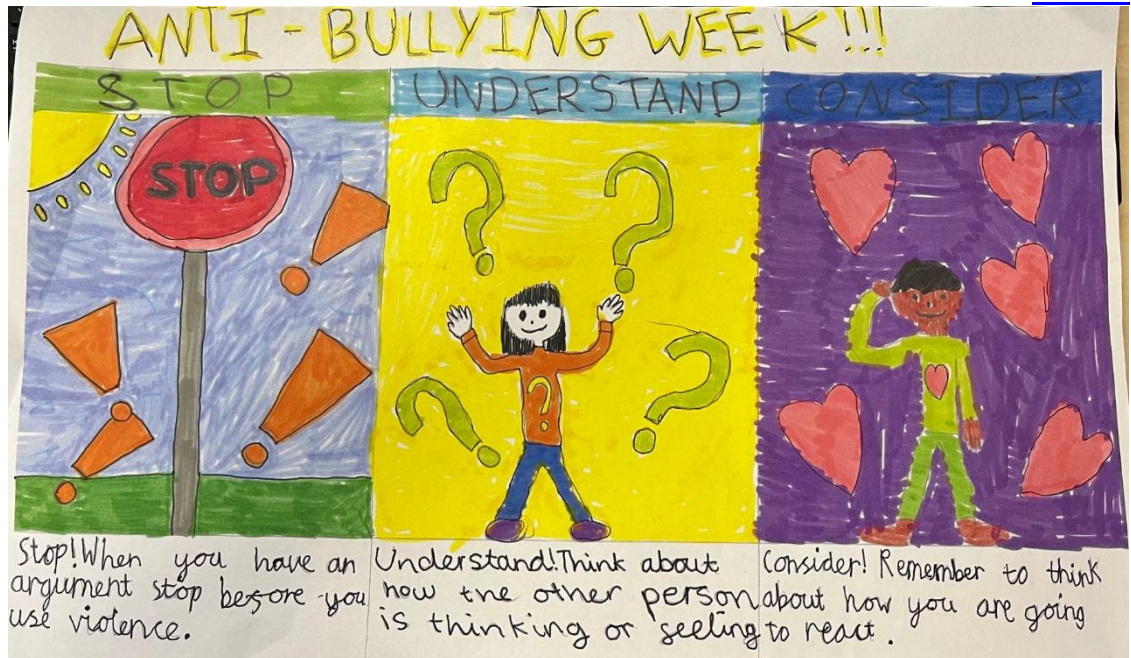
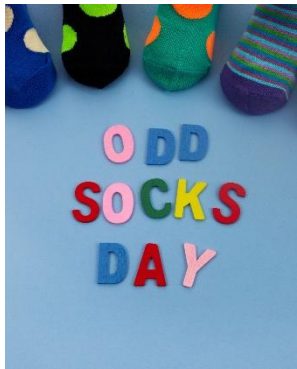


Dear Parents/Carers,

Remembrance Day, Anti-bullying week, Odd sock day and Children in Need

This week we kick started our new PSHE strategy around behaviour using stop understand and consider. We started the week with an assembly on Tuesday to launch our anti-bullying week activities and had an assembly to mark Remembrance Day including a minute silence at 11 o'clock. Today children from all classes including Reception shared the work they have done across this week including creating posters to promote the power of good and to use strategies from our MyHappyMind scheme to help children resolve conflicts and be kind to each other.

Children were dressed in spotty, stripey, yellow and non-uniform clothing to help raise money for Children in Need. We are most grateful to families who have made a donation – you have already raised over £500 which will make a difference to children's lives all over the UK. There is still time to [donate](#).



Join your child for lunch – WKBG 1st December

Thank you to the families who have already indicated they would like to join their child for a school lunch using the form sent out on Wednesday. There is still time to register your interest. Please do so [here](#) by 12pm on Monday 17th November.

With these numbers we can make plans with the school catering team and contact families directly to book their slot and make the £4 meal payment.

Due to restricted numbers we can accommodate per lunch session we can only accommodate 1 parent per family. If we are unable to accommodate all parents in the given session we will offer an alternative session. We appreciate your flexibility with these arrangements as we try to accommodate all those wanting to take part.

Parent consultation meetings and parent taster menu

We will be holding our Autumn term parent consultation meetings on Wednesday 26th November. There will be an opportunity to see some of your child's work at the appointment so please arrive with plenty of time to take a look. The consultations are an opportunity for you to discuss your child's work, development and progress.

We are excited to also be hosting a [meal taster session](#) run by Caterlink and our catering team in the bottom hall between 3 and 5pm. All welcome to sample some of the dishes from this term's menu!

For full details and to book your meeting slot read the letter [here](#).

School Council school meal pupil survey

We are the new school council and we are very determined to help improve the school lunches so that everyone is happy. We have organised a survey about our school meals which we hope all children will complete at home with help from their parents and carers. We hope you take a chance to try our school meals at the taster session on 26/11 and by joining your child for a meal WB 01/12.

There are two surveys, please select the one most applicable to your child. Only 1 survey to be completed per child. Please complete by Friday 5th December.

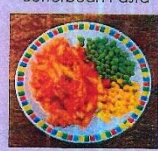
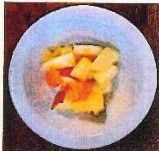
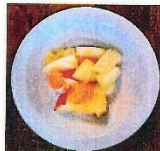
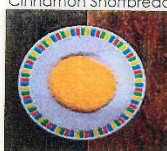
Main menu – meat and planet friendly days

Main menu – vegetarian

See below picture menus for children to use as prompts for the dishes.

Islington Autumn Winter 2025 2026					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Beetroot and Lentil Burger in a Bun with Potato	Plant Balls in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	NEW Chicken Biryani	Salmon or Pollock Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
OPTION 2	Autumn Vegetable Lasagne	Hearty Beef and Lentil Bolognese with Spaghetti	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Saucy Tomato and Bean Pasta Bake	Red Pepper Frittata with Chips and Tomato Ketchup
DESSERT	Apple and Raisin Fapjack	NEW Apple Crumb Cake with Custard	Fruit & Yoghurt	Jelly with Mandarins	Fruit or Yoghurt
*VEGETABLES AND SIDES MAY DIFFER THAN THOSE SHOWN					
WEEK ONE					

Islington Autumn Winter 2025 2026					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Chefs Special Lentil Curry with Rice	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges	BBQ Chicken with Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Breaded Fish or Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
OPTION 2	Hearty Spaghetti Bolognese	Chicken and Sweetcorn Meatballs in Tomato Sauce and Rice	BBQ Quorn with Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa	Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice	Cheese Whirl with Chips and Tomato Sauce
DESSERT	Peach Upside Down Cake	Chocolate and Banana Oaty Square	Fruit Salad	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Fruit or Yoghurt
*VEGETABLES AND SIDES MAY DIFFER THAN THOSE SHOWN					
WEEK TWO					

Islington Autumn Winter 2025/2026		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Macaroni Cheese	NEW Chicken 50% Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges	Planet Friendly Sausage with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Caribbean Stew with Golden Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Ketchup	
						
OPTION 2	Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice	Cheese and Bean Pasty with Wedges	Mild Caribbean Chicken with Golden Rice	Minced Beef Cottage Pie	Tomato and Butterbean Pasta	
						
DESSERT	Fruit or Yoghurt	Pear Crumble with Custard	Fruit or Yoghurt	Wholemeal Orange and Cinnamon Shortbread	Chocolate and Apple Sponge and Chocolate Sauce	
						
*VEGETABLES AND SIDES MAY DIFFER THAN THOSE SHOWN		WEEK THREE				

Attendance Matters

Class	Attendance WB 10/11/25
Reception	89.26%
Year 1	97.04%
Year 2	98.89%
Year 3	99.63%
Year 4	92.96%
Year 5	97.41%
Year 6	94.44%
Total	95.7%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 10/11/2025
Year 3!

Important dates	
21st November	Year 5 Bake sale and uniform stall
26th November	Parent Consultation Meetings 3-5pm Caterlink menu tasting in bottom hall
WKBG 1st December	Family lunch sessions
16th December	10am & 2pm Christmas Shows 3:45pm FoG Christmas Fayre
18th December	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas dinner
19th December	Last day of term. School closes 1pm

Reminder:
10am Fri 21st Nov
Y4 Class Assembly

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen,
Headteacher



Building a strong Foundation...

Some of you will have already had a visit from a member of the FoG team in your class assemblies to share updates on the newly-formed FoG Foundation and some of the progress and successes since the soft launch at the end of the Summer term. If not, don't worry - they'll be in your assembly soon enough!

The team have been working hard over the Autumn Term to map out phase 2 of this exciting initiative for the school, including a reshaping of the charity's structure, developing a brand-new website and collaborating with school leadership to identify areas of priority for funding. We are excited to now be in position to offer members of the Gillespie community the chance to take on a crucial role in the forward planning and strategy for the FoG Foundation.

These roles are as follows:



FoG Treasurer - This trustee would be required to manage the financial affairs of the Friends of Gillespie Charity, ensuring funds are properly handled, recorded, and spent in line with the charity's objectives. Please click [here](#) for the role descriptor.

FoG Foundation Lead - This is a trustee role focusing on non-event fundraising – especially individual giving. The purpose is to develop and manage streams of income such as regular parent donations, one-off gifts, Gift Aid claims, grant applications and employer match-funding, providing a steady flow of funds for the school. Please click [here](#) for the role descriptor.

If you are interested in applying, or would simply like to discuss this in more detail, please contact the Foundation team using the following email address: fogfoundation@gillespie.islington.sch.uk

School partnership with HotBlack Desiato

Since the Spring Term of 2025, Gillespie Primary has been in a formal partnership with the local Estate agent HotBlack Desiato. This sponsorship (to the amount of £500.00 a month for 12 months) has provided a fantastic boost to the existing FoG offer, as well as additional planning help and support for some of our existing community events. From face painters to bar staff, the HotBlack team have been tireless in their commitment to get involved with the school community and support our efforts to make Gillespie the best school it can possibly be. If that wasn't enough, they have also **committed to making a donation of 10% of any fees generated via Gillespie Primary School straight back to FoG**, so please spread the word!



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!

