



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

# Newsletter 492

[www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk](http://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk)



Dear Parents/Carers,

## Learning in Year 4

This term, Year 4 have had the exciting opportunity to work with Cheryl from Sadler's Wells, exploring the ancient Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur through the creative world of dance.

## Ready Set Stage

The RSS team are updating the booking system for the Spring term clubs which will be available shortly. There is a mix of popular clubs continuing and a couple of new ones to try too! We will let you know when they are available to book.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Performing Arts	Arts & Crafts	Singing club	Gymnastics
Football Y3-6	Chess club *NEW*	Football Rec-Y2	Table tennis (5 wks) *NEW*

## Join your child for lunch – WB 1<sup>st</sup> December

We had lots of parents wanting to join children for a school meal, thank you! Parents will be contacted directly to make their payment on Eduspot ahead of the day.

## Parent consultation meetings and parent taster menu

If you haven't done so already, you can book your parent meeting slot online at <https://gillespie.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. The meal taster session run by Caterlink will take place in the bottom hall from **3:45pm** until 5pm. (Note later start time due to school hall use beforehand).

## REMINDER- 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 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Main menu – [meat and planet friendly days](#)

Main menu – [vegetarian](#)

## Black Scientist/STEM Person Poster Competition

STEM Committee and I have now finished the process of judging the black scientist/STEM person competition. Thank you to everyone who entered a poster. It was wonderful to see the effort so many of you put into researching a black scientist or STEM person. We very much look forward to reading all about them. Also, thank you for your creativity. Apologies for the delay in letting you all know the results. We decided to choose a winner in each year group based on the guidelines and advice we set out. Committee members judged year groups that they are not in to make things fair. We are delighted to announce the following pupils as the winners in each year group:

Year 1 – Olivia

Year 2 – Gabriella

Year 3 – Juliet, Edith, Isabel (worked as a group)

Year 4 – Lily

Year 5 – Izaan

Year 6 – Alice

Congratulations to all the winners. There will be prizes to come and the posters will be displayed outside Lab\_13 shortly.  
Meg and the STEM Committee

## Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Class	Attendance WB 17/11/25
Reception	96.33%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	96.33%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	92.67%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	93.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>95.3%</b>



Attendance Cup  
Winner  
WB 17/11/2025  
  
**Year R&2!**

As we move through the current cold snap, we would like to remind families of the importance of **regular attendance** and ensuring children are **dressed appropriately for the weather**. Please make sure your child comes to school with a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves so they can enjoy outdoor learning and playtimes comfortably and safely.

We understand that winter often brings minor coughs and colds. In these cases, we **encourage parents and carers to bring children to school** as usual. If their condition worsens during the day, we will contact you to collect them if needed. The Islington & Whittington booklet on [Minor illness and school attendance: A guide for parents and carers](#) has useful information on childhood illness.



### Punctuality reminder

School begins at **8:55am** 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.

Important dates	
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Consultation Meetings <b>*3:45-5pm</b> Caterlink menu tasting in bottom hall
28 <sup>th</sup> November	3:15pm FoG's Warm up Fridays
WB 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Join your child for lunch sessions
12 <sup>th</sup> December	3:15pm FoG's Warm up Fridays
16 <sup>th</sup> December	10am & 2pm Christmas Shows 3:45pm FoG Christmas Fayre
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas dinner
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term. School closes 1pm

Reminder:  
10am Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Y5 Class Assembly

**\*Please note new taster session timing**

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Owen,  
Headteacher



# FoG News

## Final day for Foundation applications

The deadline for applications is today! Anyone thinking about getting involved please reach out to Sean (07986 792 367) or have a look at the role descriptors below before registering your interest. Even if you don't think you can commit to either of these leading positions but have some ideas/time/willingness to support the efforts to make the school even better then we would love to hear from you. This crucial initiative will only work if we have a strong group to steer it effectively, so involvement from the parent community is essential, and it really is a fantastic opportunity to have a real impact in the evolution of Gillespie Primary.

**FoG Treasurer** - Please click [here](#) for the role descriptor.

**FoG Foundation Lead** - 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](mailto:fogfoundation@gillespie.islington.sch.uk)



## Warm Up Fridays

Next week Friday 28th November is the launch of a brand new offer for families as the cold snap of winter really kicks in! **Warm Up Fridays** will see FoG offering a hot drinks stand, with regular hot chocolate, a luxury version with cream and marshmallows (halal version) and even some warm juice and vegan mallows to make sure there is something for everyone.

Come along to pick up a little earlier than usual to avoid the rush, have a relaxed chat with some Gillespie parents and get a nice warm drink to set you up for the start of the weekend! Cash and card payments will of course be available. **A huge thanks**

**to Rachel (Mum of Will in Yr 3 and Jessy in Nursery) for stepping up to deliver this lovely idea for the school community.**



## School partnership with HotBlack Desiato

Since the Spring Term, 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. 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!





Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking for children and their parents to take part in a research study: *Born in Covid Year – Core Lockdown Effects* (BICYCLE). We want to see if Covid lockdowns affected children's talking and thinking skills.

Here is some information about what the study involves for you and your child. Please read this information carefully.

Your child may take part at school/nursery if they were born between:

**July 19th 2021 and October 19th 2021**



**What is the study about?**

We want to know how children *born-after-lockdown* (and *born-in-lockdown*) are doing now they are 4 years old. We are interested in their talking and thinking skills.



**What will we have to do if we take part?**

The study will take place at your child's school/nursery. We will see your child 3 times. At each session your child will play some fun games with us. These games are about talking and thinking. Each session will last up to 45 minutes. But we will fit in with your child and your child's school.



You will also need to fill in questionnaires about your child and your household. These will take 1 hour and 30 minutes. We can support you with this.



**Are there any advantages or disadvantages in taking part?**

You will get a £30 shopping voucher if you and your child complete the study. We hope your child will find the study interesting and fun.

Your child will spend some time playing the games and you will fill in the questionnaires. We don't think there are other



disadvantages. However, taking part is completely up to you. If you or your child want to stop taking part, you can.

**Will the information be private?**

Yes. All the information you give us will be kept secure and private. Only the researchers will see your details.



**Can I find out more about taking part?**

Yes of course. Please click on this link **HERE**:

[https://cityunilondon.eu.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV\\_82g386mklVxUv8G](https://cityunilondon.eu.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_82g386mklVxUv8G)

Here you will see an expression of interest form. Please fill this in and we will send you more information about the study.

**Do you have a QR code?**

Yes, it is here:



You can email us with any questions: [bicycle@citystgeorges.ac.uk](mailto:bicycle@citystgeorges.ac.uk)

Thank you for reading this!

Best wishes,



Nikki and Lucy,  
(Project Leads)

Chelo and Jane  
(Researchers)