



Friday 28th November 2025

Newsletter 493

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Consultation Meetings and Taster session

Thank you to teachers for your hard work and to parents for excellent attendance at our parent consultation meetings on Wednesday. Also a big thank you to two of our catering staff Fatma and Mavis who stayed very late on Wednesday to prepare additional food for our parent taster session. I'm happy to report that many parents were impressed with the quality and range of freshly prepared food on offer to our children. We are looking forward to seeing many of you come and have a lunch with your children at school next week. Also a reminder from our school council that they want as many families to complete our school meal survey below so that we can feedback to our catering company on the school meals.



Year 5 Learning

Year 5 gave us a tour de force of their learning this term in an amazing multi-faceted assembly which included musical performance, media broadcasting, drama about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, a real science experiment demonstration on stage and much more! Well done to the children for an excellent assembly and a huge thanks to their class teacher Florie, class TA Mariam and our music maestro Orlando and strings teacher Clare for orchestrating the musical performances.



Nursery Learning

This term in Nursery we have been exploring who we are, where we are from and the languages we speak. We have a large range of languages in our class and are enjoying learning how to say hello/good morning in these languages.



Ready Set Stage

Spring term clubs are now available to book online at www.readysetstage.co.uk.

Clubs begin week commencing 12th January and end week commencing 16th March.

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 1st December

Thank you to those who signed up by the deadline – you have been contacted to make your payment on Eduspot. A reminder of the sessions:

Monday 1 st December	11:45-12:15 Nursery
	11:45-12:15 Reception
Tuesday 2 nd December	12:00-12:20 Year 1
	12:15-12:35 Year 2
Wednesday 3 rd December	12:30-12:50 Year 6
	12:40-1:00 Year 4
Thursday 4 th December	12:30-12:50 Year 3
	12:40-1:00 Year 5

Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Class	Attendance WB 24/11/25
Reception	95.33%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	89%
Year 3	88.67%
Year 4	95.67%
Year 5	97.67%
Year 6	96%
Total	94.19%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 24/11/2025

Year 5!

Important dates

WB 1st December	Join your child for lunch sessions
12th December	3:15pm FoG's Warm up Fridays
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 5th Dec
Y1 Class Assembly

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 5th December.

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

Main menu – [vegetarian](#)

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen,
Headteacher



FoG News



Year 5 Bake sale shout out!

Just a quick one to say a massive thank you and well done to **Andrew Clements** and **Sophie Collins** for coordinating the Bake Sale last week and for all the parents who gave up their time to run the stall. With such a delicious selection of cakes, cookies, brownies, biscuits and more it is no surprise that the team managed to raise **close to £400!!!** That amount alone is double the budget that FoG currently allocates to SEN provision at the school - what a fantastic achievement. No pressure on the next year group...

Silent Auction Parent Pledges - What is your secret skill?

It's that time of year when Jacqui is on the hunt for skills, talents, goodies and more as we start to build up our offer for the Winter Fair Silent Auction. This is a huge fundraiser around the Winter Fair (**previous years have seen us raise close to £4000** for the school - that would cover the cost of the Strings Music Programme and School trips for an entire term!

The aim is to collect as many prizes as possible and offer them up for bids as part of a Silent Auction on the night of the Fair. But for that we need you. Perhaps you can offer to **bake a cake, cook a signature dish, hold a masterclass in your secret skills (hair plaits, poker, singing, music, make-up, photography, gardening, DIY, legal advice, personal training...)** or maybe there is something you could donate that would make a lovely gift (**hampers, bottles of anything, vouchers, tickets to a show...**). The more we have the better the auction will be.

If you have something, want to know more or are ready to donate, **please message Jacqui on 07900188328.** [Thanks!]



Volunteers for the Winter Fair - the more the merrier...

To make the Winter Fair a success we need people power. No special skills required - just a lot of goodwill and festive cheer to sell tokens before the Christmas shows, set up or take down stalls, decorations, inflatable snowmen and more. Even if it is just half an hour at some point during the day we will be very appreciative. **Message Sean on 07986 792 367 or speak to your class rep** about getting involved.



Photographer needed!!!

Fancy yourself as the next Ansel Adams? Looking to bring out your inner Annie Liebovitz or Dorothea Lange?

FoG are currently on the look out for someone to capture images of the Winter Fair (and ideally future events too) that don't look like they have been taken on someone's phone 😊. If you are interested and able, please reach out to **Sean on 07986 792 367 or your class rep** to discuss how you can help.

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!

