



Friday 16th January 2026

Newsletter 498

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Council school meal survey results

The school council met today to analyse and discuss the results of the school meal survey that was carried out before the Christmas holiday. 38 families responded to the main meals survey and 6 families responded to the vegetarian menu questionnaire. We are assuming that families who did not respond to the survey are generally happy with the school meals. We got qualitative information from the survey and the school council are seeking to make some improvements to menu choice and quality of meals based on this information.

Highlights	Yes	Sometimes	No
Main menu: Do you enjoy school meals?	28%	64%	8%
Vegetarian menu: Do you enjoy school meals?	17%	17%	67%
Main menu: Do you think there are enough meal choices?	46%	NA	64%
Vegetarian menu: Do you think there are enough meal choices?	20%	NA	80%

- Generally the pudding menu was very popular- fresh fruit being the most popular choice!
- Vegetables and salad were generally popular apart from courgettes, leeks and coleslaw.
- There were some main meals which were clearly popular and some which were not at all popular.
- Many of the main vegetarian options were not popular with children.

School council actions:

- School council have asked Mark to organise a meeting for them with the Caterlink local area manager and our school cook to discuss possible changes to the menu to improve meal choices and the quality of some meals.
- The school council agreed that promoting the eating of healthy vegetables as a side dish should be encouraged and want to discuss how unpopular vegetables such as courgettes and leeks could be prepared in a way that makes them more enjoyable to children.
- The school council want to urgently explore the possibility of improving and changing the vegetarian menu options as many of the options are clearly unpopular.
- School council will lobby the cook and local area manager to increase the number of baked potatoes available on each day but particularly on days such as Mondays which have much less popular menu options for children.
- School council suggested that we should survey pupils later on this year after changes have been made to see if school meal choices are more popular.

We will report on the outcomes on our discussions in the coming weeks.



Office hours reminder

In order for the office to run as efficiently as possible we are asking that families wanting to contact the office regarding non-urgent matters do so by email (office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk). If families need to call/visit the office we ask this takes place during the following times: 8:45-9:45am and 2:45-3:45pm. The office will of course be available between these hours for emergencies or instances where children need to be collected early from school etc. We appreciate your continued support.

Attendance and Punctuality Matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



LOST MINUTES = LOST LEARNING!

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

3 days lost
5 minutes late per day

6.5 days lost
10 minutes late per day

10 days lost
15 minutes late per day

13 days lost
20 minutes late per day

19 days lost EACH YEAR!
30 minutes late per day

Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!

Punctuality

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.

Attendance

Class	Attendance WB 12/01/26
Reception	95.67%
Year 1	97.67%
Year 2	98.33%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	96.67%
Year 5	96.33%
Year 6	98.33%
Total	97.3%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 12/01/2026

Year 2 & 6!

Important dates

Friday 6th February	NSPCC Number Day
WKBG 9th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11th February	Class photos (full school uniform)
WKBG 16th February	Half term

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen,
Headteacher



TOY APPEAL



If your cupboards are full to overflowing with toys, why not donate some?

We are working with The Toy Project who will gift your donations to local families, children's centres and other organisations.

Please only donate toys that are in good condition and fit to be shared.

Donations are being accepted 29 December to 31 January at all our libraries during normal opening hours.



Family Barn Dance Additional info:
Intended mostly for primary school children and (+grand) parents

This is English Folk dance based
Free entry, donations recommended £5
Live music

This link is to the Camden EFDSS dances we also have been leading for years.

<https://www.efdss.org/learning/family/barn-dances>
Jane's web site: <http://letusdance.org/>

FAMILY BARN DANCE

Elizabeth House
Hurlock Street
N5 1ED

Saturday
7 Feb 2026
1-4 pm



JANE & JEREMY
letusdance.org

