



Friday 30th January 2026

Newsletter 500

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Headteacher for the day

Today Luisa in Year 4 and Zelia in Year 1 took Mark's place as Headteacher and did his duties for the day including leading assembly and writing the newsletter.



Luisa and Zelia

We really enjoyed going in to the staffroom and looking at the view from the window. We also loved helping out staff by reading to the nursery and reception children. We assisted Year 6 and Shelley with their class assembly preparations and took a trip to the local Café with Mark and were treated to cake and hot chocolate!



As Headteachers we have decided that next Friday, on Number Day, as well as dressing in number clothes children are invited to bring a cuddly toy to school – this is for pupils AND staff!

Thank you Gillespie families for my unexpected presents!

When I returned to my office after my extra coffee! today I was surprised to see a wonderful basket of gift vouchers from our parent community to celebrate my 20 years as Headteacher. Thank you so much! John Lewis and Waitrose are some of my favourite shops and I do love my garden. I'm also surprised to find out parents know I like my coffee ☺! I'm also looking forward to trying a whole new range of fragrances over the coming weeks. Thank you so much, I am deeply moved.

Learning in Nursery

This week in nursery, the children have been busy exploring drawing and mark-making using a variety of materials. They experimented with pens, crayons and paints, creating their own pictures on cardboard. The children showed great enthusiasm as they chose colours, mixed paints and decided how to fill their space.



Attendance

Class	Attendance WB 26/01/26
Reception	99.67%
Year 1	99.33%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	97.67%
Year 4	95.33%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	95%
Total	97.14%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 26/01/2026
Reception!

Important dates

Friday 6th February	NSPCC Number Day Cuddly toy 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

Number Day Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Friday 6th February 2026 we will be celebrating another **Number day.**

This is a day where schools raise money for the NSPCC and make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable children across the UK. Gillespie has taken part in this important event for many years now and we are always happy to be involved.



To help raise some money for the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) we are inviting children once again to come to school wearing an item of clothing with digits on (e.g. football shirt) or a onesie or even dressed up as a dice, ruler or calculator!

We will have an assembly to highlight the work of the NSPCC to the children and in class they will take part in a number challenge and engage in lots of fun maths activities throughout the day.

Children or parents do not need to bring cash to school but it would be great if you would donate what you are able to online to the NSPCC via the JustGiving link below. We hope as many people as possible can help.

The link to donate to the NSPCC:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/gillespienumberday26>

Thank you for all your cooperation and support in advance.

Kind Regards
Hassan Khan