



Friday 13th March 2026

Newsletter 504

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Nursery and Reception Extended Hours Provision



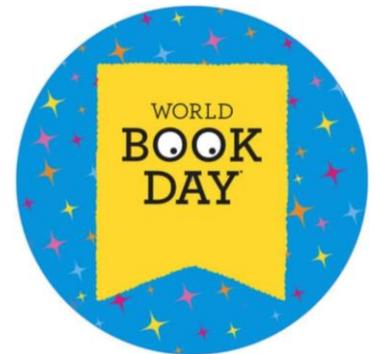
We are delighted to announce that, following a successful Ofsted visit, Calypso is now officially registered on the Early Years Register and will be partnering with Gillespie to offer extended hours provision starting in April. Thank you to all parents for your continued support and patience while we worked through this process.

The new extended hours provision will offer high-quality care on site in the Early Years setting from the end of the school day until 6:00pm. This will complement the already thriving breakfast club run by Calypso before school.

Please see the [letter](#) about the full offer and details on how to book a place for your child, with sessions available from Tuesday 14th April.

World Book Day Celebrations

Last week, on World Book Day, lots of us got dressed up as our favourite character from a book, or our favourite author. There were some really fantastic costumes! We were so pleased to see that so many of them were either made from cardboard, borrowed or put together from things people already had, rather than buying something new.



In the morning, lots of classes joined the BBC live lesson and went on a journey to discover how we like to read. We fed back our favourite parts in assembly. Year 5 made some book recommendations which they are going to add to the library. They wrote about what book they used to like reading and why and what they now like to read and why. This might help some children who are stuck with what to read next. Finally, many adults in the school chose a favourite book and then the children chose which book they would like to have read to them. It was lovely to see so many different age groups together enjoying the same book.

This week, most year groups have been to Waterstones in Angel to swap their World Book Day token for a book that they have chosen. The staff at Waterstones were wonderful! They read each year group a story and sent them on a scavenger hunt around the shop for book characters.



Year 5/6 Link Up Concert

Last Friday 6th March Year 5 and 6 went to the fabulous Guildhall Young Artists Link up Concert at the Barbican. The event started with a rendition of We Will Rock You and in the instrumental section the orchestra came in with a mighty roar. Wow what a sound! Our children joined in on their instruments with 'La Follia' by Vivaldi and 'Dance of the Knights' by Prokofiev. The children also sang along with various classical and pop pieces. My favourite was 'O Fortuna' Carl Orff. I only ever remember it as the much overused music for X Factor but I know the children loved singing in latin which they found somewhat amusing..

It was one of the best music events I've yet been to as a music teacher and I hope we can return next year!

Orlando

As Headteacher I am incredibly proud to have also received the following feedback from the event organisers about the Gillespie team and children-

“Your school brought such dedication, creativity, and musicality to Milton Court Concert Hall on Friday, resulting in a truly joyous and memorable experience for everyone involved.

We appreciate how hard you and the team at Gillespie worked with the children to get them concert-ready. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and willingness to join in from all the students. They were incredibly focused and performed with great energy, clearly enjoying the experience of making music together.

As ever, the Gillespie staff created a warm, supportive atmosphere, and it was so lovely to see you all at the event. I was personally delighted to have you with us for the second year running.”

International Women’s Day

Today in assembly we spoke about International Women’s Day (8th March) and recognised the achievements of women. We spoke about women and girls in our own lives, especially those who have achieved something particularly exceptional. We especially remembered mothers and carers and talked about why we celebrate Mother’s Day this coming Sunday.

The theme for 2026 is **Give To Gain**. The aim is to encourage everyone to give support to gender equality. We spoke about some of the things we could do as individuals to show our support at school and at home like when we are playing a game, we can make sure everyone who would like to play feels included. When we are at home, we can make sure we help with a variety of different jobs.

We can make sure that we encourage each other to make the most of the talents and skills that we all have. We are all unique and by recognising the strengths we each have; we can confidently go on to be successful in life. We will keep learning about the great achievements of other people, celebrate everyone’s contributions and strengths, and show kindness and respect to everyone around us.



Attendance

Class	Attendance WB 09/03/26
Reception	96%
Year 1	93.67%
Year 2	97.33%
Year 3	94.67%
Year 4	92.66%
Year 5	94.33%
Year 6	95.95%
Total	94.94%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 09/03/2026

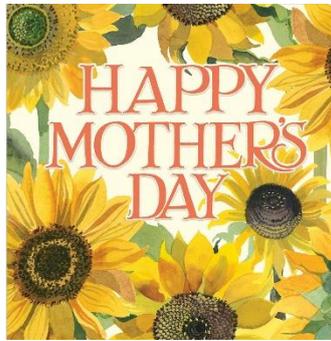
Year 2!

Important dates

WB 23rd March	Gillespie Science Week
Monday 23rd March	KS1 & 2 science shows for children 6-7pm Family Science Show
Friday 27th March	End of term (school closes 1pm)
Monday 13th April	INSET Day (school closed)
Tuesday 14th April	First day of term for pupils

In the weekend of International Women's Day we wish those celebrating, a very happy Mother's Day!

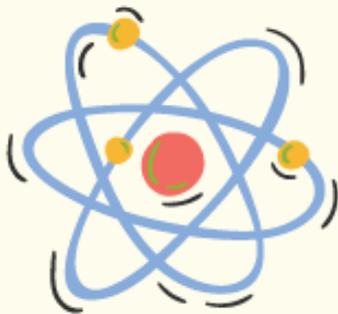
Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen,
Headteacher



GILLESPIE SCIENCE WEEK

MONDAY 23 MARCH

KS1 & KS2 will enjoy shows
jam-packed with
experiments, explosions
and hands-on participation



6-7PM
Attend a **FREE**
family science show
limited availability
(80 max capacity)
[Book tickets here](#)

WORKING IN STEM?

We are keen for any parents
working in STEM who can
talk to children about their
job to get involved



WORKING IN STEM?

If you can help please
email Florie on
fsmith@gillespie.islington.sch.uk
Thank you!



020 7226 6840



www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

GILLESPIE Nursery

TO APPLY
CONTACT
SCHOOL OFFICE

Open from 8:00am - 6:00pm
from April 2026

In partnership with Calypso

GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL



GROWING TOGETHER



Caring Staff



Quality care



Warm tea



Bright Future



In partnership with

CALYPSO

Music Explorers

an adventure in music; exploring voice, sounds & movement.



Free and discounted places are available for children requiring financial assistance who live in Islington or attend an Islington school

When: Tuesdays: 4.15-5pm / 4-5pm

Age: 4-6 (reception & year 1)

Where: West Library N1 1BD / St Peter's and St Paul's EC1V 0EU



To find out more:

Please call **07541206817** or email

MusicEducation.Islington@gsmc.ac.uk

To sign up, please go to

www.gsmc.ac.uk/study-with-guildhall/music-explorers

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Guildhall School
of Music & Drama
in partnership with
Islington Council



ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

The background of the poster shows two children sitting on a wooden floor, engaged in an art project. One child is wearing a black headscarf and a striped shirt, and the other is wearing a red hoodie. They are surrounded by colorful paper and art supplies. A large red banner is draped across the top of the scene.

october gallery

FAMILY ART DAY

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
AT OCTOBER GALLERY

SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY
10AM - 12PM

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH
10AM - 12PM

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL
10AM - 12PM

FREE
DROP-IN
FOR ALL
AGES

The logo for St Andrew Holborn Charities, featuring a stylized 'sahc' in a circle.