



Thursday 26th March 2026

Newsletter 505

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

FoG Foundation Update

Once again, a HUGE thank you to our parent and carer community who helped with the fundraising launch of our Friends of Gillespie Foundation. As parents know an incredible £60,000 was raised in the Autumn term and we have allocated and spent this funding on our number one priority we shared; which was to enable us to recruit additional teaching assistant support across the school for this academic year.



The additional teaching assistants are in place in our EYFS, KS1 and KS2 settings and have been an incredible resource which has made a difference to so many children in the school and has supported our hard-working teachers in so many ways, we cannot thank you enough!

We are keen to be able to continue funding the two TA's moving in to the new academic year which will of course require continued fundraising in order for us to be able to secure this.

I'm delighted to say that FoG have been working very hard this year to recruit a foundation team who will be spearheading our fundraising strategy and communicating our priorities with families from the summer term. The new team met this week and will be introducing themselves and to you at the beginning of the new term. I am so grateful to the team for committing their precious time to volunteer to make the foundation work for the wonderful children of our school community. More about this after the Easter holiday!

You can read more about the FoG Foundation [here](#) and make donations [here](#).

Gillespie Science Week

In our STEM week we were visited by Thomas from the Royal Institution of Science. He put on 2 different shows for the children and a special one after school so parents could watch too. These included explosions, rockets, fiery hands, extra strong magazines, bubbling infectious diseases and much more! Some of the children even got chosen to get stuck in with helping Thomas show some of these experiments. The children have also been having a go at activities organised by Meg and her STEM team this week as well as taking part in other STEM activities during lunchtime.

Over the holidays, the children are encouraged to get involved in the STEM competition following the theme **Curiosity what's your question?** We would like them to have a go at thinking about a STEM question they have always wanted answered and researching/investigating it at home. They can then show their findings in any form they think would work well and can be handed in to Teachers/Florie by the first Wednesday back after Easter (15th April). It could be in the form of a poster, collage, investigation or any other way they can think of - the choice is theirs! Prizes will be presented the first Friday back.



Easter assembly and spring music concert

Tomorrow in our final assembly of the term we will be marking the Christian festival of Easter and all classes will be performing music they have been learning with Orlando across this term in our spring music concert.

Year 3-4 gymnastics competition

A huge well done to the children who showed expert skills at the Islington gymnastics competition at the Sobell Centre this week. The children have been training hard and we are excited to announce they came FIRST! Well done Gillespie and thank you to Jas and Calypso for the first class coaching.



Attendance

Class	Attendance WB 16/03/26
Reception	96.67%
Year 1	99.33%
Year 2	94.33%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	88.93%
Year 5	95.33%
Year 6	95.86%
Total	95.2%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 16/03/2026

Year 1!



No smart watches!

We have recently noticed a few children wearing smartwatches or interactive "toy" watches at school. While fun, the cameras and games on these devices can be a big distraction in class. Please ensure these stay at home. Standard watches are still perfectly fine and encouraged! Thank you



To our families who celebrated last week, we hope you enjoyed your Eid celebrations! We look forward to having a post event celebration in the summer term at our International Food Evening – date below.

Important dates	
Monday 13th April	INSET Day (school closed)
Tuesday 14th April	First day of term for pupils
Wednesday 22nd April	Parent Consultation Meetings Nursery – Year 6 Letter with information of how to book
Thursday 30th April	4:30-6:30pm International Food Evening
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
WB Monday 11th May	Y6 SATs week
WB 25th May	Half term
Saturday 4th July	Summer Fayre
Wednesday 8th July	Sport's Day

Class Assemblies	
Fridays at 10am, top hall	
Year Group	Date Set
Year 4	Friday 22 nd May 2026
Year 2	Friday 5 th June 2026
Year 5	Friday 12 th June 2026
Year 1	Friday 19 th June 2026
Year 3	Friday 26 th June 2026
Year 6	Friday 10 th July 2026

REMINDER: School closes promptly at 1pm tomorrow. Please ensure children are collected at this time.

Wishing families a wonderful Easter break and look forward to seeing children back on Tuesday 14th April.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen, Headteacher

happy



YEAR 4 LEARNING VOLCANOS AND EARTHQUAKES



Year 4 visited the Natural History Museum on Tuesday.

They took part in an interactive show and wandered the galleries exploring all things red hot- which included an Earthquake simulator!



Luisa helping out Volcanologist Barbie!





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