



Friday 24th April 2026

Newsletter 507

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Voice Event on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

A huge thank you to our governors Dan and Tiffanie for co-hosting our parent voice event during parent consultation evening. We had excellent attendance from families across the school and we will take your feedback on the new RSE legislation and curriculum to our staff and governors and then feedback to parents on any changes in readiness to implement the revised guidance from September 2026.

International Food Evening Thursday 30th April 4:30-6:00pm

We are really looking forward to celebrating with you all next week at our International Food Evening. Families are warmly invited to bring a dish to share. The school will provide juice and water, as well as crockery and cutlery but no additional dishes are provided by the school.

This event is a fantastic opportunity for our school community to come together and share dishes from across the globe in celebration of our vibrant community. Please ensure that all dishes are clearly labelled and do not contain any nuts or sesame.



St George's Day assembly

Today in assembly the children learnt about Saint George, the patron saint of England and were fascinated to discover that Saint George is also the patron saint of Georgia, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Catalonia (a region of Spain) and that he was a roman soldier born in a region which is now Turkey.

Year 1 Learning

This term in Year 1, the children began their Sadler's Wells dance sessions by exploring the theme of seeds and growing, linking beautifully with our science topic. In their first lesson, they used movement to imagine how seeds sprout and grow, expressing their ideas creatively through dance.



Attendance

Class	Attendance WB 20/04/26
Reception	98.33%
Year 1	96.67%
Year 2	95.67%
Year 3	93.67%
Year 4	93.21%
Year 5	99%
Year 6	93.79%
Total	95.76%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 20/04/2026

Year 5!

Travel Ambassador t-shirt design competition

Children are invited to design an Active Travel t-shirt showing the best ways to travel to help our planet. Use bold colours and felt tips to make it stand out.

Bring back the design with your £1 by 6th May to be in the running for getting your design printed on a white t-shirt for you to wear!



Important dates	
WB 27 th April	Scholastic book fair
Wednesday 29 th April	Parent Consultation Meetings Nursery
Thursday 30 th April	4:30-6:00pm International Food Evening
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Tuesday 5 th May	4:45pm Parent Panel choosing a secondary school
WB Monday 11 th May	Y6 SATs week
WB 25 th May	Half term
Saturday 4 th July	Summer Fayre
Wednesday 8 th 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

Yours sincerely, Mark Owen, Headteacher

Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 27th April – Friday 1st May
Bottom Hall from 3:30pm

TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME TO THE
3 FOR 2
BOOK FAIR

GET 3 BOOKS FOR THE PRICE OF 2!

LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE OVER £5.3M IN BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You can pay easily and securely for these books and many more when you attend the Fair by using our online payment link at www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- If you're unable to visit the Book Fair, your child will be sent home with a Wish List and you can pay for their chosen books using our online payment system. Please make sure the Wish List is returned to your child's school.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.travellingbooks.co.uk/parents to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.

Help earn free books for your school!

Books benefit everyone and to ensure that as many children as possible have access to the best books, Travelling Books donate over £5.3 million worth of free books annually to schools nationwide to support literacy and reading for pleasure. You can help make a difference by purchasing from your Book Fair – every purchase earns your school rewards which they can spend on free books to stock their library and classrooms.

*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Travelling Books for details. Book range may vary. †Lowest-priced book is free.

parent panel

choosing a
secondary school

Tuesday 5 May 2026
4.45pm - 5.45pm
Top Hall, Gillespie School

**FOR GILLESPIE
PARENTS WITH
CHILDREN IN Y3
AND ABOVE**

Join us for a panel discussion
with local parents on their
experience choosing a
secondary school for their child.

Submit questions in advance to
Rachel on 07764500177 or
rweallans@gmail.com



Talk, Play, Do

Getting ready for reception

Summer 2026



Get children moving

By the time children start reception, they should be able to:

- Move around safely avoiding obstacles / others.
- Show good strength, balance, and coordination.
- Move with energy—run, jump, dance and climb.

Trips to the playground and Bright Start's free soft play sessions at the Sobell Leisure Centre can help develop these skills.

HELPFUL LINKS & RESOURCES

Scan the QR codes below to find out more about how you can support your child!

Find more ideas and helpful advice here:
Starting Reception website



and

CBeebies Parenting website



Find out when our occupational therapy advice sessions are taking place near you.



Want to talk to a speech and language therapist about your child's speech and communication skills? Join one of our advice sessions.



Working towards independence

In preparation for reception:

- Children should be able to put on/take off their coat and shoes, use the toilet and wash their hands, use a fork and spoon and drink from an open cup.
- You can talk to your nursery or join one of our Occupational Therapy advice sessions if your child needs help learning some of these skills.

Talking about our emotions

When children start reception, they will be expected to show understanding of their feelings and those of others and begin to regulate their behaviour. To help prepare your children for nursery you can:

- Teach your child words for different emotions (e.g. sad, happy, angry)
- Talk to your child about emotions.

Visit your local library to find children's books to help teach your child about emotions.

Feedback

We'd love to know what you think of our poster.
Please scan the QR code and leave us some feedback.

