



Friday 8th May 2026

Newsletter 509

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Arbor

The school is introducing a new MIS (Management Information System) called Arbor, which can be accessed by parents online and via the Arbor app.

Using Arbor, families will be able to view, update and maintain their children's records, including contact details, home address, medical or dietary needs, and school meal or packed lunch preferences. Families will also be able to view information such as attendance.

Any updates or changes made to the information we hold will be sent to the school office for approval before being applied.

From September, Arbor will be used for all school communications, including:

- In-app messages including first aid/head bump notifications
- Emails from the office and teaching staff including weekly newsletter, trip letters, attendance monitoring
- Providing consent for trips and outings
- Requesting a packed lunch for school trips
- Making trip payments

We recommend enabling push notifications in the app settings so you are notified whenever you receive a message or email.

Families will receive an email next week with instructions on how to create their Arbor account. If you do not receive this email, please contact the school office.

We kindly ask that you:

- Look out for the welcome email from Arbor
- Create your account
- Download the Arbor app
- Enable push notifications
- Update meal preferences (these must be entered as a weekly pattern). This helps our kitchen prepare the correct number of school dinners and packed lunches each day.
- Clear any outstanding payments on Eduspot

Outstanding payments

A reminder has been sent to all families regarding any outstanding payments on Eduspot. Please ensure these are paid promptly so that accounts can be closed.

Please note that we may occasionally request payment for a trip before teachers send out letters containing full details.

If your Eduspot password no longer works, please email the school office so it can be reset.

We appreciate your co-operation and patience during this transition period as we work through any issues along the way.



Gold for Gillespie

We are so proud of our Year 1 and 2 gymnasts who brought home Gillespie's second GOLD in Islington Gymnastics competition! Well done, we are so proud of you all! A huge thank you to Jas from Calypso gymnastics for coaching our winners.

Competition WINNERS

Well done to our science and travel ambassador t-shirt competition winners! Thank you to all those who entered, we had a very tough time selecting winners but are pleased to showcase them below.

How do animals survive in the challenging deep? By Louis Y1



Travel ambassador t-shirt design winner Ayo Y3

Why is yawning contagious? By Audrey Y5



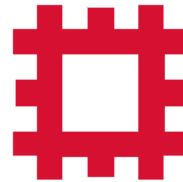
What species are yet to be discovered on earth? By Armin Y5



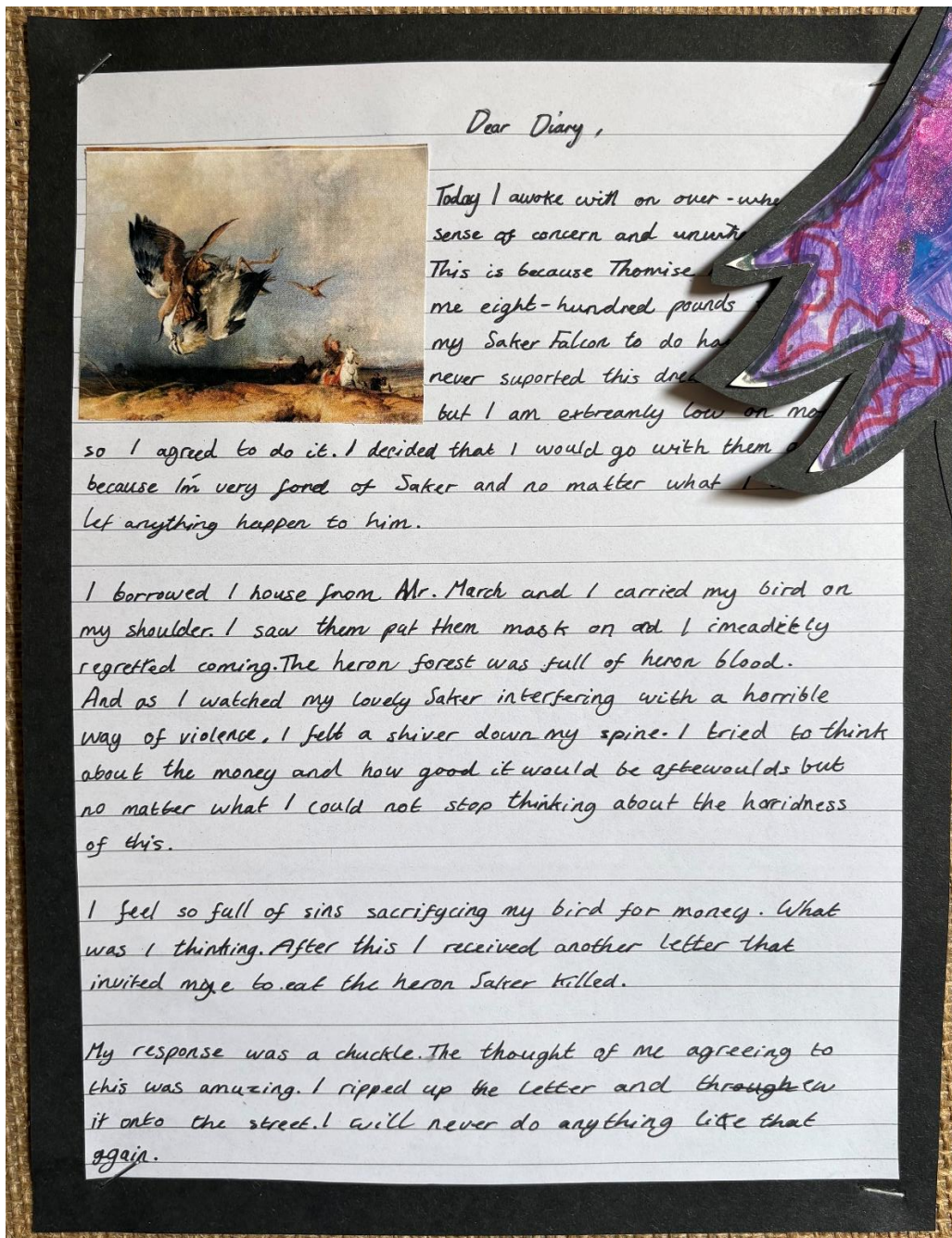
Year 4 Learning

Year 4 have been thoroughly enjoying a creative "Writing Through Art" project, partnering with English Heritage and the Kenwood House to study a new painting each week. Through this immersive experience, they have developed both their artistic skills and produced fantastic descriptive writing inspired by the masterpieces they've studied.

During week three, the children focused on Edwin Landseer's "Hawking in the Olden Time," learning all about the history and technicalities of this historic sport. They successfully stepped into the past, writing creative diary entries from the perspective of a member of the hawking party. To complete the week, the children created their very own impressive hawking birds to accompany their writing, showcasing their unique artistic style.



ENGLISH
HERITAGE





Dear diary,
This morning at exactly 2am I woke up to a small tingle in my tummy, it was unerring. I couldn't realize what was happening then it struck me it was my first of hawking. I had been delighted when I got a message from my old friend George Bow about a week ago.

I lay there in my bed staring up at the griffy ceiling not daring to close my eyes as not to forget about the day ahead of me. I just lay there until 7am then I got out of bed into the coldness of my room I hurried down the stairs into the kitchen and made myself a fast breakfast of cheese and bread then put my smooth cloak as wind rattled the windows.

I searched my dear horse from the stables and strode to the farm where the hawking would take place later on today. The rain started and I was wondering how on earth were we going to do hawking in these conditions? I met George at the gate to the gild staring at me as though I were a dog that had rolled in something smelly. We walked into the farmyard dogging poo as we did so.

They set the hawks on to the herons and a terrible sight met my eyes. The brown vicious hawk attacked the beautiful heron, blood dripping from the heron landed on the floor in front of me closely followed by the heron. Then George let his red dog follow the trail of blood to the dead heron who was still being attacked by the hawk the dog clamped his jaw around the heron's neck it back to the clearing. We carried the still back to George's towering palace where a meal was prepared. The heron was cleaned and laid on a brazier for being cooked and although the meal was

Parent Panel

On Tuesday 5 May, the school hosted a parent panel on choosing a secondary school. Five wonderful parents of ex-Gillespie pupils graciously shared their experiences. It was an informative and insightful session that our parents found extremely valuable. As a follow up, the school will be holding a Transition Session on Wednesday 10 June at 4pm for parents of Year 4 and 5 children to discuss the application process for secondary schools in detail. Thank you to everyone involved for this useful discussion.



Attendance

Class	Attendance WB 04/05/26
Reception	95.69
Year 1	97.08
Year 2	96.98
Year 3	97.08
Year 4	97.77
Year 5	97.92
Year 6	96.98
Total	97.1%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 04/05/2026
Year 5!

Important dates

WB Monday 11th May	Y6 SATs week
Friday 15th May	Y2 bake sale and uniform stall (FoG)
WB 25th May	Half term
Friday 5th June	Y1 bake sale and uniform stall (FoG)
Wednesday 10th June	4-5pm Secondary transition meeting for Y4/5 parents
Friday 19th June	Reception bake sale and uniform stall (FoG)
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

And to our Year 6 children ahead of SATs week next week, a restful weekend. We are already immensely proud of you all!

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen, Headteacher



May Holiday Camps 2026

Gymnastics

Tues 25th May - Fri 29th May

Venue: Gillespie school, N5 1LH

Time: 10 am -3 pm
Drop off between 9-10
Pick up between 3-4
Age: 5-12



Cheer

Tues 25th May - Fri 29th May

Venue: Gillespie school, N5 1LH

Time: 10 am -3 pm
Drop off between 9-10
Pick up between 3-4
Age: 5-16



Price
£50 per day
Sibling and weekly discounts available



Packed Lunch
No nuts or nut products
Children need to bring a packed lunch and plenty of water



What to wear
Leotard or tshirt and shorts or leggings. Clean trainers for cheer
No skirts, jeans or zips
Hair to be tied up and no jewellery

Build strength, flexibility, coordination and confidence while learning and practising existing skills, or join us for cheer camp to learn jumps, chants, basic stunts and performance skills while building teamwork, energy and spirit. **Both camps welcome all ability levels and are led by experienced, qualified coaches who create a fun, positive environment where every child can shine.**



october gallery

FAMILY ART DAY

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AT OCTOBER GALLERY

SATURDAY 9TH MAY
10AM - 12PM

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
10AM - 12PM

SATURDAY 25TH JULY
10AM - 12PM

FREE DROP-IN FOR ALL AGES



St Andrew Holborn Charities
