



Friday 12th June 2026

Newsletter 513

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Survey

At Gillespie we are committed to continually improving the quality of education and experiences we provide for all children and families. To help us identify what we are doing well and where we can improve further, we are asking all parents and carers to complete our parent survey, which is based on the Ofsted Parent View questions. Your feedback is extremely important and will help shape our future priorities and drive ongoing improvements across the school.

Please take a few minutes to complete [the survey](#) by **Friday 26 June**.

Multiplication Mash

Congratulations to Year 5 who won the first Multiplication Mash on Times Tables Rock Stars and a huge well done to Nancy in Year 6 who won the individual prize for most points! We will continue to run competitions through each term and through the school year, supporting children's times table learning. We are delighted at the enthusiasm of pupils.



Islington Gymnastics round up

Well done to Year 5&6 gymnasts this week! They won lots of gold and silver awards across the categories and were placed third overall for their age range. Well done, we are very proud! Recently, years 3&4 and years 1&2 came first in their age groups, meaning Gillespie have performed fantastically this year in the competitions. With huge thanks to Jas and Calypso for their incredible coaching.

School Meal Preferences

Families are urged to log in to Arbor and check school meal preferences. Meal choices should be made a week in advance for our food ordering purposes. If your child has a packed lunch they are NOT booked in for a school meal. If your child brings a packed lunch and we have not been made aware, we will be charged for their school meal. The school kitchen must have the most accurate numbers for meal preparation as well as for meal charging and funding purposes. If you are unsure how to change your child's meal preference please email the school office.



Attendance Matters

Class	Attendance WB 08/06/26
Reception	95.43%
Year 1	96.25%
Year 2	96.42%
Year 3	96.36%
Year 4	94.87%
Year 5	97.82%
Year 6	96.36%
Total	96.21%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 08/06/2026

Year 5!

Eco-Committee Update

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Eco-Committee members on their continued commitment and enthusiasm over the year.

In December, they delivered an assembly encouraging the whole school community to undertake carbon cutting activities. Despite a checklist of activities being sent home to every family, very few were received back and it was the Eco-Committee members who really made an effort. The committee and I are discussing ways we can garner more engagement next year. Perhaps the activities could be set for homework.

In January, some of our committee members took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch: counting the birds they saw at home to help provide the RSPB with a snapshot of how garden birds are faring.

Over Spring, the committee have worked with our wonderful parent volunteer, Vincent de Massy, to prepare our Key Stage 2 garden beds; planting them with and edible plants and a beautiful array of flowers. Thank you to the parents and to FoG for donating seeds, plants and compost. Vincent is liaising with FoG and a local real estate agent to fund and set up a sprinkler system with a timer so that our garden can continue to flourish when we are all on holiday. I would like to extend my enormous gratitude to Vincent and his two boys, Lucien and Marcel, for all the help, time, effort and care they have put in, alongside committee members, to make our Key Stage 2 garden beds a wonderful sight and an attractive home for local bees. They have been busy buzzing around the lovely display of poppies. The committee members have enjoyed harvesting and tasting radishes, mustard leaves and rocket so far.

In March, the committee, myself and some very helpful parents conducted a number of litter picks along Gillespie Road and Blackstock Road as part of the Great Big School Clean. We predominantly picked up cigarette butts. The committee have contacted the Right Honourable Jeremy Corbyn to see if more dedicated receptacles can be provided for these with appropriate signage so as to avoid them being washed down storm water drains into rivers and the sea where they harm marine life.

This year, the committee have also been working alongside Amelie, Gillespie parent, to try to minimise the amount of lost property within the school by returning clothing and other items to their rightful owners.

On Tuesday 30th of June, between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. the Eco-Committee will be running a stall to raise money for the RSPB. There will be food and drinks for sale alongside some bird-related activities for the school community to participate in. We do hope you can come along.

Megan Begley, Eco-Coordinator



Important dates	
Tuesday 16 th June	5:30-6:30pm Parenting in the digital age
Friday 19 th June	Reception bake sale and uniform stall (FoG)
Saturday 4 th July	Summer Fayre
Wednesday 8 th July	Sport's Day
Friday 10 th July	10am Year 6 Leavers show

Class Assemblies	
Fridays at 10am, top hall	
Year Group	Date Set
Year 1	Friday 19 th June 2026
Year 3	Friday 26 th June 2026
Year 6 leavers show	Friday 10 th July 2026

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen, Headteacher



PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Tuesday 16th June
5.30-6.30pm
Gillespie Top Hall

What to expect:

- ◆ Feature Phone Workshop
With Kevin Tibble, Digital Literacy Coordinator, King Alfred School
→ Practical alternatives to smartphones
- ◆ Latest Insights from Our Community
→ Key findings from the Gillespie 2026 Smartphone Survey
- ◆ Real Parent Experiences
→ What worked, what didn't



FoG News

Summer Fair 2026 - Saturday 4th July 1-4pm

Raffle prizes – we need you!

Our summer raffle is almost here and it's our biggest fund raiser for the school but we need you lovely people to give us PRIZES please. 😊

A very popular one is a cinema voucher (for 2 or a family). We can never have too many and it's easy for you to buy and donate. 🎟️

Other fab vouchers inc M&S, JL or ideally anything supporting our local community, eg Ink or Bookbar 📖 or our awesome range of cafes ☕, restaurants 🍴 and salons 💇‍♀️

Other suggestions are bottles of wine 🍷 fancy toiletries 🧴, jars of lovely food. 🥫 Anything you/we can make into a goodie basket / bag, or anything we can bundle with other donations to make a goody bag.

Please DM Jacqui 07900188328 with anything you can offer. Grateful for literally anything so please don't be shy.

Thank you, ace Gillespie family. 😊



Message from Islington Council for families eligible for Free School Meals

Change to support for FSM pupils in school holidays – and information on alternative help

Over the past five years, Islington Council has allocated a significant proportion of Household Support Fund (HSF) (a grant from the Department for Work and Pensions - DWP) to provide supermarket vouchers for pupils eligible for Free School Meals to help families meet the cost of food in the school holidays.

HSF has now ended and has been replaced, from 1 April 2026, by a new DWP grant called the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF). Whilst the CRF continues to include support for households facing a financial crisis, its focus shifts from providing blanket awards to help with the cost of living towards boosting support to help residents improve their longer-term financial position e.g. through help to claim benefits, tackle debt and move into employment.

We know the cost-of-living is still challenging for many households, we want to ensure you get the right support in your circumstances, if you are struggling with the cost of living there is other help available including:

- Holiday Activities and Food Fund (HAF) programme – providing activities and a healthy meal for children in the school holidays.
- CRF Crisis Payments – a one-off payment for residents who have experienced a financial shock – an event or change that has caused additional financial pressure
- Housing Payments – short term support for households impacted by welfare reforms, claiming Universal Credit or Housing Benefit to meet housing costs with a rent shortfall
- Employment support – help to find a job through our Islington Working (iWork) employment team, and free courses to help build skills for work through our Adult Community Learning service.
- Income Maximisation Team – to check you are claiming all your benefits
- Debt Advice through Citizen's Advice Islington and other advice agencies.

We will continue to evolve our support services to provide the best possible support to households experiencing a financial shock, dealing with a crisis and helping them improve their financial situation.

Information and support:

To find out more about our Holiday Activities and Food programme visit [Free holiday activities with lunch](#).

Call: Contact Islington on 020 7527 8222

Email: heretohelp@islington.gov.uk

Drop into one of our three Access Islington Hubs, where you can talk to a member of the team about your individual circumstances and get assistance with a range of support: Access Islington Hubs | Islington Council

- Central Hub: 222 Upper Street
- North Hub: 6-9 Manor Gardens
- South Hub: Finsbury Library, 245 St John's Street

For further information, please contact Cost of Living Support Team on 020 7527 8222 or email heretohelp@islington.gov.uk