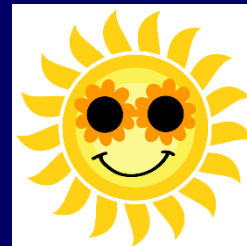




Friday 3rd July 2026

Newsletter 516

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Classes for next year

We are pleased to announce all class teachers will remain at Gillespie next year and are looking forward to staying in their year groups!

Foundation Stage	Katy Parker (Monday - Wednesday) Laura Ceccarelli (Wednesday - Friday) Michelle Dawkins
Year 1	Luke Clement
Year 2	Hassan Khan
Year 3	Steph Welburn
Year 4	Rhapsody Horridge
Year 5	Florie Smith
Year 6	Shelley Wragg

Heatwave last week

Many parents will know that I was away on school journey with year 6 last week but I just want to thank all of our wonderful staff and parents who worked very hard last week to support the school in trying to deal with the very challenging heat. I am delighted on my return to school to find out that many parents are keen to help fund solutions to making the school more resilient to heatwaves in the future. To this end I have had an initial meeting with FoG and am looking in to a number of solutions from a short term to the long-term investment. Parents will be reassured that the PTA must always consult with me on any new initiatives or proposals for fundraising. More on this next week.

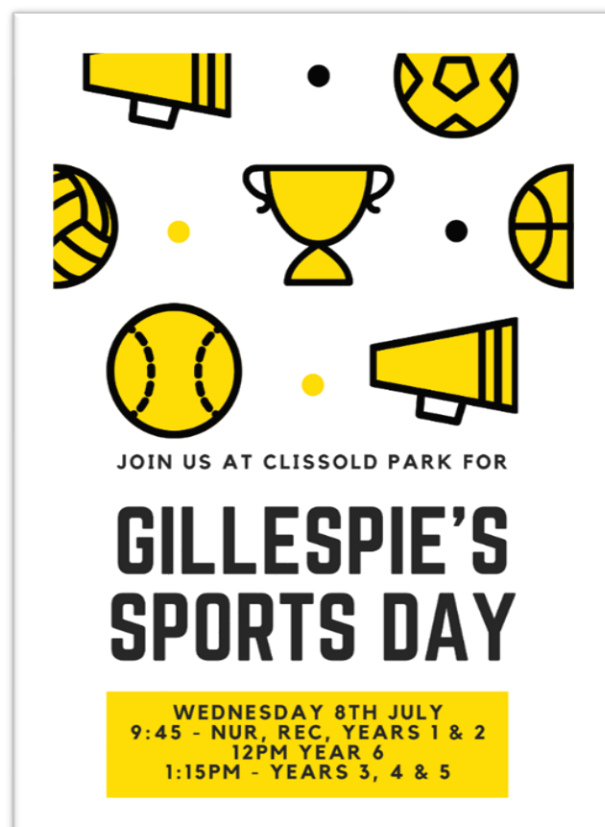
Sports day

I am very much expecting that we will be able to have our sports day as usual next week. We are aware that the temperatures are predicted to be hotter but at the moment we are confident that they are within the safe range for us to go ahead and we will adapt the length of time that children are engaged in physical activities on the day and be ready to ensure there is plenty of opportunities to rest and hydrate. All children must have sun cream applied before school, wear a hat and have a refillable water bottle.

Important notice about school lunches

On a couple of occasions this week we have been aware of children who are recorded as having a packed lunch not bringing their lunch to school and having a school meal OR bringing a packed lunch to school and choosing to additionally have a school lunch. For school meal planning and finance purposes we must ensure children follow their recorded meal pattern.

Congratulations to our Gillespie Eco-Committee who have achieved an Eco Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction once again. I am so very proud of them all.
Meg, Eco Coordinator



Year 3 and 4 Music Learning

On Thursday years 3 and 4 took part in the New Sounds Festival at Milton Court Concert Hall at the Barbican as part of Music Education Islington. The day brought together young musicians from across 7 Islington schools to celebrate the joy of music making. Year 4 went first playing Tip-Toe Boo on their violins and violas. Then Year 3 played Reel and Blue Blazes on their recorders. We were all very proud of their performances.



Eco-Committee RSPB Event

Congratulations to all the Eco-Committee members who raised £87.00 for the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) at their food and drink stall on Tuesday. Thank you to Kaia Christiansen and Sophia McIntyte for donating food and to all the pupils who came into Lab_13 during lunch breaks to make beautiful bird decorations to hang on the reusable straws for the homemade lemonade. The Eco-Committee created delicious owl and penguin snacks. In addition, there were bird-themed activities including Pin the Tail on the Robin; colouring British birds and identifying birds from their birdsong. Thank you to everyone who supported the stall by making a purchase. I would also like to say a special thank you to Fred Rockhill, Juliet Padfield, Mike Padfield and Tiffanie Lee for helping with the packing up and cleaning up.

Megan Begley, Eco-Coordinator





Multiplication Mash

Next week, children in Years 2-6 will be invited to compete in another Multiplication Mash on Times Tables Rock Stars! As before, there is a daily limit of 30 minutes and the children can only get points during these times. The competition will run from Monday - Friday with the winning class being announced in Friday's assembly. Participation in the competition is optional. Times Tables Rock Stars is a fun, interactive way for children to practice their times tables they have been learning in class.

Year 5 are the ones to beat! Good luck.

Ready Set Stage After School clubs

Autumn term clubs are now available for booking online at www.readysetstage.co.uk. Families eligible for Free School Meals to book using the [online form here](#).

Ready Set Stage After School Clubs – Autumn 2026 www.readysetstage.co.uk			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Performing Arts (Reception – Year 6)	Arts & Craft (Reception – Year 6)	Singing (Reception – Year 6)	Gymnastics (Years 3-6)
Football (Years 3-6)	Chess club (Years 3-6)	Football (Reception - Year 2)	Chess (Rec-Y2)

Clubs begin WB Monday 21st September

Last week of club WB Monday 30th November

Total 10 weeks autumn term

Important dates	
Saturday 4th July	Summer Fayre
Tuesday 7th July	3:30-4:00pm STEM committee event in playground Hands on STEM activities
Wednesday 8th July	Sport's Day
Friday 10th July	10am Year 6 Leavers show

Looking forward to celebrating our wonderful community with families tomorrow at our Summer Fayre!

Yours sincerely,

Mark Owen

Headteacher

FirstNews

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

Dear Parents/carers

FREE Summer Reading with First News – just for our students!

At Gillespie we know how important it is to keep children reading, thinking and engaged over the summer holidays. That's why we're excited to offer all our students **free access to First News** – the UK's award-winning newspaper for young people aged 7–14.

The content is written with KS2 and KS3 in mind, but we're confident that there's something for everyone, regardless of their age or reading level.

First News helps children:

- Build strong reading habits
- Stay informed in an age-appropriate, safe environment
- Develop critical thinking and media literacy skills
- Engage in meaningful conversations at home

What's included in your free summer subscription?

Unlimited access to the **First News** app from Thursday 9 July until Friday 4 September, which includes:

-  The weekly newspaper and an archive of past issues
-  Weekly news quiz to test knowledge in a fun way
-  Daily news stories to read, listen or watch
-  Polls and interactive content
-  Puzzles and games
-  Discussion points for families

It's fun, educational and completely free – all summer long.

Click here to get started:

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/summer-reading-2026/228825008694/>

Sign up now and receive your login code on 9th July.

Please keep an eye on your email inbox for conformation (check your spam). You will receive your **First News** digital login code on Thursday 9th July and your free access will end on Friday 4th September 2026

If you have any questions or need any help, please ask your child's teacher.

Many thanks,

Steph

(PSHE and English Lead)



Summer Fair TOMORROW!

Live music? Check. Fire engine? Check. Face Painting? Check. Everyone's favourite footballing dinosaur? Check. ClayTime painting and clay work? Check. Local Artist creating an Arsenal-themed collage with Gillespie pupils? Check!!!

As we approach FoG's flagship event for the school year and our fantastic committee members are scurrying away in the background to make sure we have enough buns, burgers, beverages and bunting, the main asks we have of our fantastic Gillespie community are as follows:

- **Volunteers!** If you haven't already got in touch and have some time to spare tomorrow please let Sean know by sending him a message on 07986 792 367... or just turn up at some point and offer - he'll be delighted with the surprise!
- **Raffle Prizes!** Last minute prizes... please bring along and pass on to Jacqui.
- **Most importantly SPREAD THE WORD!** This is the only open event that FoG runs for the school, so let's take the opportunity to share our wonderful community and give friends and family the chance to celebrate another fantastic year for Gillespie Primary School.



See you tomorrow!

School partnership with HotBlack Desiato

Throughout 25/26 Gillespie Primary has been in a formal partnership with the local Estate agent HotBlack Desiato. This sponsorship (to the amount of £500.00 a month for 12 months) has provided a fantastic boost to the existing FoG offer. If that wasn't enough, they have also **committed to making a £1000 donation to the school for any sale that the partnership generates, and £250 for a rental that is secured, but you have to contact them directly - don't use RightMove!**



Ways to Support Friends of Gillespie and the school community

1. **Financial donations:** A monthly direct debit donation of any amount you choose can be set up [here](#) in less than 5 mins, or you can use this QR code to access the site.
2. **Item donations:** Speak to your class rep about delivering the items, or simply drop them in the front office for a FoG member to come and collect them. Easy!
3. **Time donations:** If you would like to help out in this way then please do get in touch with your class rep or a FoG Committee member - we will certainly have something for you to do!





Incredible Years Parenting Groups

14-week course for parents of children aged 1-3 and 3 - 6 years.

- Would you like to share and learn new parenting skills?
- Do you want to be a more confident and happier parent?
- Would you like to learn more about how you can support your child's development?

Increase your confidence in parenting your children and learn new skills in a relaxed and friendly environment

Creche will also be available for this group.

Parents are required to meet facilitators for an assessment before being offered a place in the group.

To register interest, please scan the QR code



Tuesdays

(1 - 3 Year olds)

29 September 2026 - 19 January 2027

(Term-time only)

Best Start Family Hub Central at
New River Green Children's Centre
N1 2SX

9:30AM - 12:00PM

Fridays

(3 - 6 Year Olds)

2 October 2026 - 22 January 2027

(Term-time only)

Ambler Children's Centre
N4 2QX



Summer Reading Challenge

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/#online>