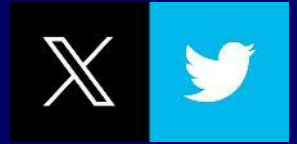




Friday 18th October 2024

Newsletter 451

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance and punctuality policy changes

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, many of the school's safeguarding policies have been updated including our attendance and punctuality policy; taking account of the School Attendance Regulations 2024. Changes include arrangements for penalty notices, children absent or missing from education, daily absence sharing with the DfE (Department for Education) and absence coding. Full details can be found in the [policy](#).

Important reminders

Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life. The class with the best weekly attendance will be celebrated in assembly as well as having awards and prizes at the end of the year.

The information below shows how attendance can affect your child's future progression.

Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year (12 sessions)

Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.

95%: 10 days absence a year (20 sessions)

These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week absence every year can only achieve 95% attendance.

90%: 19 days absence a year (38 sessions)

The Government classifies young people in this group as "Persistent Absentees", and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work. Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by the Local Authority.

Absence from school

Where children have minor coughs and colds, parents are encouraged to bring them to school and will be contacted for pick up where minor conditions develop and worsen. For prolonged absence due to illness, parents/carers may be asked to provide the school with medical evidence such as an appointment card, hospital letter or a recent prescription. Families are responsible for notifying the office by call or email before 9am if a child will be absent, including the reason for absence. The Islington & Whittington booklet on [Minor illness and school attendance: A guide for parents and carers](#) has useful information on childhood illness.

Parents/carers should make every effort to ensure appointments are made outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, they should get the school's agreement in advance and the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. Parents are encouraged to make appointments during the school day if absolutely necessary, between 9.30 and 1.00 to minimise recorded absences from school.

The school will not authorise leave in term time unless under exceptional circumstances – for which you must apply using an 'application for leave form' obtained from the office in advance.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Punctuality

School begins at **8:55am** at which time the sunflower will be brought out in to the playground. Children should quickly and sensibly make their way to their classroom ready to start their morning learning. Please support your child by ensuring they have all the equipment they need for their day including bag, water bottle, instrument if applicable etc. Children who arrive after 9:05am will need to sign in at the school office.

Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!

Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 14/10/24
Reception	95%
Year 1	95.33%
Year 2	99.31%
Year 3	98.62%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	99.67%
Year 6	97.14
Total	97.7%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 14/10/2024

Year 5!

School photos

Children had their individual and sibling photos at school on Wednesday. They should have brought home with them a form with QR code for you to register your account. Once you have done this Van Cols will send an email to let you know when the photos have been processed and are ready to view and order. Please ensure you read all information including the order deadline to ensure free delivery to school.

Nursery Learning

Our book of the week in Nursery last week was Owl Babies. They used different materials to paint and create their own owls.



Year 3 Learning

Year 3 has been up to some exciting things in science this week!



17th October 2024

W.A.L.T. To explore a process in nature using modelling.

This week, we looked at the process of how a sedimentary rock is formed using boiled sweets. It was so much fun! We used different equipment from lab 13 to model different parts of the process. Such as:



Music Learning

After 6 weeks of rehearsal Year 5 performed 'Living on a Prayer' for the whole school in our Friday assembly.



Reception Learning

Reception was very lucky this week to have a visit from Meg the Science teacher who came to talk to us about sustainability and autumn! We experimented with colour, mixing paints to create autumn colours and then used different shaped leaves to design our own print art including oak, sycamore and horse chestnut leaves. We look forward to seeing Meg again next week for some more awesome autumn activities.



Upcoming Diary Dates

Date	Event
WB Monday 21 st October	3:30pm Scholastic book fair bottom hall
Thursday 24 th October	FoG event - Halloween disco (no Ready Set Stage clubs today)
WB Monday 28 th October	Half term
Monday 4 th November	Children return to school Diwali
WB Monday 4 th November	X2 weeks Year 5 intensive swim lessons
WB 11 th November	Anti-bullying week
Thursday 21 st November	Flu immunisation catch up clinic
Wednesday 4 th December	2:00-7:30pm Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas dinner
Wednesday 18 th December	10am & 2pm Christmas shows 3:30pm Christmas Fair
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term School finishes at 2pm

Class assemblies

We're pleased to inform parents of the upcoming class assemblies. Please put the dates in your diary! These take place on Thursdays at 2:30pm in the top hall. Please arrive promptly as latecomers can be disturbing for the children. We kick off with Year 3's next week.

Class assemblies	
Thursday 24 th October	Year 3
Thursday 7 th November	Year 6
Thursday 14 th November	Year 1
Thursday 21 st November	Year 2
Thursday 28 th November	Year 4
Thursday 5 th December	Year 5

Wishing families a great weekend, ready for the last week of term next week.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen Headteacher

Gillespie School Halloween Disco



Thursday 24th October
5.00 – 7.00pm

**£3 per child, £5 family ticket
(Adults free, all children must
be accompanied)**

The children's favourite, the Gillespie Halloween Disco will take place in the playground, so wrap up warm. Come to school dressed up and ready to dance and play spooky games.

Have your dinner at the disco - pizzas, hot dogs, cakes, sweets and drinks will be served throughout the evening.

Bring your carved pumpkins to the school hall on the morning of the disco and you'll see it lit up that evening. Make sure your name and class are on the back. Prizes to be won.

If you are able, please donate Halloween cakes and sweets to sell at the disco. Please drop any donations into the school office (remember no nuts please).

And, if you can help before, during or after the disco, please let Vicky Hatchett (Year 5 parent) know on 07877 984367.



FoG News

FoG AGM

A big thank you to everyone who came to the FoG AGM this morning. A key outcome of the meeting was to provide a summary of the funds raised by FoG over the last year (23/24). In total we raised **£21,739** from donations, events, grants and merchandise and we funded **£21,571** of school activities and projects. Key highlights from fundraising and spending:

Fundraising Activities:	Spending Activities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven Bake sales and Uniform stalls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £200 budget per class (including SEN and Music provision)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Disco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • c. £500 towards a school trip per class
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Cards Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strings tutor for KS2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest school for reception
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auctions (parent pledge and single items) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-bullying workshop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Carol Bucket Shake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movie Night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling bins & SEN panels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz Night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football strips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crash mats and gym mats



Thank you to **everyone** who's been involved in making all of these events such a success. Moving forward, FoG is seeking to create a number of new initiatives to support the school including ways to expand fundraising opportunities. Watch this space!

Dates!

Upcoming events this term:

Day	Date	Time	Event
Thu	24th Oct	17:00-19:00	Halloween Disco
Fri	22nd Nov	15:00-16:00	Yr 5 Bonfire Night Bake Sale & Uniform Stall - Payment and donations can be made using either card or cash
Fri	13th Dec	15:00-16:00	Y4 Christmas Bake Sale & Uniform Stall - Payment and donations can be made using either card or cash
Wed	18th Dec	15:30-17:30	Winter Fair

Halloween Disco - Call for volunteers



The childrens favourite – the Halloween Disco will be on Thursday 24th Oct between 5-7pm. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible on the day for set-up, delivery and clear-up! We also need bakers to make cakes and treats to sell at the event. If you can bake or spare any time from 2pm until 8pm on the 24th then please speak to your class rep or contact **Sean on 07986792367** or **Vicky on 07877984367**

Festive Cards

Every year FoG organises the Festive Card Project. Children have been busy making festive artwork in class. If your child has completed artwork it will be sent home shortly with instructions on how to order cards, wrapping paper, mugs and present tags. If you would like to order any of these, just follow the instructions stapled to the back of your artwork. All profits fund FoG projects.

DEADLINE SHOP ORDER DATE IS THE 27TH OCTOBER. Any questions, email marydecinque@gmail.com. Please note you don't need to send artwork anywhere, it's already been scanned.



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. As an example, if just half of the families at Gillespie contributed the cost of a cup of coffee on a weekly basis, FoG would raise an extra £20,000 a year!
- 2. Item donations:** Whether it is unwanted toys, books, sports equipment or uniform, any donation that you can make to FoG for reuse or resale is a huge boost to our efforts. 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!



KiDSiE Discount Offer



KiDSiE
Your Premium Outlet for Kids' Stuff

Get BIG discounts on:
**Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards,
Roller Skates, Heelies, and more!**

Use this referral code to get £5 off and we will donate £5 to your school PTA

GILLESPIEISLINGTON

www.kidsie.com

Some of the discounts and deals you can find on KiDSiE

- Huffy Bikes**
30% off RRP
- Scoot & Ride**
30% off RRP
- Skate Hut**
50% off RRP



Happy Healthy Halloween

with immunisation clinic

Dress up and come along to our **SPOOKY** fun day for under-fives!

Thursday 31st October, 10:30am-1pm

Family Hub Central at New River Green
Children's Centre, 23 Ramsey Walk, N1 2SX

Join craft and Forest School activities, live music, story time, free lunch/fruit and spooky animal encounters with **Zoolab!**

Talk to your local **NHS** health team about your child's health:

- Toileting, behaviour challenges, sleep routines or minor illness
- Immunisations
- Healthy Teeth
- Fussy eating and a healthy diet
- Speech and language
- Physical development

brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk
0207 527 8465



Bring your Teddy Bear to visit the Teddy Bear Hospital



St Thomas's Messy Church invites you to

Light up the Darkness

Sunday 20 October

4pm - 6pm

Activities + Story + Food

St Thomas the Apostle
St Thomas's Road
N4 2QP

www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/messychurch



School Wellbeing Service

Workshop: Understanding Your Child's Emotions

A workshop for parents and carers at Gillespie Primary

- understand why emotions are important for your child's development
- understand how emotions can impact behaviour
- explore practical ways to support your child with managing how they feel

When?

Wednesday, 13th November 2024

Where?

Gillespie Primary School

What time?

9am-10.30am

Who with?

Rosie Davies and Lisa Bliedtner (SWS)

Please let school (Lyn Jones) know if you would like to join!





CHEERLEADING AND GYMNASTICS CAMP

GILLESPIE PRIMARY
SCHOOL N5

28th October - 1st
November

10am-3pm

PLUS EARLY DROP OFF
AND LATE PICK UP
AVAILABLE

07435 965919

www.calypsogymnasticsclub.com