



Friday 29th November 2024

Newsletter 455

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent letter regarding school finances

Last week we shared [this letter](#) with families regarding the school's financial situation and our vision for the future including the Gillespie Foundation. We will be running meetings during week of 9th December and the following week with parent year groups to discuss next steps. More information to follow.



Parent Consultation Meetings and Parent Voice

Reminder if you haven't already, book your 10 minute slot with your child's class teacher by booking here: www.gillespie.schoolcloud.co.uk.

You will also have received our letter about this year's parent voice event running during the evening in Lab_13, hosted by Gillespie Governors. We will be discussing and exploring the theme of supporting well-being and safety of children in a digital world. Full details can be found in the letter [here](#).

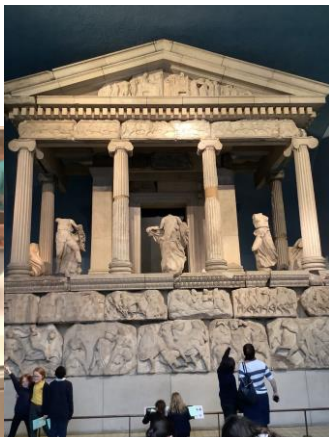
Library open mornings Christmas collection

The library has been visited by Santa's elves who have very kindly put all Christmas books on display ready to be checked out this festive season. The library is open Friday mornings from 8am. Please buzz the breakfast club buzzer and sign in on the electronic system at the office under the 'events' category. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



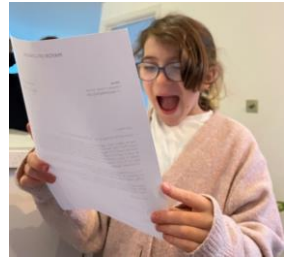
Year 4 Learning

Year 4 had a great historical day at the British Museum looking at artefacts from Ancient Greece. They looked at them carefully to find clues about life long ago and enjoyed drawing some of the things they saw.



Well done Olivia!

We're very proud of Gillespie pupil Olivia who wrote to the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan regarding the important issue of smoking and the dangers it poses. As you can see she was ecstatic to receive a response acknowledging her efforts in tackling the issue!



Islington Football League

SO proud of our girls football team who gave it their all in their first match of the season!

Islington Tree Officer Visit

Eco-Committee were visited by Islington's Tree Officer, Michael Johnson, on Thursday as it is National Tree Week. Michael told us that Islington is considered a forest as 25% of it has trees; however, Islington has the least green space of the London boroughs so Islington plan to plant 600 trees this year of different types. We took a look at the ornamental cherry tree in the playground which Michael has offered to come back and prune. He helped the pupils identify the locust trees behind the back fence as well. The Eco-Committee enjoyed asking Michael questions and telling him a few tree stories of their own.
Megan Begley, Scientist in Residence



Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 25/11/24
Reception	98.67%
Year 1	91.67%
Year 2	94.83%
Year 3	98.62%
Year 4	98.33%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	97.86%
Total	96.43%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 25/11/2024

Reception!

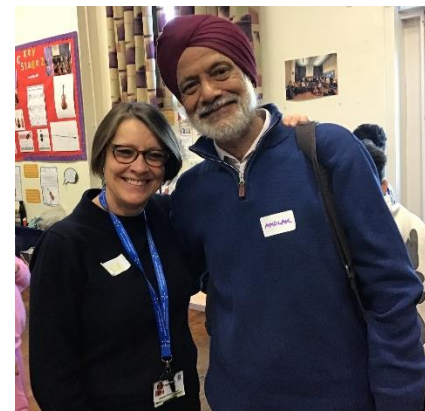
Science for Life Embracing Difference Event

Last Wednesday, some of our Year 5 pupils joined pupils from four other schools and five STEM ambassadors at an *Embracing Difference* event in our top hall.

Prior to the event, Gillespie pupils learnt how people work together to eliminate differences. Scientists and engineers play a big part in helping to achieve clean water and sanitation for all: one of the United Nation's Global Goals for Sustainable Development. They challenged visitors to make a water filter to clean dirty water. Activities presented by the other schools included writing in Braille using dots; investigating the relationship between air resistance and surface area with parachutes; modelling the digestive system and drawing endangered butterflies. Hanover pupils researched Louis Braille, a French educator, who developed the system for printing and writing used by the blind. Pupils from Hargrave Park researched Maria Sibylla Merian, who was the first known woman to travel the world for her scientific research into butterflies.



The pupils enjoyed hearing from and questioning STEM ambassadors. Holly Bazley talked about overcoming difficulties at school due to dyslexia and ADHD and how she has gone on to have a successful career as a science communicator. Pupils loved playing *Reaction*: her game themed around materials, their properties and chemical reactions. Three mechanical engineering students from *Imperial's Women in Mechanical Engineering Outreach Initiative* addressed the underrepresentation of women in engineering. Amolak Dhanjal, a Senior Architectural Manager and Sikh, spoke about how the company he works for actively embraces differences by valuing the diverse perspectives and experiences of its employees. He explained how he has to consider everyone's differences when designing school buildings.



Parents and siblings joined in at the end of the day. The feedback received from pupils, parents and STEM ambassadors demonstrated just how worthwhile the event was.



Megan Begley, Science for Life Lead and Resident Scientist

Scientists work together to eliminate differences in the availability of clean water for all.

Surface Area of Parachute	First Attempt	Time Taken to Fall Second Attempt	Third Attempt
35cm	1.76	1.50	1.95
20cm	1.22	0.88	1.78

Surface Area of Parachute	First Attempt	Time Taken to Fall Second Attempt	Third Attempt
30cm	2.50	3.10	2.07
27cm	2.81	2.20	1.97

Surface Area of Parachute	First Attempt	Time Taken to Fall Second Attempt	Third Attempt
30cm	2.22	2.09	0.94
21cm	0.99	2.84	1.9

Ongoing reminders – this information has not changed

Class assemblies

We are very excited as **Year 2** will be performing their class assembly at Sadler's Wells theatre Rosebery Avenue following their weekly sessions with the performing arts team this term. The performance will begin at 2:30pm. We have a limit of 2 tickets per child and names **must** be provided to Hassan by email for theatre security reasons. Children can be taken home from the theatre following the performance.

Class assemblies	
Thursday 7 th November 2:30pm	Year 6
Thursday 14 th November 2:30pm	Year 1
Thursday 28 th November 2:30pm	Year 4
Thursday 5 th December 2:30pm	Year 5
Friday 13 th December 2:30pm @ Sadler's Wells Theatre Rosebery Avenue	Year 2

Upcoming Diary Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 4 th December	Parent Consultation Meetings (no Ready Set Stage clubs today)
Saturday 14 th December	13:30-15:30 Gillespie carol singing
Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas dinner
Wednesday 18 th December	10am & 2pm Christmas shows 3:30pm Winter Fair
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term School finishes at 2pm

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen Headteacher





Winter Fair - Donations please



The annual **Gillespie Winter Fair** will be running on **Wednesday 18th December 3.30 - 5.30pm**. One fantastic way to support the fair is by donating items from your home that you no longer want or need. The more toys, gifts, drinks and left-over sweets from Halloween that you are willing to donate the bigger and better the Winter Fair will be, so please don't hold back! **Any items should be delivered to the front office for FoG to collect.**

As with previous years, each year group will be running a stall on the day, so do **keep an eye out for requests from your class reps for helpers.**

We're also looking for people to help with set-up, tidy-up and plenty of other key jobs in the run up to the fair, so if you are willing and able to get involved please contact **Sean (07986792367) or Ali (07796937465) or Max (07812 633 827).**



Parent Pledge Secret Auction - Sell Your Skill!

We need your skills or treasures for our **Parent Pledge Secret Auction at the Winter Fair**. Maybe you could offer a to bake a cake for someone's birthday, cook a dinner dish, hold a master class in plaiting hair, make up, an instrument, singing lesson, marketing, a photography lesson or do some cool photos for a family, make up a goody basket, do some DIY or gardening, give some digital support or other professional guidance, or donate a spa voucher or your Banksy 😊 or a bottle of Barcadi. All random offers are very welcome!

We can't do this without you, so **please message Jacqui on 07900188328 to make a pledge!**



Call for Volunteers for Carol singing



This year's gathering will be held on **Saturday 14th Dec from 13.30pm until 15.30pm**. Singers, shakers, fancy dressers and drum bangers of all ages and abilities are most welcome, so please do come along to support this fantastic festive event. Even if you don't want to sing there are loads of ways to support us.

If you would like to help out or come and join in the fun please get in touch with **Anna Payne on 07718915189**



Dates!

Upcoming events this term:

Day	Date	Time	Event
Fri	13th Dec	15:00-16:00	Y4 Christmas Bake Sale & Uniform Stall - Payment and donations can be made using either card or cash
Sat	14th Dec	13:30-15:30	Gillespie Carol Singing
Wed	18th Dec	15:30-17:30	Winter Fair

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

The advertisement features a central illustration of a red bicycle, a pink scooter, a blue skateboard, and a red roller skate. To the right, three specific deals are highlighted with images of a blue Huffy bicycle, a black scooter, and pink roller skates. The background is a light beige color with a dashed pink line forming a path through the items.

N4Library
ReadLearnConnect

FAMILY ART CLUB



Arty fun for all the family! Materials are provided, or you can bring your own. Suitable for children of all ages.

Upcoming dates:

Saturday 30 November, 2pm

Saturday 28 December, 2pm

Saturday 25 January, 2pm

N4 Library
26 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW
020 7527 7800

 ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

N4Library
ReadLearnConnect

Once upon a time...



Come and enjoy our panto-style retelling of Little Red Riding Hood with lots of interactive fun and songs for all the family!

Saturday 14 December, 2pm

A family event suitable for children of all ages.

N4 Library, 26 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW
020 7527 7800

 ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

N4Library
ReadLearnConnect

GAMES CLUB



Join us for fun and games for all the family, playing classic games like Snakes and Ladders, Jenga, Connect 4 and Uno. Suitable for families with children of all ages.

Once per month on Saturdays, 2-3pm

Upcoming dates:

- 9 November
- 7 December
- 4 January

N4 Library
26 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW
020 7527 7800

 ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN OUR GREAT

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

It starts on 2 December -
sign up at your local library!



Libraries
ReadLearnConnect

 ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

Read four books between 2 December and 28 February to get a certificate!

- You can read or listen to anything you like; fact books, joke books, story books...
- Ask at the library or your friends and family for book recommendations.
- Challenge your parents/carers to read something of your choice.
- When you finish each book get your reading record updated!

Suitable for children aged 0 - 16.

Ask in your local library for more information or contact us on
020 7527 6900