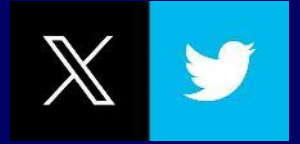




Friday 20th December 2024

Newsletter 458

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas dinner

Well done Fatma and the Caterlink team for an absolutely delicious Christmas dinner plus extra trimmings on Tuesday. Children and staff were stuffed.



Christmas shows

A huge thank you to all of our talented and brave children from Nursery to Year 6 who acted, performed and sang beautifully as we told the traditional story of Christmas. It was delightful to see our fantastic musicians across the school performing including the year 3 class with their recorders and the year 5 and year 6 classes with their strings.

The choir also sang some beautiful songs with fantastic two and three part harmonies. A big thank you to all staff who helped the classes to rehearse so that the performances were perfect. A shout to the ingenious parents and carers who helped provide such authentic looking costumes. And last but not least, a huge thank you to our talented and dedicated Music Teacher Orlando who directed and produced the whole show!



Winter Fair and Class parties

A thank you to the whole of the FoG team who organised a beautiful, twinkling Winter Fair with so many exciting things for children to do. A great time was had by adults and children alike. Children continued the festivities on Thursday with their class parties and ANOTHER visit from you know who.



Y2 Learning

This term Year 2 have been working with the amazing team at Sadlers Wells. They put together a performance based on their learning about the Great Fire of London and were lucky enough to perform for families at Sadlers Wells.



Learning in Lab_13

Eco-Committee members planted their broad bean seedlings today. Meg has protected them with bubble wrap from the frost and Pete will kindly water them. Fingers crossed that they flourish.



Year 6 Learning

Year 6 were Imaginative Insects and Cooperative Caterpillars this week, sharing their wonderfully creative homework projects that were jam-packed with learning on the Victorians! They did this as part of a class museum and learnt so much from each other. Well done Year 6!



School Nurse well-being clinic

The school nursing team will be running one of their regular health and well-being clinics at Gillespie on Wednesday 15th January. The team can offer guidance and advice on issues including bed wetting/soiling, diet & nutrition, managing minor ailments, oral health, personal hygiene & body changes. If you would like to arrange an appointment with the team please contact the school office for a referral form. Once completed this will be sent on to the nursing team who will then contact directly to arrange an appointment time.

Attendance and Punctuality Matters!



Autumn term Attendance Cup Winner
Year 4!

Autumn term Punctuality Cup Winner
Reception Class!

Overall school attendance for Autumn term: 96.9%

Thank you to families for a wonderful term of attendance exceeding our target of 96%. Thank you for your continued support!



Upcoming Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 6 th January	INSET Day (school closed)
Tuesday 7 th January	First day of spring term for pupils
Week commencing 13 th January	Ready Set Stage clubs begin
Wednesday 15 th January AM	School Nurse well-being clinic (contact the school office for a referral form)
Monday 27 th January	Speak out, stay safe NSPCC assemblies
Wednesday 29 th January	Chinese New Year
WKBG 3 rd February	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 7 th February	NSPCC Number Day
WKBG 10 th February	Safer Internet Week
Wednesday 12 th February	Class photos
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	Half term

Wishing all of our families a wonderful and restful Christmas break and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing all children back to school refreshed and ready for another busy term on Tuesday 7th January.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen
Headteacher



After School Clubs – ongoing reminder

After School Clubs – Spring term 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ready Set Stage www.readysetstage.co.uk BOOKINGS NOW OPEN				
Performing Arts	Arts & Craft	Singing	Gymnastics (Years 1-6)	
Football (Years 3-6)	Basketball (Years 1-6)	Football (Rec - Year 2)		
Other				
	STEM club (Y1-Y2) Invitation only	MEI Music Hub Y4-Y6 COLA Highbury Grove		Forest School Urban Outdoors
	MEI Music satellite Y2-Y3			

Ready Set Stage Dates:

- WB 13/01/2024 clubs begin x5 weeks
- WB 17/02 half term (no clubs)
- WB 24/02 clubs recommence x5 weeks
- WB 24/03/2025 Last week of clubs
- Total 10 weeks

Families eligible for Free School Meals please talk to Rebecca to book your child's free club.



NATURE CONNECTION

In our busy city, children need access to their local wild spaces to enjoy the outdoors and immerse themselves in nature through free play.

Building dens, making fires and using nature's loose parts to make things, helps children to learn more about the natural world and offers children the time to be awe inspired by nature and supports their creativity and sense of wonder.

At Forest School children observe and interact with our natural environment, stimulating their natural curiosity and enhancing their social and emotional well-being. Playing with others in a natural environment helps children form strong friendships and build empathy and personal resilience.

Join us for our Easter camp on Hampstead Heath and help your child to flourish in the outdoors.

"strong roots produce greater fruits"

BOOKINGS NOW AT:
www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk
info@urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

WHITTLING & GREEN WOODWORKING
 FIRE LIGHTING & COOKING
 TOOL USE
 KNOT TYING
 WEAVING & FELTING
 NATURAL ARTS & CRAFTS
 COLLECTIVE GAMES
 BUG HOUSES
 NATURAL PAINTS & DYES
 FOOD FORAGING
 MUD KITCHEN
 TREE CLIMBING



AFTER SCHOOL FOREST SCHOOL CLUB





Urban Outdoors
ADVENTURES IN NATURE

After School Forest School Club pick up at Gillespie School

Fridays 3.30-5.30pm
visit our website
www.urbanoutdoorslondon.co.uk

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT ABBY
07950481279



Winter Fair Update - What a Success!

Wow! What a fantastic way to bring the term to a close! FoG would like to offer a HUGE thank you to everyone that supported the planning and delivery of such a fun and frantic event and for everyone who contributed prizes or came along on the day. FoG are delighted to share with you that due to your efforts we raised over £2,000 on the night (more than ever before!) and £3,100 on the Parent Pledge Silent Auction ALONE! This amount would cover two thirds of the cost of the schools Strings Musical programme for an entire year, or cover every single school trip that FoG currently funds for the school!

****Please note - all winners have now been contacted, so if you put in a bid and haven't heard back then I'm afraid you missed out this time, but thank you for taking part - there's always next year!****

Special shout out to Jacqui for all her hard work in pulling this together!



Yr 4 Bake Sale - Taking it to the next level

It was the turn of the Year 4 Class reps and parent team to deliver the ever-popular Friday Bake Sale and boy did they deliver! Treats were flying off the table and resulted in a **record-breaking total raised of £370!** Big shout out to Andrew Clements and his team. Every year group has raised more than the last this year, so all eyes now shift to Yr 3... Can they break the £400 barrier?



Carol singing - Going from strength to strength

It has been quite the week for FoG and fundraising for the school... Thanks to the superb singing talent and winter cheer that we have within the Gillespie community we are happy to announce that the carolers were able to **raise £1,300 for the school!** What an achievement! That amount means we can fund at least 75% of the Reading Road Map programme for another year!

FoG would like to offer a massive thank you and congratulations to **Anna Payne, Fiona Ayers** and the hordes of carol singers who braved the cold and crowds (and a rather gobby Santa Claus!) to raise such a brilliant amount for the school.



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

Some of the discounts and deals you can find on KiDSiE

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

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

Community page

ISLINGTON

SOUL

SOUL WINTER CAMP

SPORTS | ARTS & CRAFTS

FREE HOT MEALS PROVIDED

DATES:
23rd , 24th , 27th, 29th , 30th , 31st
Dec 2024 & 2nd, 3rd Jan 2025

FROM:
10AM TO 2PM

LOCATIONS:
BIRCHMORE HALL LONDON N5 2UA

AGES:
6- 16

bit.ly/soulcampislington