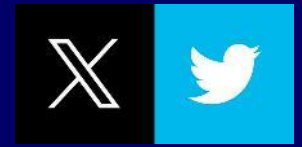




Friday 10th January 2025

Newsletter 459

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year

I wish all of our families a happy and healthy 2025! I am pleased to see children quickly settling back into school routines and working hard. We hope families had time for a good break in the holiday.



Parent Governor Vacancy

Some parents will know that one of our lovely families left Gillespie school at the end of last term and their Mum Hafsa has been one of our parent governors over the last three years. We want to formally thank Hafsa for her fantastic contribution and insight which has been extremely helpful to governors and school staff. This means of course that we have a vacancy for a parent governor.

The position is open to anyone with a child at the school. You don't need any particular qualifications or experience – beyond wanting to help make the school the best it can be for all the children. Islington provides training for new governors and the board can offer mentoring and other support for those who haven't done this kind of thing before.

If you'd like to know more about the role, please talk to Mark or you can also get more information from current parent governors Jodie Reed, Bhavini Doyle or Mandy Leatham. Or email Chair of Governors Dan via governors@gillespie.islington.sch.uk and we'll arrange to talk.

Please do consider joining us in supporting Mark and his staff in the fantastic work they do at Gillespie.

If you would like to put yourself forward inform the school office by **Wednesday 22nd January**. If we have a number of candidates we will invite you to send a pen portrait to the school office and we will put this information in a future newsletter along with details so that we can have an election.

Dan
Chair of Governors

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 Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 06/01/25
Reception	99.19%
Year 1	94.17%
Year 2	99.14%
Year 3	96.88%
Year 4	92.67%
Year 5	98.33%
Year 6	97.69%
Total	96.87%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 06/01/2025

Reception!

Year 6 Learning

This week, Year 6 have been exploring the Victorian street life art of Gustave Dore. They have been developing their sketching skills using dotting, shading, hatching and cross-hatching and then used these techniques to create lighter and darker tones in drawings. Then they created Victorian street life drawings using a range of media including drawing pencils, charcoal, chalk and pen.



Upcoming Diary Dates

Date	Event
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

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen
Headteacher



READY SET STAGE

Hello Ready Set Stage Family,

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead. We're so excited to welcome all the kids back to Ready Set Stage for another term full of fun, creativity, and activities! This is the first of our newsletters, which we plan to send out regularly. These updates will include all the important dates for our shows, matches, and activities, ensuring you're always in the loop.

Performing Arts and Singing Club

This term, we are thrilled to announce that we'll be working on our own adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*. The children will be preparing for a fantastic performance, show date will take place on Wednesday 26th March 2025 4pm

Football Club

We're upping the ante this term and aiming to organise a Five-a-Side Football Match, where parents can come and cheer on the kids! We're currently working with the school to finalise details and will let you know as soon as a date is confirmed. But the date of the match will likely be 24/03/2025 @ 4pm

Basketball Club: Exciting news for Basketball Club! We're in discussions with the school about installing basketball hoops, which will greatly enhance the kids' experience.

Arts and Crafts

This term, the kids will be exploring their creative sides with paint, sewing, chalk, and sand projects. While we'd love to host an art exhibition, storage for the artwork is a challenge. Therefore, some projects will be sent home on the day they're completed, while others will be sent the following week.

Gymnastics Club

We're working with our gymnastics coach to explore the possibility of a gymnastics presentation later this term.

Important Notes

- **Communication:** If you need to contact us, the best methods are via WhatsApp or email. For emergencies, these channels are especially effective.
- **Pick-Up Arrangements:** If there are changes to your child's pick-up plan, please inform the school or send us a WhatsApp message as soon as possible. This helps us ensure a smooth and safe pick-up process.
- **Timely Pick-Ups:** We kindly ask all parents to ensure they are on time for pick-up. Late pick-ups create challenges for our coaches, who may have commitments outside of Ready Set Stage.

Thank you so much for your continued support and understanding. We're looking forward to a fantastic spring term filled with learning, creativity, and fun!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Kind regards,

James and Rakaya



Happy New Year Everyone!

We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Winter Break and are raring to go for 2025. Final takings for the **Parent Pledge Silent Auction** have been confirmed and we are so proud to share that a total of **£3,155** was raised from that stall alone - such an incredible achievement! One more shout out to **Jacqui Barrett** for all her hard work in making this happen.

Alongside the money raised for the wider Winter Fair event, we have managed to add nearly **£5,000** to the FoG account which would cover the cost of all the Forest School sessions that we run for an entire year!

Dates for your diary

With the Spring Term now well underway, here are some key dates for families to be aware of in the coming weeks and months:

Fri	24th Jan	15:30 - 16:00	Year 3 New Year Bake Sale & Uniform Stall
Fri	31st Jan	09:00-10:00	FOG Spring Term General Meeting
Fri	7th Feb	All day	NSPCC NUMBER DAY
Fri	14th Feb	15:30 - 16:00	Year 2 Valentines Day Bake Sale & Uniform Stall
Fri	21st Mar	All day	COMIC RELIEF
Thur	6th Mar	TBC	Movie Night

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

Community food services:
Find affordable food, emergency support, warm spaces and community meals in Islington

<https://www.islingtonfoodpartnership.org.uk/community-food-services/>

HALF TERM CRAFT EVENT



Have fun making and playing your own hoop-la game. Will you be the winner?!

Wednesday 19 February, 2pm

Suitable for families with children of all ages.

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

TOY APPEAL

If your cupboards are full to overflowing with toys, why not donate some?

We are working with The Toy Project who will gift your donations to local families, children's centres and other organisations. Please only donate toys that are in good condition and fit to be shared.

Donations are being accepted 2-31 January at all Islington libraries. Scan the QR code or visit islington.gov.uk for opening times and locations of Islington Libraries.

Libraries ReadLearnConnect

ISLINGTON For a more equal future

Family Art Day

Saturday 11th January 2025

10am-12pm

October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester St,
London WC1N 3AL

Free, drop-in and open to families with children of all ages.

Join artist Sam Hayes for a lively family drop-in workshop inspired by the compelling works in the exhibition [Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga: Nature Morte](#). Families will embark on an engaging journey through the gallery, participating in interactive games and artmaking inspired by the powerful narratives and intricate details in Eddy Kamuanga's paintings.

october gallery

