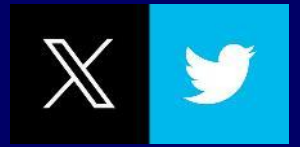




Friday 17th January 2025

Newsletter 460

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Governor Vacancy

There is still time to register interest in the Parent Governor position!

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.

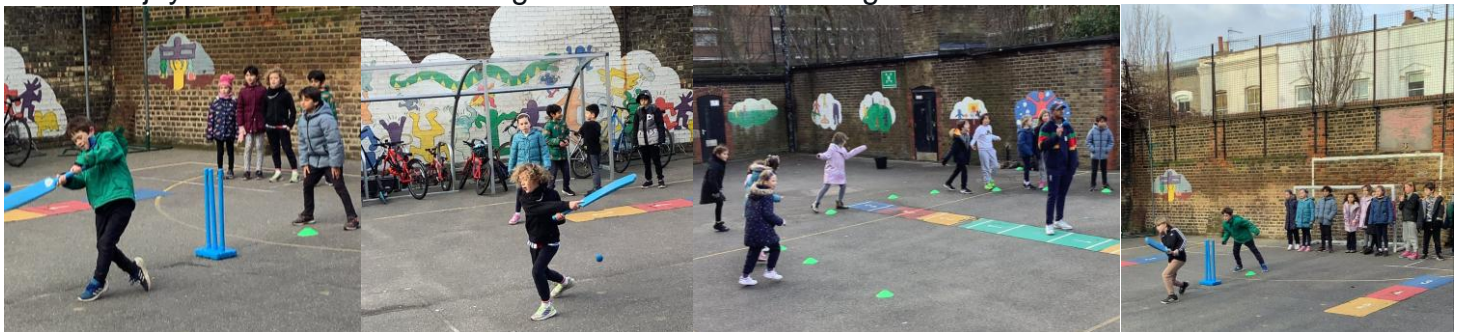
Please do consider joining us in supporting Mark and his staff in the fantastic work they do at Gillespie.

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

Year 4 Learning

Year 4 enjoyed their cricket coaching this week and showed great team work.



Nursery Learning

This week in Nursery class we have been exploring our emotions with The Colour Monster. We have been labelling different emotions, talking about how they make us feel and giving each feeling a colour, just like the story. Today, we are all in the yellow zone and feeling happy!



Reception Learning

Today the children were very excited to make their very own rainbow salads! We had three parts to our salad: the base (veggies), the protein (beans, cheese, tuna or chicken) and the dressing (lemon juice, olive oil, vinegar or plant-based mayo).

The children used many of their fine motor skills including chopping, grating, pouring and sprinkling. They were super independent and delighted with the yummy results!



Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 13/01/25
Reception	92.26%
Year 1	95.67%
Year 2	91.03%
Year 3	77.86%
Year 4	94.83%
Year 5	97.67%
Year 6	92.96%
Total	91.75%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 13/01/2025

Year 5!


Absence reminders:

- Please call or email the school office by 9:00am letting us know if your child will be absent including reason for absence/symptoms. This is so it can be recorded appropriately and we can notice any trends of particular illness symptoms eg) norovirus or chickenpox etc.
- Children suffering with vomiting or diarrhoea must be clear for 48 hours before returning to school as it is highly contagious.
- Children should not attend school with a high temperature.
- 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.
- The Islington & Whittington [minor illness and attendance leaflet can be found here](#).


STAYWELL THIS WINTER **NHS**

Diarrhoea and vomiting?


There's no specific cure for stomach bugs such as norovirus
Treat yourself at home while the virus runs its course




stay hydrated



take paracetamol



prevent spread



stay at home for two days
after symptoms clear

Punctuality Matters

We have noticed that some families are consistently bringing their children in to school at 5 past 9. This can be very unsettling for the children when they go up to the classroom or for the other children who have already started their early morning routines. **School starts at 8:55am** and it is important that children are in the playground ready to enter the building at that time. The first 10 minutes of the school day is an important settling in time for the class. Children are engaged in early morning work or reading during those first 10 minutes and time missed quickly adds up. They could miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of lessons – in fact, arriving 5 minutes late to each day adds up to missing 3 entire days of school by the end of the year! After this, the doors in to the building from the playground are locked. Children arriving after 9:05am MUST come to school via the school office with their adult.



NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* Programme** this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.



This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate assemblies, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for children in Year 2 (30 minutes) and children in years 5 & 6 (one hour). The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy.

Parents and carers are asked to let school know if their child may have experienced anything (in the past or happening now) which may mean they need extra support before, during or after taking part in this programme.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Additional NSPCC resources for families to help keep children safe

The NSPCC have shared some important information below on wider NSPCC resources and support to help keep children safe.

Parent/Carer support Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers. www.nspcc.org.uk/parents	Activities to extend learning at home Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe. www.nspcc.org.uk/activities
Online Safety Hub For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more. www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety	Childline – under 12's Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content. www.childline.org.uk/buddy (5-7) www.childline.org.uk/kids (7-11)
Talk PANTS with your children Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants .	

I hope you find this information about the NSPCC and the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme helpful.





Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Friday 7th February 2025 we will be celebrating another Number day.

This is a day where schools raise money for the NSPCC and make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable children across the UK. Gillespie has taken part in this important event for many years now and we are always happy to be involved.

To help raise some money for the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) we are inviting children once again to come to school wearing an item of clothing with digits on (e.g. football shirt) or a onesie or even dressed up as a dice, ruler or calculator!

We will have an assembly to highlight the work of the NSPCC to the children and in class they will take part in a number challenge and engage in lots of fun maths activities throughout the day.

Early Years will go on a number hunt and be challenged to find numbers between 1-10 (in Nursery) & 1-20 (in reception), Year 1 children will be challenged to know simple number bonds to 10/20 and children in years 2-6 will be challenged on their times tables/division facts. Teachers will set the challenges for their classes (as they know the children best).

Children or parents do not need to bring cash to school but it would be great if you would donate what you are able to online to the NSPCC via the JustGiving link below. We hope as many people as possible can help.

The link to donate to the NSPCC:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/gillespienumberday2025>

Thank you for all your cooperation and support in advance.

Kind Regards
Katrina Moses
Deputy Head

Upcoming Diary Dates

Date	Event
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



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.