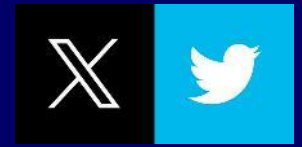




Friday 31st January 2025

Newsletter 462

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Governor Elections

Cast your vote [here](#) by Wednesday 5th February 4pm
1 vote per parent

Shruti

Hello, I'm Shruti, a NHS doctor and Director of a successful SME with a deep understanding of how public services in health are run. This experience has developed me as a leader with expertise in organisational oversight, financial management and team work skills that are transferable to the role of governor.

My passion for state-led education, combined with my professional background, equips me to engage with pupils, staff, parents, and the wider school community to understand their perspectives and ensure their voices are represented. I'm dedicated to using my knowledge and experience to support the school in achieving its goals and fostering a nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

Michael

We feel really fortunate that our two girls attend Gillespie and have benefitted from the incredible teaching and community at the school. Our girls love Gillespie and have been supported beyond what we could have hoped, and I would welcome the opportunity to give back and support the school and its leadership team. In terms of what I would bring, I've been a government lawyer for just over a decade and I have extensive experience working with others to resolve legal, systems and structural challenges! I sit on the board of two government Departments so bring relevant board experience. I hope I could bring that to bear to support the brilliant leaders we have in the school to navigate the maze of government demands, funding opportunities and operational challenges. As a governor, I would do all I could to support Mark and the teachers to ensure that Gillespie's performance and culture can keep providing such a special and enriching environment for all our children. Thanks for your support!

Alex

With my son starting his journey in Reception and two more children set to join, I'm passionate about contributing to Gillespie's continued success and the happiness and well-being of all its students.

I bring a strong background in finance and organisational management, equipping me to support the governing board in making thoughtful and informed decisions. I'm also passionate about building strong, collaborative relationships between parents, staff, and the school, ensuring we work together to create a nurturing and positive environment for our children.

I'm friendly, enthusiastic, and always open to listening to the views of others. My hope is to contribute to Gillespie's continued growth and help make it a place where every child feels supported, inspired, and able to thrive.

Sara

As a new parent here – my eldest child has just started in reception – I want to support the whole school community to make sure that Gillespie stays a happy, effective, inclusive and safe learning environment for all our kids in the years to come. I'm a director and designated safeguarding lead at a children's charity. I will bring to the role my experience of the education policy environment, working with challenging budgets, and maintaining high levels of governance. I will listen to the perspectives of parents, educators and children, ask questions, and make sure that giving our children the best start in life sits at heart of the school's decision making.

Year 4 Learning

In science year 4 have been learning all about the digestive process. They worked in groups to produce models of digestion which got very messy. They were finding out what happens as food passes from the mouth all the way to the toilet.



Year 5 Learning

Over this week Year 5 have been celebrating Chinese New Year. Some of them had a go at cooking a meal at home whilst others learnt about the festival and what it meant to the culture including creating posters and bookmarks.



Congratulations to Thomas for winning a medal in cricket for player of the week!



Whole School Assembly

Today in our assembly, we celebrated Chinese New Year singing a traditional song about the jasmine flower and children watched a shadow puppet show telling the traditional story of the animal race explaining how we get the order of the animals in the Chinese New Year calendar. We wish our families who celebrate a Happy New Year!

We also held a minutes silence to mark international Holocaust Memorial day and reflected on the hope that people around the world can live in peace and to honour the memory of the people who suffered in the past.



Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 27/01/25
Reception	92.58%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	97.93%
Year 3	97.86%
Year 4	97.59%
Year 5	95.33%
Year 6	96.67%
Total	95.71%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 27/01/2025

Year 2!

Upcoming Diary Dates

Date	Event
WKBG 3 rd February	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 7th 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



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



Spring Term General Meeting - Thanks to all attendees

Today we held the Spring Term General Meeting for parents and carers to receive updates and information on the progress and success that FoG has been able to achieve so far this year, as well as a forward look to the Spring Term events and fundraising that we are hoping to deliver for the rest of 24/25.

Key items included:

FoG has raised a total of £14k between September and December (Halloween Disco - £2,500 - Bake Sales - £900 - Carol Singing - £1,300 - Winter Fair - £4,000 - Direct Donations - £4,000)

Spring Term events will include Bake sales and the annual Movie Night (check the FoG calendar below for dates)

The Friends of Gillespie Foundation will hold its inaugural meeting on Monday 10th February, with aims including to finalise the Terms of Reference for the group, identify funding priorities, opportunities and mechanisms for the year and to establish a timeline for communication with Gillespie families on ways to support this exciting new initiative for the school.

Year 2 Bake Sale - Special Offer!!!

♥ Valentine's Day Cupcake Sale ♥

In addition to the sweet treats that the Year 2 class will be selling on Valentine's Day (February 14th), we are offering special pre-order cupcake boxes for families who want an extra special treat!

📅 Order Deadline: February 7, 2025... 📦 1 Box (6 Cupcakes) £15

Only 15 slots available – Limit of 1 box per family!

How to Order: - Sign up on our Google Sheet:

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftinyurl.com%2F82rrjm38&data=05%7C02%7C%7C87cc4ab4c08d48a8724708dd41e1486e%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638739158023903232%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bXM3C5vJL%2BhYz93o%2Bvm9CqJSfwZ6iird5OWZYDM6D7A%3D&reserved=0>



- Choose up to 2 cupcake flavors: Chocolate | Vanilla | Lemon
- Select a filling: Raspberry | Lemon Curd
- Pick your buttercream: Vanilla | Raspberry

Each box comes beautifully packaged, making it a perfect Valentine's treat! ♥

FoG is recruiting!

With one member choosing to step down from the committee after 2 years of hard work and commitment to support FoG's efforts, and a plan to refresh the FoG co-chair responsibilities, opportunity beckons for any parents or carers who are interested in becoming more involved in the hugely rewarding and important work that FoG does to support our wonderful school.

What makes Gillespie so amazing is the goodwill and hard work from everybody who makes up our diverse and supportive community, whether it be staff, parents/carers or pupils, and FoG is committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to get involved in any way that they can, so if you think you can help and are interested in learning more (and getting a free coffee in the process!) then **please get in touch with Sean on 07986792367**



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	7th Feb	All day	NSPCC NUMBER DAY	NON-FOG Fundraiser
Fri	7th Feb	15:30 - 16:00	Year 3 New Year Bake Sale & Uniform Stall	Y3 Class Rep
Fri	14th Feb	15:30 - 16:00	Year 2 Valentines Day Bake Sale & Uniform Stall	Y2 Class Rep
Fri	21st Mar	All day	COMIC RELIEF	NON-FOG Fundraiser
Thur	13th Mar	TBC	Movie Night	FoG Committee

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!



Community Page



GYMNASTICS HALF TERM CAMP 5-12 YEAR OLDS

Gillespie Primary School N5



CAMP DETAILS



PRICE
£40 per day
£8 Early drop off
£6 Late pick up



TIMES
10am - 3pm day
9am - 10am Early drop off
3pm - 4pm Late pick up



PACKED LUNCH
Children must have a packed lunch with plenty of water. NO NUTS or nut products.



WHAT TO WEAR
Gymnasts must wear either a leotard or t-shirt and shorts or leggings. No skirts or jeans. Hair must be tied up and no jewellery.

ABOUT CAMP

- Gymnasts will work on strength, flexibility and gymnastics skills throughout the week.
- Our camp is a great way for children to meet new friends while having fun
- At the end of the week there will be badge listing where your child can earn a certificate and badge



020 8044 2845



info@calypsogymnasticsclub.com

Islington Adult Community Learning

Family Learning Festival Learning Skills, Fostering Creativity and Cultivating Wellness

Saturday 15 to Friday 21 February 2025

Zine making

Pottery

T-Shirt printing

Woven Charms

Pom Pom making

Poetry Circus

Upcycled Art: Old stuff, new style

HOW TO BOOK AN ACTIVITY!

If you are interested in any of the activities planned during February half term and want to book, visit the Family Learning page on our website or scan the QR code.



www.adultlearning.islington.gov.uk

Courses are free to Islington residents earning less than £27,007

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