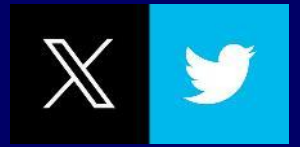




Friday 7th March 2025

Newsletter 466

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Bling your wheels!

We'd like to thank everyone who participated in Bling you Bike/Sparkle your Scooter. It was a massive success with loads of creativity seen, next assembly we will be announcing our winners! Everyone enjoyed the parade full of music, warm weather and smiles. We even managed to raise £50 from all the people who took part. A very big well done to our Travel TfL Explorer Ambassadors for their amazing organisation of the event.



World Book Day 2025

We had some incredible costumes in each class this WBD, it was great to see the creativeness of the children and adults at home shine through in the costumes. We celebrated the day with a KS1 costume parade in the playground (thanks to India and Rizwana for suggesting).



We also celebrated with staff choosing a book to read and children visited them to hear their story. Then years 1 - 6 did the Ultimate Character battle. They chose their favourite character, thought about their kindness, strength, size, how funny and how clever they are and gave them a mark out of 5. They then wrote a speech and made a presentation to the class to convince them that their character was the best. The class then picked their favourite.



Y4 took part in a character challenge for WBD. They had to convince the rest of the class why their favourite book character was worthy of being named as a champion.



Pancake day

Children were delighted to celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes and ice cream for pudding this week, thank you Caterlink! The team cooked up a storm in Nursery too.



Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 03/03/25
Reception	96.13%
Year 1	95.33%
Year 2	95.67%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	98.33%
Year 5	96.33%
Year 6	94.81%
Total	95.8%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 03/03/2025

Year 4!

Islington Parent/Carer Survey: Improving School Attendance

Islington Council value your input and would like to understand how we can support the improvement of school attendance. Your feedback is crucial in helping us create a supportive and engaging environment for all pupils and families. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/fcfB9yUFei>

Upcoming Diary Dates

Date	Event
WKBG 10 th March	British Science Week
Thursday 13 th March	FoG Movie Night postponed RSS gymnastics club taking place on this day as usual
Friday 21 st March	Comic Relief's Red Nose Day World Poetry Day
WKBG 24 th March	Last week of RSS clubs
Tuesday 25 th March	Parenting in the digital age workshop
Friday 4 th April	Last day of term 1pm school finishes
Tuesday 22 nd April	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 23 rd April	First day of summer term

Wishing families a wonderfully mild and possibly sunny weekend!

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen
Headteacher



Year 2 bake sale - Taking the biscuit...

On the final day before half term we had the Year 2 Bake Sale and what a success it was! With some exceptional cupcake boxes and banging brownies on offer, FoG are delighted to share that the Yr 2 team were able to bring in a **MASSIVE profit of £552!!!** Huge thanks to **Temí Ogunyoku** and **Francesca Leyne** for their baking and organisational skills. That amount alone would cover 50% of the funds FoG commits to the school each year for the development of the Special Educational Needs provision. Unbelievable work!

Movie Night Postponement

As mentioned in your year group WhatsApp chat, FoG have taken the decision to postpone Movie Night due to issues around capacity to plan and run the event and recruiting volunteers. Rest assured we are still committed to running the event once these issues have been resolved. First and foremost, we need a volunteer to coordinate the event. FoG has created a 'How to' guide to support whoever assumes this lead role, and will support throughout with funding, volunteer recruitment and comms to promote the event and ticket sales, so if you are passionate about film and want to help deliver a night which is always a hit with the children at Gillespie then please get in touch with your class rep or Sean (07986 792 367) asap. It is Oscar season, after all...



Smartphone Free Childhood - Important Update and Date for the diary

Building on the recent parent survey that many of you contributed to, FoG are delighted to be able to support with the next step of this valuable initiative by sharing the following information:

📅 📌 **Parenting in the Digital Age** 📌 📅

When: Tuesday 25 March, 6.30-8pm

Where: Gillespie School top hall

What: Join us to hear from three expert speakers on the impact of smartphones on children's development, how to introduce your children to technology in a safe and positive way, and what Islington Council is doing on this subject. Any questions please reach out to your Class Rep.

We are also looking for a volunteer who can record the event. If you can help please reach out to your class rep.

FoG is recruiting!

The recent governor elections have shown just how committed to school improvement and support so many of our parents are, and FoG is offering the perfect opportunity 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.

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**



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 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!



amount you this QR code to Gillespie would raise an

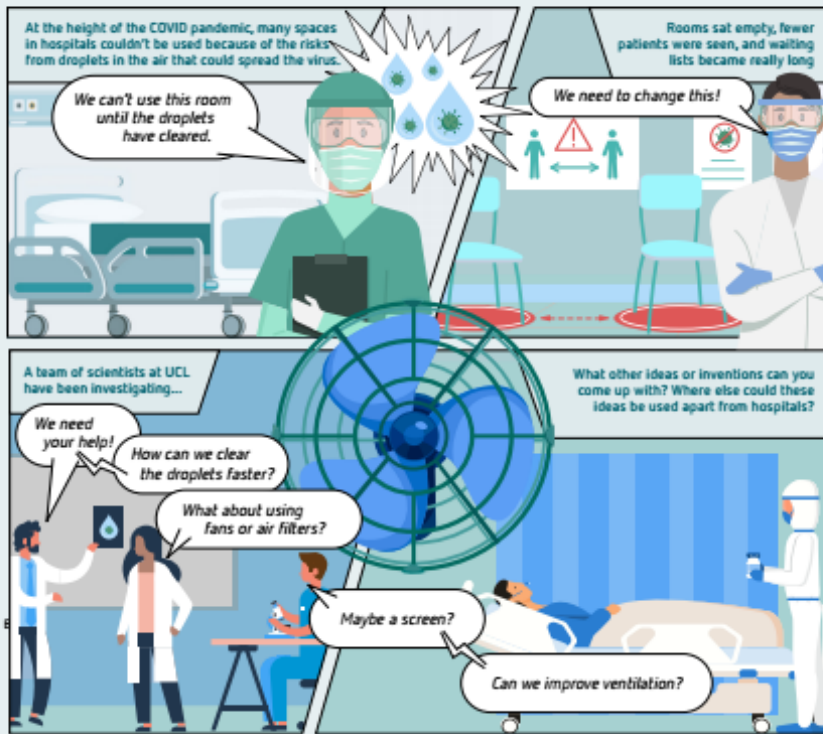
equipment or is a huge boost to



Competition: The scientists from UCL need your help!

Older primary pupils (aged 8-11) might like to enter our special competition category this year and share their ideas with a team of top scientists at University College London (UCL)! Can they help by coming up with a new invention to improve the health of the air in our buildings?

Schools then select five of the best entries across the competition categories and submit them for a chance of winning an array of prizes! See the next page for instructions.



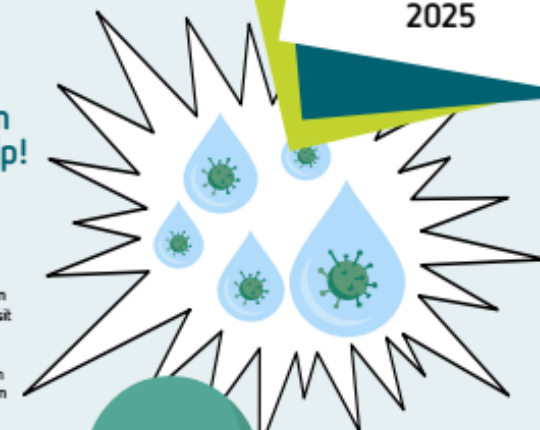
Competition: The scientists from UCL need your help!

Instructions

Choose an indoor public space where you often spend time – this could be an area where you learn, or a place you visit regularly like a library, café or cinema. Do you think the air in this space is healthy and clean? Why? Come up with an idea or invention to change the air in your chosen space, making it healthier to breathe. How will it work? Could it be used in other public places too?

You might come up with a brand-new idea, or you might like to think about a new way of using something that already exists. The researchers at UCL have considered lots of different ideas for improving air quality and preventing the spread of viruses in hospitals. For example, you could think about face masks, curtains and screens, ventilation, fans or air filters.

You may like to do some research into how viruses spread to give you some ideas. Have a think about the science behind your idea. How will it work? How will it be made and used?



Make your poster

Think about how you present your idea to make sure it is clear and easy to understand. You could create a diagram or set of instructions, or you might like to develop an eye-catching poster! Will you include pictures, graphs or other illustrations?

Entries must be A4 or A3 in size and you'll need to be able to take a photograph of your work so it can be sent to us online for judging.

Send us your entry

Once pupils' entries are complete, take a photo of them and complete the online form to submit the top 5! For more details, along with the full set of poster competition rules and tips, check out our website: britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition

N4Library
ReadLearnConnect

STORYTELLING EVENT



Celebrate Shakespeare Week with our family retelling of A Midsummer Night's Dream, told through the magic of shadow puppets and song!

Saturday 29 March, 2pm

Suitable for families with children of all ages.

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