



Friday 14th March 2025

Newsletter 467

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Go Red for Red Nose Day Friday 21st March

School Council have met to organise Gillespie School's fundraising activities for Red Nose Day. They will be asking children to wear something funny for money next Friday instead of school uniform. You could wear something red, pop on those scarlet socks, be a clown or comic character in return for a donation!

Donations can be made online here: <https://tinyurl.com/3kmt2y5e>



Thank you Vincent

A huge thank you to our fantastic, super gardening volunteer Vincent (parent of Lucien and Marcel) who has given our overgrown garden in the wells at the front of the school a much needed prune and tidy. We are so grateful and look forward to the spring blossom in the next few weeks.

Farewell to Sara Wright our Business Manager leaving at the end of term

I've had the pleasure of working with Sara in her many roles in the Gillespie school office for over 18 years. Sara has made a huge contribution to Gillespie school and has been one of the fantastic people fronting our school office during this entire period which has given parents and visitors a good first impression of our school. Sara has carried out her duties with great professionalism and skill with colleagues and with our school community. As Headteacher I will personally miss her as we have always worked very closely together in the office team. Sara and the office team are extremely popular within the school, supporting all of their colleagues and our pupils, helping us maintain a really happy school community. The team has been regularly recognised externally, in particular by the local education authority, as being one of the most effective school teams in Islington. Although we are sorry to be losing Sara I am very proud that she has taken the next step in her professional career, securing a promotion and an exciting new job! We wish her every success. I know all staff, governors, parents/carers and pupils will want to wish her a fantastic farewell. Sara's last day is Thursday 3rd April.



Three discovery workshop

This week, years 4-6 took part in practical online safety sessions led by 'Three Discovery.' In an assembly they saw how easy it was to create a new version of Emma in Year 4 that looked so similar, highlighting the importance of always questioning whether something you see online is real. Then Year 4 created animated adverts and years 5 and 6 created movies - year 6 even got to use green screens for theirs!



British Science Week

In today's whole school assembly all classes including Reception class made presentations about science books that each class had been evaluating during British Science Week. The classes made excellent reviews about the quality and impact of each book and scored each area out of five. The science books will be on display in our school library over the next few weeks so that children from different classes can explore the books. The assembly was a celebration after a fantastic week of science learning led and organised by Megan our Resident Scientist and Florie our Science Leader.

Year 4 Learning

Year 4 visited the Natural History Museum to consolidate their learning about earthquakes and volcanoes. They enjoyed the show presentation and experienced the earthquake simulator. It was a great day!



Science Magic Show

In celebration of British Science Week, Gillespie STEM Committee put on a thrilling Science Magic Show on Tuesday. I would like to congratulate all the pupils who worked so hard to practise their tricks and the scientific explanations behind them. I am pleased to report that following the show, Maeve and Chui Yian were able to perform their flame jumper trick successfully to each class. Thank you to Gillespie pupils and to the parents of our STEM Committee for being such an enthusiastic audience and for joining in. I was extremely proud of the STEM Committee's performance.

Meg, Resident Scientist, Lab_13



Reception Germ Lesson: British Science Week

Reception Class have been reading a book about germs. Leading up to, and during British Science Week, I visited Reception class and was really impressed to hear what they could recall about germs from what they have been read. We undertook an activity to show how germs spread. We used baby oil to represent sweat on our hands and glitter (which will not be purchased again once used up) to represent germs. The pupils saw how germs spread when they clapped and shook hands and touched the table. They were able to tell me how to get rid of the germs by washing their hands with soap and warm water.



Key Stage One STEM Club: British Science Week

This week our STEM Club pupils had a go at making static slime by mixing cornflour and vegetable oil together. Next, we rubbed balloons on our hair to create static and then held the slime near the balloon. It was really fun to see the slime move towards the balloon. This is because it has a positive charge, while the charged balloon has a negative charge. The positive charge is attracted to the negative charge.



Eco-Committee

Our Gillespie Eco-Committee are enjoying watching the progress of our broad beans. They are now flowering. We had a pesky caterpillar who was delighting in munching on our plants so it has been moved to another section of the school playground. The pupils made labels for the broad beans and for the rocket they are growing in Lab_13. They have been tying the broad beans to bamboo poles as they grow.



Attendance Matters!

Class	Attendance WB 10/03/25
Reception	95.16%
Year 1	94.67%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	92.67%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	95.33%
Year 6	89.63%
Total	93.92%



Attendance Cup
Winner
WB 10/03/2025
Year 2!

Upcoming Diary Dates

Date	Event
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

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen Headteacher

Community Page

Science of Surgery Friday 11th April, 11am-4pm



Want to do something fun, FREE, and family-friendly over the Easter holidays? Then make sure you visit the UCL Hawkes Institute annual science fair, Science of Surgery. On Friday 11th April 11am-4pm UCL scientists and staff will lead hands-on demonstrations to children and adults, showcasing the cutting-edge medical research that they are working on. Use a medical ultrasound scanner, try simulated keyhole surgery, and go on behind-the-scenes tours of their labs to see robot surgeons. For more info visit: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/interventional-surgical-sciences/events/2025/apr/science-surgery-friday-11th-april-2025>