

Reaching Out

Spring 1 edition

This half term, our essential skills were:



2026 is off to a flying start, full of ambitious learning in every classroom! We've also had many trips and events to complement the curriculum, including our annual Digital Warriors trip to the **BETT Conference** and our first **Debate Mate tournament** of the year! Well done to all the children involved!

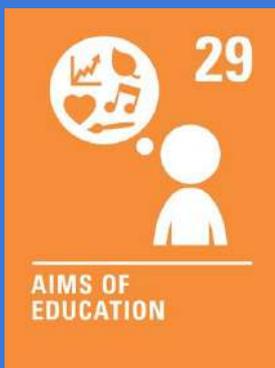
This half term, part of our assembly curriculum has focused on **Inclusivity** and **Kindness**, supported by our work with the Global Equality Collective (GEC). In January, the children learnt about Martin Luther King Jr. and how to be kind and respectful through our words and actions. You can read more about this on pages 11 and 12.



A special well done to **Year 3 Bellatrix Class** who have kick-started the Class Assembly season! They did a brilliant performance of The Great Journey to the Fields of Reeds teaching us all about the Ancient Egyptians!

We've also been applying our the essential skills of *Problem Solving* and *Adapting* as part of our Skills Builder curriculum and focusing on Articles 29 and 42 of the UN Rights of the Child.

We learnt about these Rights:



As we approach the half term break, please see pages 15 and 16 for activities to do with your children in Islington. If your child has an interest in music, Vahan, our Specialist Music teacher has included some information about extra music lessons available in the borough.

If you would like to get more involved with supporting the school, we are looking for **volunteers** from our Parent Community to help with in the **Library**. If you are interested, please see page 17 and get in touch with Michelle and Alicen.



Thank you for continuing to support your child's learning behaviours and ensuring that they are at school on time to start their day. A reminder that school starts at **8.55am**.

We look forward to seeing you after the half term break.

With best wishes

Sophie Gavalda

REACH for your future **Respect Enterprise Ambition Confidence Happiness**

As a GOLD Rights Respecting School we value learning ABOUT, THROUGH and FOR the rights enshrined in the UNCRC. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils.

Every month, children who arrive on time are entered into a **Punctuality Prize** draw! The winners receive a special prize and are celebrated in our whole school assembly.

Well done to the children below who were on time every day in September and who were the winners of the prize draw:

Punctuality Winners

December 2025

Yusuf **Meissa Class**

Sophie **Meteor Class**

Sonny **Luna Class**

Yuki **Bellatrix Class**

Olivia **Apollo Class**

Isla **Matariki Class**

Marta **Nebula Class**

January 2026

Pedro **Comet Class**

Noah **Akasha Class**

Olya **Luna Class**

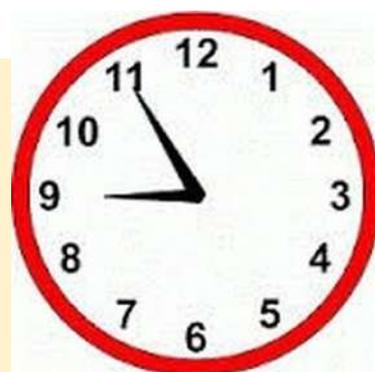
Emma **Eclipse Class**

Paul **Apollo Class**

Sebastian **Matariki Class**

George **Satellite Class**

A reminder that school starts at **8.55am** but we give you a 5-minute grace period to account for exceptional circumstances; therefore, any child arriving at **or after 9am** will be marked late.



Year 6 Digital Warriors BETT Trip



The Digital Warriors were lucky enough to go to the BETT conference this year looking at technology in education. As part of this experience, the children spoke to industry specialists, participated in a discussion on AI and technology in schools and got to view the latest technology that is in our world.

The children wowed everyone they met with their thoughtful questions, insightful ideas and enthusiasm. This conference gave the children many ideas on what we could bring back into our own school to make learning more fun and techy!



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*An average of £4000 to the school per transaction



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FIND OUT MORE



315 Upper St, London N1 2XQ | 02031510777



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EXCLUSIVE OFFERS FOR THE WILLIAM TYNDALE COMMUNITY

Year 5 trip to Ragged School and William Morris Gallery

The Ragged school was very interesting because the staff showed us what the people in the Victorian times used. Some items that the Victorians used was a bowl to go to the toilet, which was called a chamber pot, and they would throw it out the window or there would be an outdoor toilet called the out house in the garden shared by lots of families. We went into a Victorian classroom and we pretended to be Victorian school children - *Juliette and Zayla*.

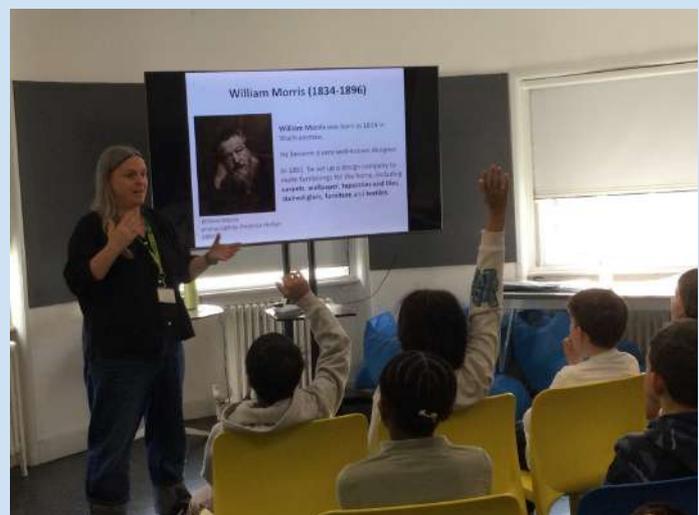


Year 5 Children at the Ragged School



William Morris Gallery

As part of our Victorian History unit and our art unit, Year 5 went to the William Morris Gallery. They got to see his many designs and artworks as well as learn about his life. The children enjoyed the workshop where they got to use an artwork in the gallery to create a play to retell the story.





Debate Mate Competition

Thursday 5th February



The first competition of our debate season began with a stunning result for our teams; we won five out of eight debates! Each team won a debate and one of our Year 6 teams won both debates.

The competition was hosted in school. Teamwork shone, speaking and listening skills were exemplary and the excitement was tangible. For some of our newest club members, this was also their first opportunity to experience what a competition involved and practice their debating skills.

The motions were:

- “ This house believes everyone should read a book a month.”*
- “This house would ban junk food for under eleven year olds.”*



Step 4: Organising thoughts
I order my points to be understood



Step 4: Retelling
I pass on information accurately

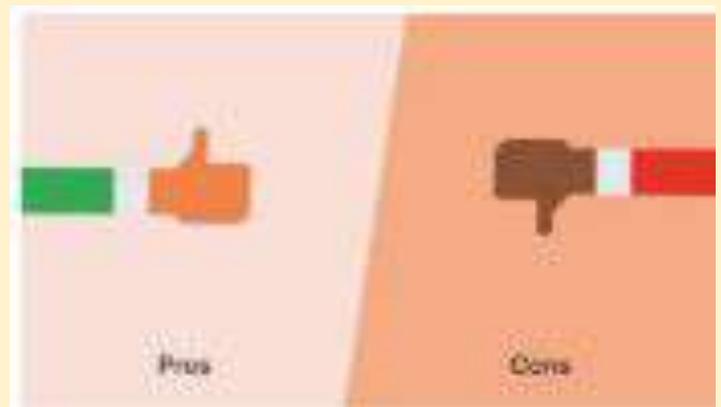
Skill of the Month



January

Step 1	I follow instructions
Step 2	I find help from someone if needed
Step 3	I describe problems to others
Step 4	I find information to complete a task
Step 5	I create different possible solutions to a problem
Step 6	I identify advantages and disadvantages of potential solutions

Problem solving is about being able to identify your problem and finding different solutions to help you. You need to be able to clearly explain your problem and recognise that sometimes complex problems might have many different solutions.



- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
- The Day the Crayons Quit by Oliver Jeffers
- Superworm by Julia Donaldson
- The Tiger Who Came To Tea by Judith Kerr
- Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson
- Stuck by Oliver Jeffers
- Fox's Socks by Julia Donaldson
- The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch
- What Do You Do With A Problem by Kobi Yamada
- Shh! We Have a Plan by Chris Haughton

Stories that are all about problem solving!



February

Universal Framework: **Adapting**

This workbook will cover Steps 1-11 of the Skills Builder Universal Framework.

Step 1 I can tell how I am feeling

Step 2 I can tell how others are feeling

Step 3 I keep going when faced with challenges

Step 4 I respond calmly when faced with challenges

Step 5 I reflect and learn from challenges

Step 6 I help others face challenges

Adapting (formerly known as Staying Positive!) is all about how we respond to change. Sometimes we will face setbacks and we should learn how to respond to them. Learners think about their own and others emotions as well as how to reflect upon their challenges



Stories to support

- The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires
- Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae
- The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes by Mark Pett
- Your Elastic, Fantastic Brain by JoAnn Deak
- I Can't Do This by K.J. Walton
- Arthur the Wizard by Bryony Noble
- A Muddle of Mistakes by K.J. Walton
- Wombad Divine by Mem Fox
- The Hare and Tortoise by Brian Wildsmith
- Tomorrow I'll Be Brave by Jessica Hische

Stories that
are all
adapting!

Year 6 TfL Citizenship Trip

This half term, Year 6 were invited by Transport for London to take part in their Junior Citizenship Scheme. We took part in workshops led by the London Ambulance Service, Arsenal FC, and TfL, among others.



We went to the Sobell Leisure Centre and we learnt about life skills which will help us be independent, such as how to stay safe on the streets, where to stand on the tube and bus, and how to put someone in the recovery position.”

Kasia

“I liked the talk about drugs. I learnt a lot, including about things I didn't know were drugs.” **Milo**



“I liked the workshop by the fire brigade. It was interesting to find out how fire spreads and what to do in an emergency.” **Theo**





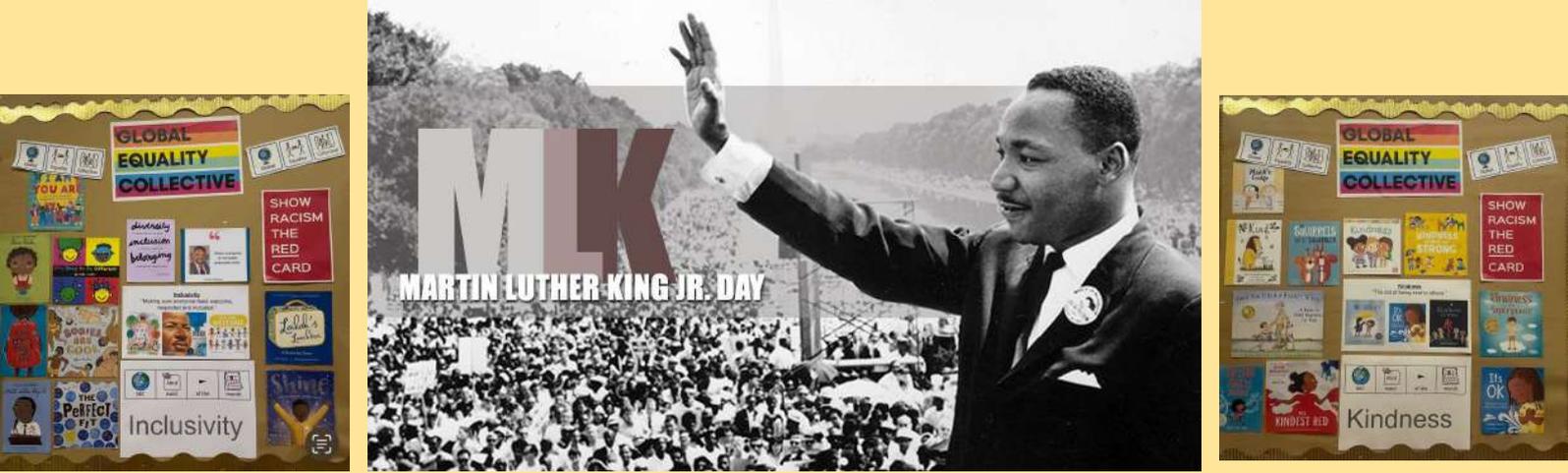
What is
sound?

How is sound
created?

In Science, **Year 4** students have been learning how to find patterns between pitch of a sound and how sound is created through vibrations.

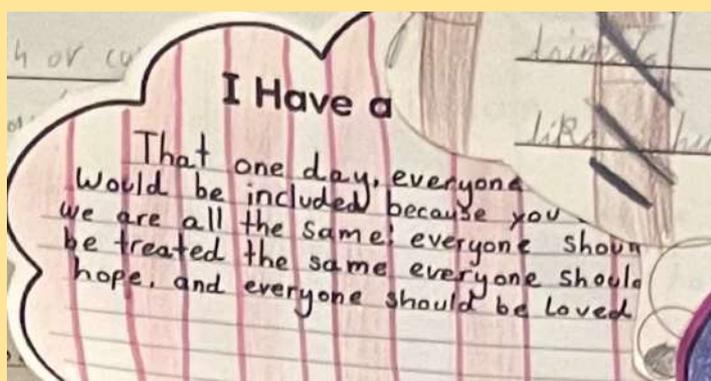
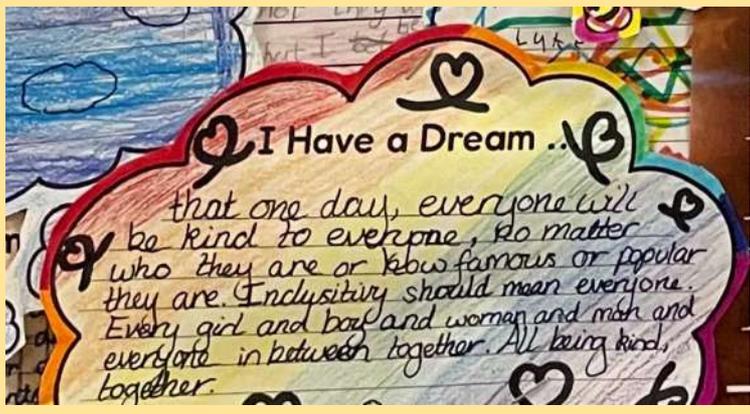
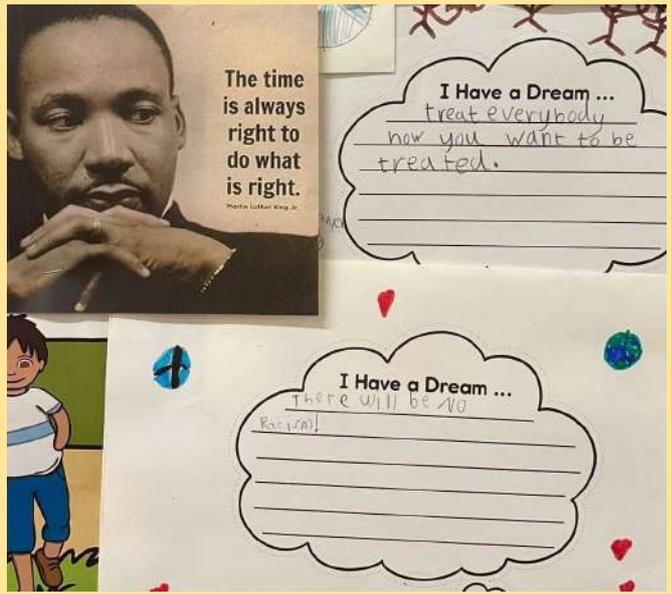
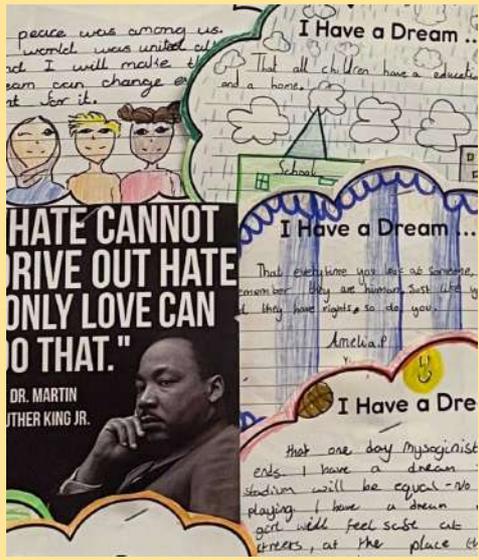
With this knowledge, students had to work as scientists and design an instrument out of recycling and try to produce a sound.

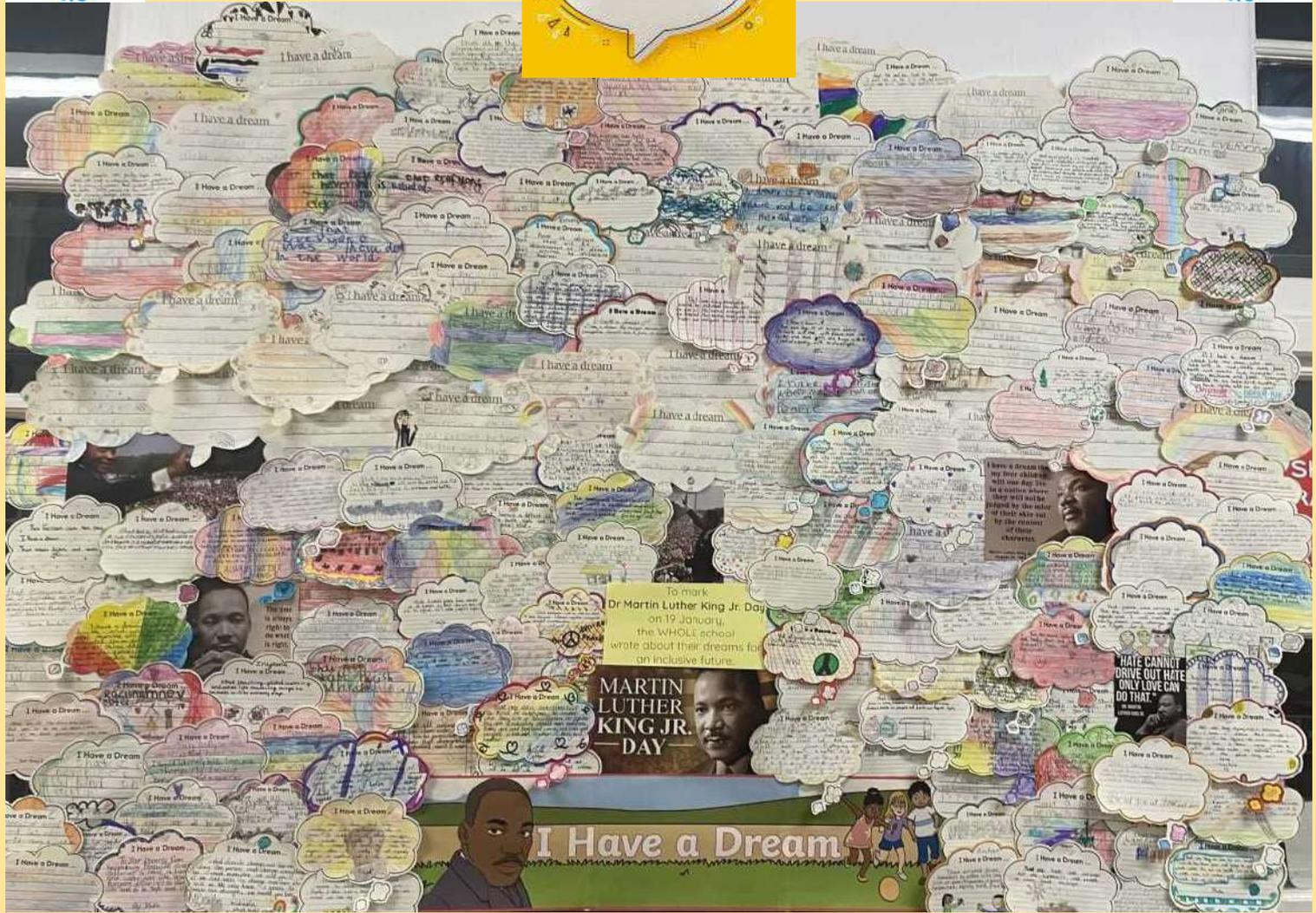




In honour of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day** on January 19th, students across the entire school, from Nursery to Year 6, learnt about his incredible legacy for our learning in History about significant individuals. Inspired by his vision, every child wrote their own "Dream for the Future," focusing on the importance of inclusivity. You can see these inspiring pieces of work displayed proudly along the middle floor corridors.

This learning also links perfectly with our **Global Equality Collective 'Word of the Month'**: *Inclusivity* for January and *Kindness* for February. You can find these featured words outside Sophie's office each month, along with a wonderful selection of recommended books that help children explore these themes further.





Handwriting competition



This week we celebrated all the children who entered the handwriting competition. The judging was particularly difficult as the standard was so high. Thank you to all the adults who helped to support their child at home to enter this..

As well as celebrating the children in assembly, some of the winners work will be shared in a display within the school.

The event was such a success we will be running another competition over the Easter holidays with an exciting new focus (more details to follow soon).

Special Commendations to:

Lucrezia (Yr 1) Matthew (Yr 2), Anjali (Yr 2),
Asher (Yr 2), Mae (Yr 2), Carolina (Yr 2), Nora (Yr 2),
Leai (Yr 2), Nora (Yr 4),
James (Yr 4), Victor (Yr 4),
Mikaela (Yr 6), Sara (Yr 6)

Best Overall Presentation

Gael (Yr 1), Sol (Yr 1), Blaise (Yr 2), Eva (Yr 3)
Ananya (Yr 4), Gabriel (Yr 5)

Outstanding Writing Effort

Gable (Yr 1), Sinan (Yr 1), Jude (Yr 2), Lorenzo (Yr 5)
Heila (Yr 6),

Cursive Excellence

Ela (Yr 3), Hugo W (Yr 4), Alliyah (Yr 5), Otis (Yr 6)

Typing Club

<https://www.typingclub.com/>



If you would like to support your child learn to touch type at home, then navigate to the website above. This is also the program that your child will use at school.

It is free to use and is a fun, educational way to help your child to develop keyboard skills.

Fun games, lessons, typing stories as well as earning badges and stars, all help them to make progress. It also offers a range of different languages to learn to type in.

Half Term Reading: 10 minutes a day!

Reading with your child for as little as 10 minutes a day can have a HUGE impact on their enjoyment of books and stories.. It is also wonderful way to nurture your relationship with your child whilst developing their language and imagination.

Please continue to read to your child at home during the holidays. If you are going on a long journey maybe encourage them to listen to an audiobook as you travel. Or perhaps pop along to the local library and join in with some of the wonderful events they have planned; this also helps to support our wonderful local library services (full details can be found by following the link below)

[Islington Life - National year of reading: February half term activities](#)

Funny faces flip book

Monday 16 February, 2:00–3:30pm

South Library, 115–117 Essex Road, N1 2SL

Draw or cut out features from magazines to create a funny faces flip book.

Make a zine of your favourite book

Tuesday 17 February, 2:30–4:00pm

North Library, Manor Gardens, N7 6JX

Create a zine celebrating your favourite book.

Create a bookmark

Wednesday 18 February, 2:30–4:00pm

Lewis Carroll Library, 166 Copenhagen Street, N1 0ST

Create a bookmark featuring your favourite book character, then borrow one of their books.



Dig up a dinosaur egg

Wednesday 18 February, 2:30–4:00pm

Archway Library, Hamlyn House, Highgate Hill, N19 5PH

Dig up a dinosaur egg and discover your very own species!



Make a Supertato character puppet

Wednesday 18 February, 2:30–4:00pm

Central Library, 2 Fieldway Crescent, N5 1PF

Make a Supertato character puppet and read or listen to a Supertato story.

Create your own 3D superhero

Thursday 19 February, 2:30–4:00pm

West Library, Bridgeman Road, N1 1BD

Create your own 3D superhero character.



Design a comic book hero

Thursday 19 February, 2:30–4:00pm

Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Design a comic book hero and include them in your own comic strip.

Create a fun zine

Thursday 19 February, 2:15–3:30pm

Mildmay Library, 21–23 Mildmay Park, N1 4NA

Create a fun zine to share with friends.



Create a comic strip featuring 'Dog Man'

Thursday 19 February, 2:30–4:00pm

Cat and Mouse Library, 277 Camden Road, N7 0JN

Create a comic strip featuring 'Dog Man' or another book character.

Read Aloud Musical Chairs

Wednesday 18 February, 2:00–3:00pm

N4 Library, 26 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW

Play Read Aloud Musical Chairs.





Library Volunteers



Would like to support our children to grow and develop as readers?

Do you have time to offer to support reading in our school community?

We are very fortunate to have a truly spectacular collection of books in the school library. This well stocked library requires a lot of time and administration to help the children to make the most of this space. To help us with this, we are hoping for some volunteers within our parental community. Any support you might be able to provide would be incredibly appreciated. **No previous library experience is needed.**

If you are interested in finding out more about this then please enquire either in person or email to the school office. We would love talk with you about what this may involve.

Even a small amount of help can make a big difference.



Step 7: Contributing

I contribute to group activity

music!

Here's some of the things we've been up to in our music lessons this term:

RECEPTION have been learning about Latin American music- creating their own mini samba band and learning the conga!



YEAR 4 have been writing and performing their own lyrics for an anti-bullying rap



YEAR 6 began learning about music production this term. Using the YuStudio platform, they created their own Grime tracks- using loops, synthesisers, drum machines and samplers



INFANT CHOIR grew to its biggest membership ever, with 43 children coming to sing every Wednesday after school- very exciting!

Singing Assemblies: Looking at the themes of friendship and being the best you can be- pupils have been learning an array of songs like With a Little Help From My Friends (Beetles), Golden (K-Pop Demon Hunters), Rather Be (Clean Bandit) and other rounds and a capella songs

Islington Music Lessons

If you would like to nurture your child's interest in playing a musical instrument, then check out the details on the next page of the newsletter. In some cases **you may be eligible for free or heavily discounted places.**



**Guildhall School
of Music & Drama**
in partnership with
Islington Council



**Want to learn
an Instrument?**

We are a passionate and exciting after school community led by inspirational instrumental teachers.

Music Explorers

an adventure in music; exploring voice, sounds & movement.

Free and discounted places are available for children requiring financial assistance who live in Islington or attend an Islington school

When: Tuesdays: 4.15-5pm / 4-5pm

Age: 4-6 (reception & year1)

Where: West Library N1 1BD / St Peter's and St Paul's EC1V 0EU

To find out more:

Please call 07541206817 or email

MusicEducation.Islington@gsmd.ac.uk

To sign up, please go to

www.gsmd.ac.uk/study-with-guildhall/music-explorers

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ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

Introduction to Music

Students 6-8 years old.

The course offers children the experience and joy of making music using body percussion, recorder, singing and fun games.

You want to play an instrument?

Let's help you progress, it's so much more fun playing in a group.

Students aged 8 to 18 years can join a Music Centre and take part in instrumental group lessons, musicianship and tailored ensembles according to their level of skill.

Individual Lessons are also available.

Location:

Mondays, 4-6.00pm,



Arts Media School Islington,
Turtle Road, N4 3LS

Mondays, 4.30-6.30pm,



Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School
Donegal Street, N1 9QG

Wednesdays, 4.00-6.00pm,



City of London Academy Highbury Grove, 8
Highbury Grove, N5 2EQ

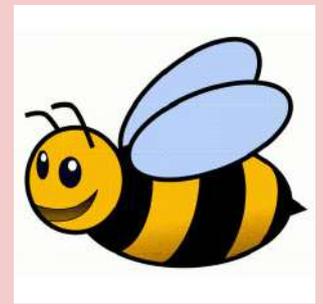
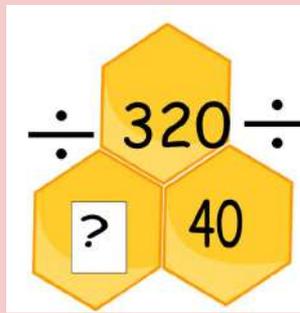
Free and discounted places are available for students requiring financial assistance who live or attend a school in Islington.

To find out more:

Please call **020 4526 6067** or email
musiceducation.islington@gsmd.ac.uk



Multiplication Bee



On Wednesday 4th February, Years 4 and 6 took part in the Multiplication Bee during assembly time. Two participants from each class were selected from a class competition. **Lara, Jules** (Galaxy), **Yuogo** and **Rocco** (Apollo) represented Year 4. I was blown away by the speed and confidence with both division and multiplication facts, which ended with complicated multiplications, involving the distributive law - $14 \times 4 = (10 \times 4) + (4 \times 4) = 56$. The overall winner from Year 4 was Lara.

Year 6 were represented by **Phoenix, Jane** (Nebula), **Ella** and **Zach** (Satellite). They showed confidence in all the times tables, squares and their roots, as well as using the distributive law to multiply and divide increasingly large numbers - $189 \div 9 = (180 \div 9) + (9 \div 9) = 21$. After a closely fought competition, the eventual winner was Phoenix.

Year 5 were on a trip on 4th February, but due to high levels of interest we were able to hold a separate Bee. **Lorenzo, Markan** (Matariki), **Gabriel** and **Mina** (Cosmos) were the participants. They were impressive with their knowledge of (and ability to work out) square numbers, even those above 12. Gabriel ended up as the winner.

Congratulations to all the children who chose to take part in any part of the competition. There will be an opportunity for Years 3 and 4 to take part in the First Maths Challenge in June. If your child is eager to take part please sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/yCY4GANvEvmZYeHe6>



PUNCTUALITY and ATTENDANCE

Punctuality

Children are happier when they arrive punctually at school and their learning gets off to a fine start. We have many incentives to encourage children to arrive punctually, including certificates and medals.



Please remember:

- **The school gates open at 8.45am** and children are able to go straight to their classes.
- **School starts at 8.55am** but we give you a 5-minute grace period to account for exceptional circumstances; therefore, any child arriving at **or after 9am will be marked late.**

Timings for the end of the day will be as follows:

Nursery door will open at 2.50pm. (Children not collected by 3pm will incur a charge.) **Reception** and **Year 1** doors will open at 3.25pm.

- **Year 2** line up outside the Reception play area at 3.30pm, flanking the fence in front of the hand washing trough, by the office as you come down the lane from Upper Street.
- **Years 3 – 6** will be brought down to the playground at 3.30pm. Please could parents wait near to where their child's class lines up, avoiding bottlenecking by the extension of the Morris Building. Children will not be dismissed as they come out and down the stairs – only from their line.
- **Any children not collected on time will be taken to Kids' Club where a charge will apply from 3.40pm.**

It is really important to a child's feeling of security that they are brought in regularly and that parents arrive and depart promptly once they are settled. Children who arrive late can become distressed and find it hard to settle to their activities. Again, at home time, please collect your child promptly as they can become very anxious if you are late.

Please find further information in the [Parent and Carer Handbook](#) on the school website.

Attendance

The school and Educational Welfare officers monitor attendance on a regular basis. We expect children to have **at least 95% attendance. If your child's attendance falls below 95% then the Educational Welfare Officer will contact you. A child is considered a persistent absentee once their attendance falls to 90%.**

Please let us know of any changes in your child's home life, routines or health that may affect their attendance or punctuality at school, so we can support you accordingly. If you would like any more details about punctuality and attendance, please see Penny in the school office.



What do I do if my child is sick?

1. If your child is sick please inform the school office on the first day of absence.
2. On your child's return to school please bring a note to the school office explaining why your child was absent. If your child is absent directly before or after a holiday you will need to bring in medical proof to support the absence.

We award children medals and badges for excellent attendance and punctuality over a term and for over the whole year. Well done and thank you to everyone who continue to help reduce our absences, cooperating with procedures required by the Department for Education (DfE).

What about medical appointments?

Please try to avoid making dental or medical appointments for your child during the school day; if an appointment is absolutely necessary please show your appointment card (preferably in advance) to the school office as evidence for this absence.

What if I need to apply for leave during term time?

Any leave of absence has to be applied for, four weeks in advance, using the appropriate forms from the school office; each case is reviewed individually but please be aware that absence will be authorised in only the most exceptional of circumstances. **Holidays during term time will never be authorised.**

Any unauthorised absence may result in an immediate penalty notice of £80 per parent per child from Islington's Educational Welfare Department.

Support Services

Corinne, Pastoral Lead, has collated some useful services available to parents. This is not an exhaustive list and do continue to contact the school if you require support.

Islington Bright Futures, Early Help 5-19 (school-age to 19 years)

<https://directory.islington.gov.uk/kb5/islington/directory/service.page?id=txWgdPi-Gz0>

Islington

Bright Start Family Support Service

Parents-to-be and parents and carers of children under 5 years

[Find Your Islington | Bright Start Family Support Service](#)



Islington

Benefits and Financial Support

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/benefits-and-financial-support>

Islington Parenting Programmes

[Parenting Programmes in Islington](#)

Support Numbers

Emergency Services

999

Islington Children's Social Care

020 7527 7400

Domestic Violence National Helpline

0808 200 247

NSPCC 0800 800 500

Childli

ne 0800 1111



“ERIC is the national charity dedicated to improving children’s bowel and bladder health.

Our mission is to reduce the impact of continence problems on children and their families.”

The website has lots of information about toileting issues such as toilet anxiety, potty training, bowel and bladder problems. It offers lots of practical advice around how to support your child, webinars and a HELPLINE.

www.eric.org.uk



Free helpline: 0808 801 0343 Mon to Thur, 10am - 2pm