

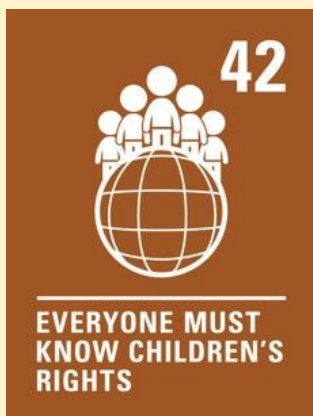
Reaching Out

February 2025

In February our Skill of the Month was **Staying Positive**. Next month, it will be **Creativity**.



February's Right of the Month:



Key Dates

Please check the **school calendar** on the website for upcoming events.



Welcome to this month's newsletter!

I hope that you had a restful half term break and that you are enjoying the early signs of spring.

This month we hosted the first round of the **Debate Mate League**. We are incredibly proud of the children and their impressive debating skills - see Page 2 to find out where we are currently in the League. Thanks to **Michelle** for organising the tournament and to **Martina** and **Kerry** for preparing the children and supporting them in Debate Club.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers at our **Safer Internet Walk-In Friday** at the end of last half term. Keeping our children safe online is a priority for everyone and an ongoing topic that we must all keep up to date with. Thank you to **Toni**, Computing Lead and **Corinne**, Designated Safeguarding Lead for organising the morning. You can read more about trips linked to the Computing curriculum, including the Childnet Safer Internet Day at the BT Tower, Year 2 trip to Halifax Bank and the Children's AI Summit, below.

Quiz Night

Huge thanks to the F&SA for organising another successful Quiz Night. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the event. It will help enormously with our ongoing Windows of Opportunity Campaign.

Green Community Event

Our next Green Event will be on **Sunday 16th March from 2 - 4pm** and will involve activities such as cleaning, tidying and planting to enhance the outdoor environment. I hope to see many of you there!

Global Equality Collective (GEC)

We are proud to be members of the [Global Equality Collective](#) (GEC), a platform committed to transforming the education system by promoting inclusivity and diversity. Our GEC team invite you to learn more about this work on **Friday 28th March at 9am** in the Morris Building.

With best wishes

Sophie

Head Teacher

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.

Debate Mate Tournament

Congratulations to all the children that took part in the Debate Mate Tournament after school on Thursday 6th February. Schools from across London came together to debate the motions:

“This house believes that break time is more important than class time.”

“This house believes that you should pay for not recycling.”

The standard of debate was incredibly high and as always the children shone with their outstanding communication and teamwork skills. In spite of the fierce competition, the teams won 7 of their 8 debates! This means at the end of the first round we are currently:

4th in the National league

3rd in the London league

Well done William Tyndale Primary School Debate Club!



Children's AI Summit

On the 4th February, four year 5 students (Jane, Inaiyah, Teo and Phoenix) went and presented at the Children's AI Summit. This Summit was all about hearing children's voices on their thoughts, worries and ideas when it comes to the use of AI now and in the future.

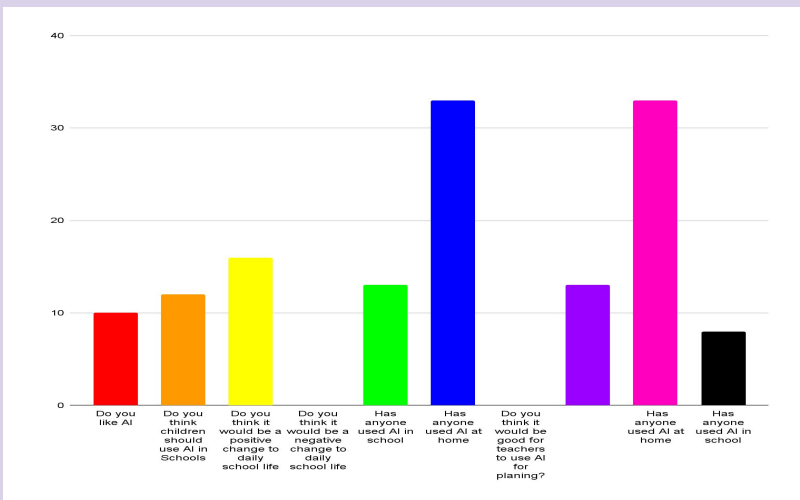


AI in Education

As a group we decided to look at how AI is and will impact education for KS2 students in our school. We chose to ask KS2 (Year 3-6) students about their thoughts as we felt they would have the most knowledge and possibly experience.

We also decided to ask teachers and staff about their thoughts as well because they might also be using AI and will have different opinions.

Prior to the summit, the children completed a survey across our school, for KS2 students and a collection of staff, on their thoughts on AI. They presented their findings on the day to over 300 people! Everyone was so proud and impressed with these children! [If you are interested please follow the link to see what findings the children presented!](#)



Education for AI (Year 3)

AI can be used to make learning more enjoyable for pupils

Views and opinions

AI can be used to help teachers plan lessons so for example: If the class like Arsenal F.C., their teacher can use AI to create a maths lesson about arsenal F.C.

Positives

- AI can be used to make teaching more efficient and enjoyable
- It can be useful to help children with their learning
- It can be used to help people with neurodiversity understand what they are learning

Negatives

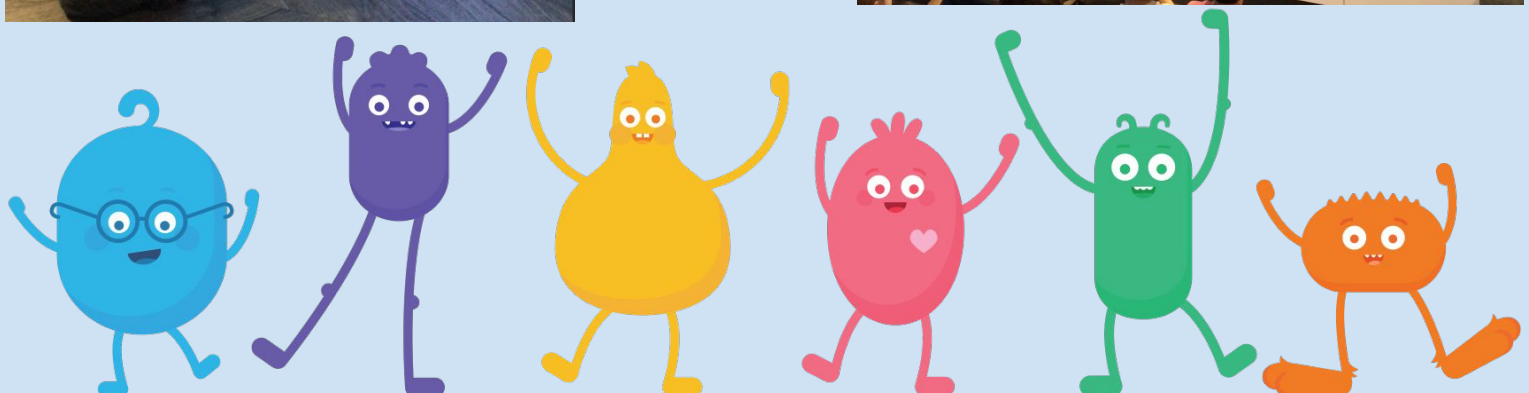
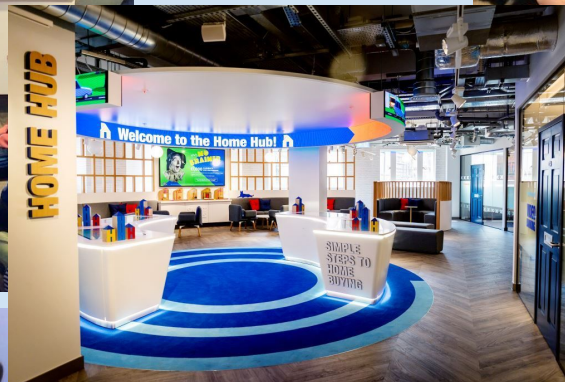
- They can use AI to cheat or use it to generate new ideas and claim it is theirs.
- They can use it in silly or otherwise inappropriate ways

Year 2 Trip to Halifax Bank

Year 2 went on a wonderful trip to Halifax Bank, on 11th February, where they attended a workshop on online safety.

The workshop was led by an ex-police officer, who spoke to the children about the importance of staying safe online, being a responsible digital citizen, and making sure to ask for permission before going online.

The session was linked to our Common Sense Media characters, which the children already know and love!



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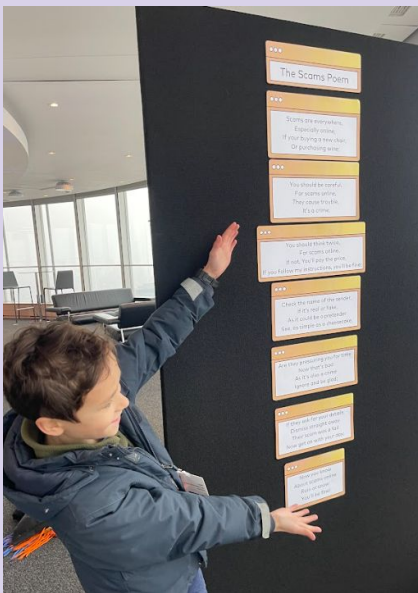
Childnet Safer Internet Day at the BT Tower

On Safer Internet Day, five of our Year 6 Digital Warriors (Freddie, Lynn, Kaia, Hildy and Juliette) went to the BT Tower for the Childnet Safer Internet Day conference.

This event was about putting young people's voices at the heart of online safety and getting the children to present and share their thoughts and ideas on how we can support online safety for all.

Each child had created an activity or item to present to leading experts from companies such as Ofcom, RoBlox, Microsoft, NSPCC and more. All the adults were blown away by the confidence and knowledge the children had on online safety, scams and what we need to ensure safety is at the heart of the future online usage.

Following on from this conference, we were very excited to have Ofcom request to have access to the Scams scratch game, completed by Kaia, to share across their own staff to help show how we can teach and engage people with keeping themselves safe from scamming and phishing! [Please try out the game for yourself here](#)



February Half Term Play Scheme

It was another exciting week at the Play Scheme this half term! The children took part in a range of activities, including doily butterfly art, cake baking, games on the sports pitch and salt dough tea light holders and much more!

"I loved playing with the puffy paint!" - Rafe, Year 1

"I enjoyed having a few hours all to myself or with friends!" - Ariel, Year 5

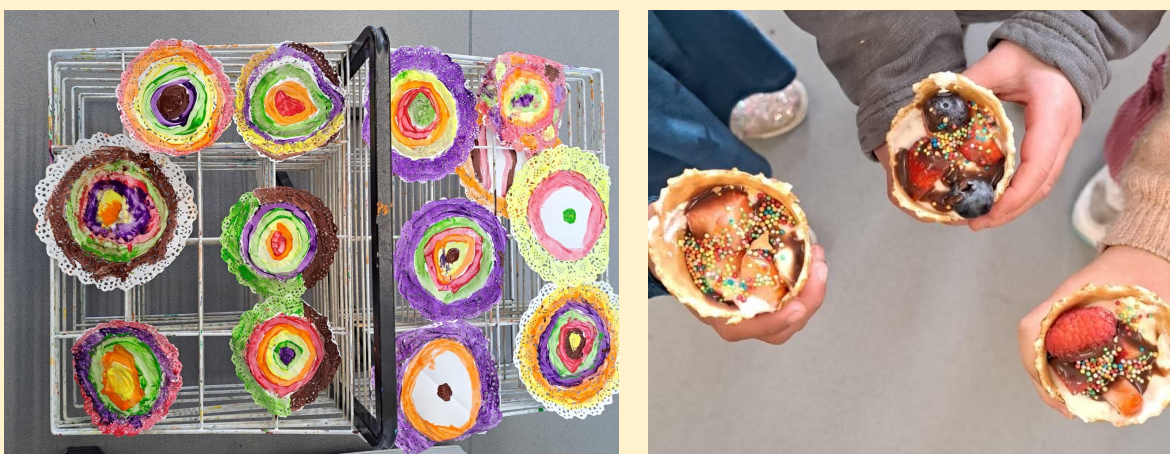
"It was so much fun mixing with other children in different year groups. There are lots of activities - you do lots of exercise and you get to play with your friends." - Bella, Year 2



Enormous thanks to the wonderful team of William Tyndale Staff for a fun-filled week! Thank you to **Nancy, Elvira, Martina, Jessica, Sel, Jo, Chloe, Sunita, Andrew and Vanessa.**

Book your place at the Easter Play Scheme!

We will be running an Easter Play Scheme from Monday 7th April to Friday 11th April 2025. Please see the bulletin email for the booking form. You can also get in touch with Nancy, our Kids' Club and Play Scheme Manager: kidsclub@williamtyndale.islington.sch.uk.



Year 4 Forest School

This term, children in Year 4 have been lucky enough to go to Forest School! The sessions are run by The Garden Classroom in the Wildlife Garden in Highbury Fields. The children have been out in all weather - rain or shine! Wellies and waterproofs have been essential kit!

The children have helped to keep the pond clean, built a shelter, and created woodland sprites with natural materials they have foraged in the garden.

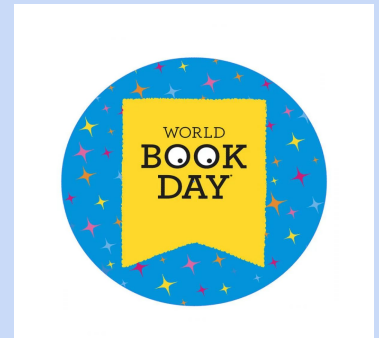
A highlight has been learning how to safely make and tend a fire, and making and baking their own bread on the flames.



World Book Day

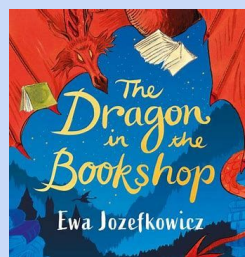
Celebrations, Writing Competition and Book Fair

This year World Book Day will take place on Thursday 6th March. We will be taking our inspiration from the official illustrator for the event; Vivian Truong, author of *City of Dragons*. The children will take part in exciting activities throughout the week that develops their understanding of the role of illustration in storytelling.



We are offering any child who has been inspired by the week's events, the chance to enter a story writing competition. They are encouraged to write their own dragon related story, in any style of fiction eg humour, suspense, graphic novel. Entries of up to 500 words will be welcomed any time before Thursday 27th March and can be handed in to their class teacher, Michelle or Alicen. Winners will be announced, with prizes awarded, in the Summer Term.

On Wednesday 5th March the author Ewa Jozefkiewicz will visit the school and work with the children. **She will be signing books for children.** If you would like to purchase a copy of these at the discounted price of £5, then you can make a payment in your School Money account in advance of the visit, and Ewa will sign it for your child



The Book Fair will be visiting the school in the week commencing Monday 10th March. Please drop in and support this event. The school receives a small share of all books sold which helps us to buy more books for the library. This will be held in the Ground Floor Hall after school and book tokens, which will be handed out next week, can be used towards any purchases.

Skill of the Month

| | |
|--------|--|
| Step 0 | I can tell when I feel positive or negative |
| Step 1 | I can tell when others feel positive or negative |
| Step 2 | I keep trying when something goes wrong |
| Step 3 | I keep trying and stay calm when something goes wrong |
| Step 4 | I keep trying when something goes wrong, and think about what happened |
| Step 5 | I keep trying when something goes wrong and help cheer others up |



Why not try an activity to reflect on the process of *Staying Positive* at home. For more activities navigate to [Homezone | Skills Builder](#)

Set a small goal to help you stay positive throughout the week. For example, you might like to write down one thing you are grateful for each day or tell yourself one thing that you are looking forward to every morning.

You might like to write down your goal and put this reminder somewhere that you will see it each day to remind you.

Reflection Questions

Getting Started: How does this activity make you feel?

Intermediate: How could you use this activity to feel more positive when something goes wrong?

Advanced: How could this help you to look on the bright side of something?

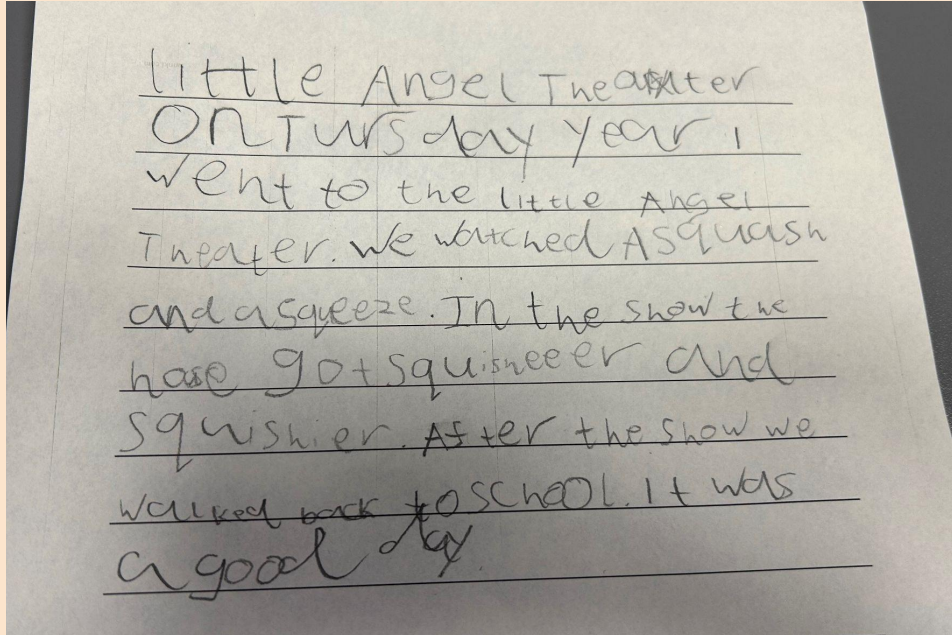
Mastery: How can you manage your emotional response to best support others?



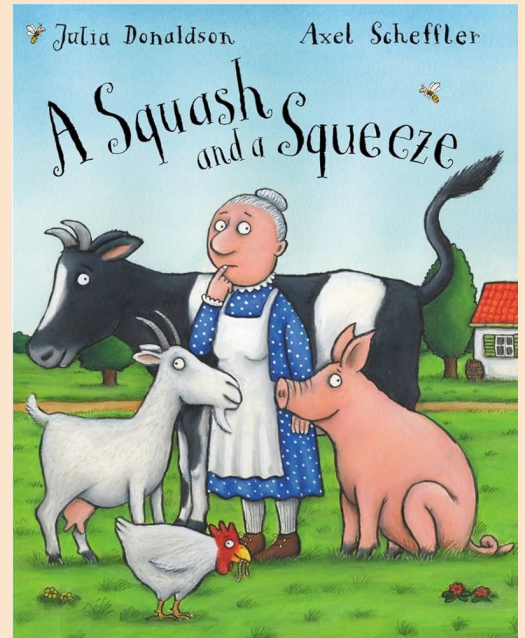
How can we stay calm when something goes wrong?
Encourage your child to try these strategies at home.

Year 1 Trip to Little Angel Theatre

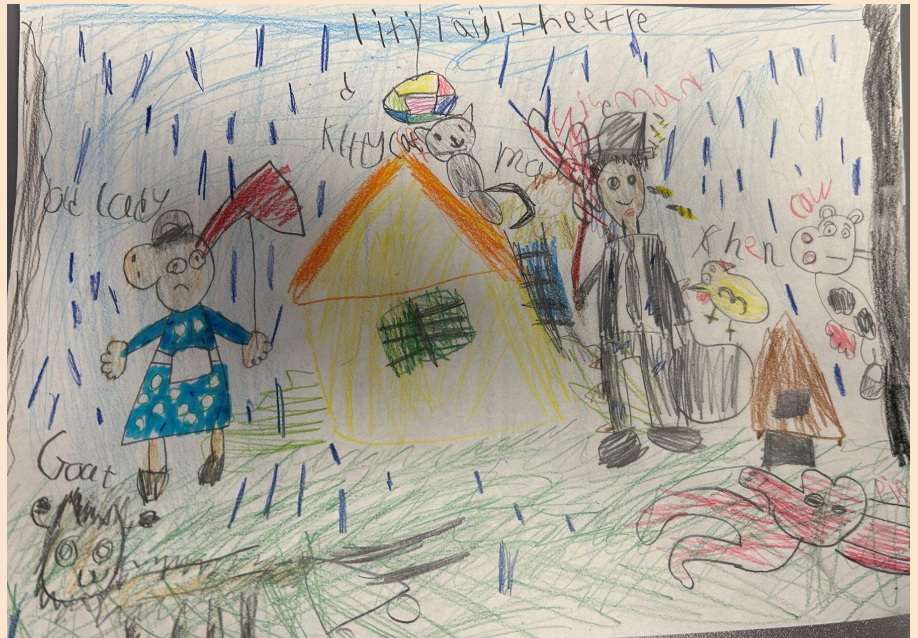
The children in Year 1 had a wonderful time watching A Squash and a Squeeze at the Little Angel Theatre!



By Matthew in Cherry Class



Thank you to **Matthew** for his excellent recount of their trip and to **Edie** and **Amelia** for their beautiful illustration of the story!



By Edie and Amelia in Cherry Class

A Squash and A Squeeze by Julia Donaldson is an engaging story about a lady who feels her house is too small.

It is a brilliant and funny story with an important moral about being grateful for what we have!



Staying Safe Online

One of our top priorities for our whole school community, is our children's mental health and wellbeing. Here are two useful resources to support at home:

Parental controls & privacy settings guides | Internet Matters

Keeping children safe online | NSPCC



Parent and Carer Information Sessions Spring Term 2

Parent Information Conferences

Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th March

Talk to your child's class teacher about their progress and development to date. Meetings will last for 10 minutes and take place in your child's classroom.



Global Equalities Collective (GEC)

Friday 28th March at 9am in the Art Room

The GEC is committed to transforming the education system by promoting inclusivity and diversity. You will find out:

- What GEC is and why we are using it
- Actions we have taken so far
- Our plans for the future

Please sign up using the following link [Global Equalities Collective](#)



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 100% 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