

Friday 8th September 2017

www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Newsletter Number 1

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you all had a good holiday and made the most of the summer sun.

As it's the beginning of the school year, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the children and families who will be joining our school in Nursery and Reception next week. This is a memorable occasion for the children and I hope that they and their families will be very happy at St Joan of Arc. I visited all of the classes on Tuesday and am pleased to report that the school is very settled and the children have come back with a very positive attitude.

As it's the beginning of the year, this newsletter is a bumper issue. Some information will be more useful for our new parents, but can also serve as a reminder for more established families.

Summer Works

We have had a number of works completed during the six week holidays. The playground has been transformed with the newly constructed tube train and outdoor classroom area. The nursery has a new 'pod' in the garden, alongside some new seating areas.

The children were so excited to try these new areas out which will definitely enhance their play and learning experiences. All of these playground additions have been funded by the Parents Association for which we are truly thankful. The cake and uniform stalls will continue to operate from the outdoor classroom area.

Mr Campana, our Site Manager, has also been very busy painting the fence areas, repairing equipment and overseeing the external contractors.

I would like to thank Mr Campana, for overseeing all these works so efficiently.

New Members of Staff

I would like to welcome two newly appointed teachers who have joined us this year: Miss Thomas, who is teaching Class E and Miss Rudd who is teaching in Class K. Both teachers are bringing experience and ideas from other schools which will support us in a bid to continuously improve the education that we provide our children. Miss Tibbs has returned from her maternity leave and is teaching in Class C.

We also welcome three specialist subject teachers: Mr Nelson will be teaching music and leading the school choirs, Mt Triston, PE and Ms Garcia, Spanish.

As advertised in the newsletter published at the end of the academic year, Ms Curtin will also be teaching the violin to children in either small groups or on an individual basis.

If you are interested in your child accessing these lessons, please e-mail Leonie directly for more details on: leoniecurtin@gmail.com

Additional Teaching Support

To ensure that pupils continue to achieve high standards in English and Maths before they transfer to secondary school, we are continuing to provide additional teaching support this year across a number of year groups. In addition to class teachers, Mr Fuiava will be teaching children in Year 4 and Mr Heneghan will support in Year 6. The support given may be provided within the established classroom setting or be delivered by the additional teacher taking small groups of children out of class at the direction of the class teacher. Children in years R and 1 will receive additional support for language and reading development by a member of staff who specialises in this area.

Parent Curriculum Meetings

In order to keep you informed about what the children will be learning in their year groups and how learning is organised, we are hosting parents meetings for each phase within the school on the following dates:

- Friday 22nd September – Years 4, 5 & 6
- Friday 29th September – Years 2 & 3
- Friday 6th October – EYFS and Year 1

These will be led by Mr Heneghan the teacher in charge of each phase and either the Maths or English manager. All sessions will start at 9.00- 9.45am and will take place in the large hall.

Homework

This week teaching staff focused on reading, so your child will have a new reading book with guidance on how you can support at home by Friday. Children are expected to read every night. In addition, they will receive maths and spelling homework on a Monday which will need to be completed by Friday. This is to allow family time at the weekend.

Maths homework

We are no longer using active learn as part of the maths homework as it doesn't meet the level of challenge now set in the new maths curriculum.

The class teachers will continue to set weekly homework every Monday, based on the area of the maths curriculum which is being taught. This will be in the following format:

	National Curriculum Statement	All students		
		Fluency	Reasoning	Problem Solving
Place Value	Count in steps of 2, 3 and 5 from 0 and in tens from any number, forward and backward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the sequence: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, _____ 15, 20, 25, 30, _____ 90, 80, 70, _____ 21, 18, 15, _____ • Fill in the missing numbers 10 _____ 20 25 30 _____ 40 • Circle the odd one out: 20, 18, 17, 14, 12, 10 3, 8, 13, 18, 23, 27, 33, 12, 15, 18, 20, 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot the mistake: What is wrong with this sequence of numbers? 55, 50, 45, 35 • True or False I start at 0 and count in 3's. I say the number 14. • What comes next? $21 + 5 = 26$ $26 + 5 = 31$ $31 + 5 = 36$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry has made a sequence of numbers using six number cards. Here are three of the cards: can you think of two sequences Harry could have made?  • A spider is climbing a 30m building. Each day it climbs 5m and slides back down 1m. How many days will it take to reach the top? • Sid is counting in 2's, Luke is counting in 3's. Sid says 'If we add our numbers together as we count we can make a new pattern'. What pattern do they make? What happens if Sid counts in 5's and Luke counts in 10's?

The first column explains the overall weekly learning objective. Children generally need to become fluent in a concept before they can move onto reasoning and then problem solving based on this concept. So your child should tackle the fluency strategies before applying their skills to the content in the reasoning and problem solving columns.

This is a resource for your child to practice their maths skills at home and does not need to be returned to school. However, this will be revisited with the class teacher at the start of Friday's maths lesson. Should you have any questions please ask your child's class teacher.

Maths Number Facts and Times Tables

The curriculum places a big focus on children knowing their Number Bonds as well as their times tables up to 12×12 . This knowledge is imperative for all children to develop and become fluent in because it is essential within many different mathematical areas – written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; problem solving; fractions, decimals and percentages; measure; and money to name a few.

Starting in the Early Years, children begin to learn their number bonds to 5 and 10. This continues into Key Stage 1 and these should be secure by the end of Year 2. By the end of Year 4, the expectation is that all children should know their times tables.

The order in which children should learn their times tables is;

Year 2 – 2, 3, 5, 10

Year 3 – 3, 4, 6, 8

Year 4 – 7, 9, 11, 12

Year 5 and 6 - Revisit and revise all of the times tables and focus on recalling fluently the division facts; e.g. $4 \times 6 = 24$; $24 \div 6 = 4$

Useful websites to use at home

Below are some website which have fun games and activities which you could use at home to support your child in an exciting way.

General Maths Games:

<http://www.coolmath-games.com/1-number-games>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/problem-solving>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/countdown/>

Number bonds:

<http://www.ictgames.com/numberFacts.htm>

http://www.mathplayground.com/number_bonds_10.html

<http://mathszone.co.uk/number-facts/number-bonds-to-10/>

<http://mathszone.co.uk/number-facts/number-bonds-to-20/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

Times tables:

<http://mathszone.co.uk/number-facts-xd/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

<http://www.maths-games.org/times-tables-games.html>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy-multiplication.html>

Calculation:

http://www.mathplayground.com/index_addition_subtraction.html

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/number/addition_subtraction/play/

http://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/category/9/addition_and_subtraction

<http://www.multiplication.com/games/division-games>

Pupil Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child arrived for school on time and had excellent attendance over the course of the last year. Recent research has shown that a child with 95% attendance or less will be more likely to be within the borderline GCSE 3/4 grade at secondary level. It is therefore imperative that every effort is made for children to be at school every day.

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.50am. School registration is electronic, so arrival after this time will result

in your child being recorded as late.

Just a reminder of the protocol regarding pupil absences: please call the pupil absence line before 9.30am, press option one and leave a message. If the school is not informed of your child's absence, a member of the office staff will call you to see where your child is. This is in line with current Safeguarding guidance.

Regarding holidays during the school term, these are granted in exceptional circumstances and only with prior permission from the Headteacher. Please refer to our Attendance Policy which is on the school's website.

School Dinners / Healthy Eating

To ensure the correct quantities of fresh food are ordered, parents are asked to select either school dinners or packed lunches for a half term. The next date for changing is Tuesday 31st October.

The children in the infants receive a piece of fruit daily, provided by the Government's fruit scheme.

Please feel free to send junior and nursery children with their own fruit so that they are not starving by lunch time!

For those children who bring a packed lunch to school, we would like to remind parents that in order to encourage healthy eating, sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted in packed lunches. Children's packed lunches should be nutritionally balanced, providing the required sustenance for the afternoon's learning. Please remember that as some children have nut allergies, we ask that packed lunches are free from nuts.

All children are encouraged to bring a named bottle of water to school, which they can have during class time.

As healthy eating is a topical issue, and an increasing number of children have a range of intolerances/allergies, children are not permitted to bring in sweets or cakes to celebrate their birthday. However, we do appreciate that it is important to the children that their special day is marked in some way, and so they will receive a special birthday sticker from their class teacher.

Medical Issues

Mrs Doogan is the school's Pupil Welfare Assistant and is available for parents to see if you need to

discuss any medical issues regarding your child's health (in particular the use of long term medication). If your child is returning to school in plaster, please make an appointment to see Mrs Doogan prior to their return, as special arrangements have to be put in place.

School Uniform

The children have all returned to school looking very smart in their school uniforms. It is much appreciated that **everyone** follows the school uniform guidelines, which are attached for your information. A reminder to ensure that all uniform is labelled to reduce the valuable time lost in reuniting children and items of uniform!

Please read the guidance on hair styles which is also part of our uniform policy.

The website address required for ordering uniform is: www.YourSchoolUniform.com

Playground Protocol

Children are required to walk on the school playground with their scooters and bicycles before and after school. Parking is provided in front of the football pitch. Climbing on the playground equipment is not permitted for any children. Dogs are **NOT** permitted on the school premises and should be left well away from the school's entrances.

Parental Concern

If you are concerned with any aspect of your child's education or friendship/potential bullying incidents, your first port of call needs to be the class teacher, who will do their best to see you as soon as they can. If you feel that your concern has not been resolved, we have Phase Managers who are in charge of year groups who will be more than happy to meet you. Miss Newson is in charge of EYFS and Year 1, Miss Newman, Years 2 and 3 and Mr Shreeves, Years 4, 5 and 6. Appointments can be made to see these members of staff by phoning the school office.

Secondary Transfer Meeting

There will be a secondary transfer meeting for Year 6 parents on **Wednesday 13th September at 9.00am** in the large hall. Parents of pupils in **Year 5** are also very welcome to attend if they wish, as it is a good idea to do some preliminary school visits prior to Year 6. Information about Secondary School Open Days will be displayed on the notice-board outside the Green Room.

Recycling outside toys

We have much younger children accessing our nursery this year on a full time basis, some of whom only turned three in August. We are updating our equipment to ensure the younger children's needs are met but would really appreciate any donations of Little Tikes Cozy Ride on cars, petrol stations, lawnmowers or shopping carts and hard wearing pushchairs.

So, if your child has finished using these at home and you are looking to recycle them, we can make very good use of them in the nursery.

Term Dates:

Listed below are the school dates for the year. Please keep them in a safe place for your reference.

They are also available via the school's website: www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

The school diary for this term is attached and will also be available on the school website.

I look forward to working with you and your family this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Campbell". The script is cursive and fluid.

Miss. C. Campbell
Headteacher

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2017 – 2018

Autumn Term 2017

Monday 4th September - Friday 22nd December 2017 - Close at 2pm

Half Term -Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October

Inset Days – Monday 4th September and Monday 30th October

Spring Term 2018

Monday 8th January - Thursday 29th March - Close at 2pm

Half Term – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Inset Day – Monday 19th February

Summer Term 2018

Friday 13th April - Friday 23rd July - Close at 2pm

May Day - Monday 1st May 2018

Half Term – Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June

Inset Day - Friday 13th April and Monday 23rd July