

Friday 7th September 2018

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 full time 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 this week 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.

New Members of Staff

I would like to welcome several newly appointed teachers who have joined us this year: Ms O'Brien, who is teaching in the Nursery, Ms Nicou - Class B, Ms Dwyer - Class D, Ms Ward - Class F, Mr Gordge - Class H and Ms Gyles who is teaching in Class M. All of the new staff bring experience and ideas from other schools which will support us in a bid to continuously improve the education that we provide our children.

We also welcome Ms McAskie will be teaching across all year groups whilst the class teacher has their planning time.

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

Baby news!

We are delighted to announce that Ms O'Connor gave birth to a baby girl (Alice) in August. Mother and baby are both doing well.

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 the class teachers, Mr Heneghan will be teaching children in Year 5 and Mr Fuiava 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 28th September – Years 4, 5 & 6
- Friday 5th October – Years 2 & 3
- Friday 12th October – EYFS and Year 1

These will be led by 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. It is important that all children, including those in the upper juniors, discuss their reading with an adult exploring the themes and characters within their chosen text. Reading records should be signed by a parent daily to confirm this has taken place. 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 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 x 12. This knowledge is imperative for all children to develop and become fluent in as 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 just a few areas.

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 websites 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>

Mathematical Reference:

www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com

Pupil Attendance / Punctuality / Appointments

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. The school day starts at 8.50am and as registration is electronic, arrival after this time will result in your child being recorded as late.

Just a reminder of the protocol regarding pupil absences which includes their attendance at appointments: 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 (if your child's current attendance is above 98%) 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 30th 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 an important 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.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is now open and has a few spaces left. If you would like to access this provision, information is available on the school's website.

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.

Access to the School Building

In order to ensure the security of the school building and the safeguarding of pupils, all visitors to the school building must enter via the main office and be signed in. There is no entrance via the playground for visitors. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Children becoming more independent – please help!

I spoke to the children in assembly on Tuesday about becoming more independent and taking responsibility for organising themselves before they leave home in the morning. As they are at school now, they are old enough to remember to bring everything with them that they need for the school day on arrival. You may be surprised to know that the office staff have approximately thirty interruptions per day from parents dropping off 'forgotten possessions'. These items then need to be delivered to class, which disrupts the children's learning and adds to the office staff's busy workload. This term we are starting a new regime - if your child has forgotten something in the morning, they will need to do without it and will hopefully learn to remember next time.

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. Ms Tibbs 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 **Tuesday 18th 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.

School Building Project update

You will remember that I communicated in a newsletter before the holidays that the school had successfully secured some funding to update and extend the small hall. The plans include internal toilets and a separate entrance for breakfast and after school club. In the most recent communication to us, Islington Planning Department have stipulated that we are required to hold a public consultation. A consultation took during the summer holidays and the second one, which is being led by the school's architect, is on **Monday 10th September** from 9.00- 10.30 in our small hall. If you can spare a little time to view our plans and record your views, it would be much appreciated.

It is worth noting, that if we are unable to secure planning permission, the funds secured will need to be returned to the Department of Education.

Parent Coffee Morning

We are hosting a coffee morning for both new and established families on **Friday 21st September at 8.50** in the small hall. This is a good opportunity to catch up from the summer holidays or if you are new to the school and opportunity to meet parents in a similar position to you. Pre-schoolers are very welcome too.

Parents' Association -

We are fortunate to have a very active parental body that are very generous with their time and skills, resulting in large sums of money being raised for the school.

Last year, all school trips (including the theatre trip for KS2 and a visiting theatre company for KS1) were paid (either in full or in part), by the PA. The final payment was made on the outdoor classroom, tube train and nursery playground which was installed in the summer of 2017.

Our current PA members have been supporting the school for many years and would really appreciate new parents coming forward to support in any capacity. Some of these parents now have children in secondary schools and really have done their turn! If you can help to keep this wonderful association going in any capacity, there is a PA meeting on **Friday 14th September** at 8.50am. All parents/ carers welcome.

I am sure that you all have benefitted from the fantastic used uniform stall in the past. From speaking to colleagues, I think this is unique to our school. The parents who started this up and have run it for the last four years are standing down; so if you can help in any capacity to keep this facility going, please speak to Elena who will be running the next uniform stall on **Friday 14th September** from 8.30am.

Another important date for your diary is the PA Annual General Meeting on **Friday 16th November at 8.50am** in the staffroom. As well as reviewing the PA activities over the year, this is the meeting at which the PA committee will be elected and key volunteer roles confirmed so please come along and show your support. Formal notice of the AGM and more information will be sent out shortly. All parents / carers are welcome. A crèche will be provided for pre-schoolers at both of the above meetings.

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

Clare Campbell

Miss. C. Campbell
Headteacher

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018 – 2019

Autumn Term 2018

Tuesday 4th September - Friday 21st December 2018 - Close at 2pm

Half Term - Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October

Inset Days – Monday 3rd September and Monday 29th October 2018

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January - Friday 5th April - Close at 2pm

Half Term – Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February

Inset Days – Friday 15th February

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April - Friday 18th July - Close at 2pm

May Day - Monday 6th May 2019

Half Term – Monday 27th – Friday 31st May

Inset Day - Monday 22nd July and 23rd July