

Friday 6th October 2017

www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

www.st-joanofarcpa.org

Dear Parents / Carers,

It seems hard to believe that we have already completed the first five weeks of the Autumn Term! Our new pupils in the Nursery and Reception are very settled, and are very much part of our school community.

We have had a very busy start to the school year. The children have started their new curriculum topics and most of the curriculum meetings for parents have taken place. If you were unable to attend the meetings led by Mr Heneghan, you should have received an e-mail with a summary of the curriculum that your child is being taught (these are also available on the school website). The information slides from the presentations are also available on the website under the Class News/ Parents' Workshops section.

In addition, staff will be starting to run their clubs at lunchtime after the half term break, these include: chess, gardening, Mini Vinnies, origami, art club, science and sewing. We have encouraged all children in the juniors to participate in a club and will try and accommodate their preferences where possible. If your child has not signed up for one, perhaps you could encourage them to do so.

Lunchtime Clubs

Every day	Skipping Club for infants and Juniors	Morning Break- top playground.
Monday Spring and Summer Terms:	Sewing and Crafts - Years 6 Au/5 Spr Art Club – Years 3/4 Board games- Years 4/5 Newspaper Club 5/6 Ks1 English/ Blogging club Ks2 English/ Blogging club	Purple Room: 1-1:30 Green Room :12:50- 1:15 Class N: 1-1:30 KS2 Landing :1-1:25 Computer Room: 12:30-1:55 Computer Room: 1:00-1:25
Tuesday Summer Term	Infant Origami Club* Year 5/6 Drawing Chess - Years 3/4 Y6 Drama	Class E: 12:30-1:00 Green Room:1-1:25 Music Room:1-1:30 Class M: 1-1-25
Wednesday	Year 2 Sports Club Year 2 Choir Gardening Club -Year 3 Science Club- Years 4/5 Film Club - Years 5/6 Mini Vinnies (fortnightly) – 4/5/6	Astroturf: 12:30-12:55 Music Room: 12:30-12:55 Garden: 1-1:25 Class J Class: 1-1:25 Class H: 1:1:25 Green Room 12:50-1:25
Thursday	Quiz club – Years 4/5/6 Chess - Years 5/6 Digital Leaders- 5/6	Green Room: 1:00-1:25 Music Room: 1-1:25 Class 6N: 1-1:25
Friday	Spanish Club**- Years 5/6 Senior Choir***- years 5/6	Green Room: 1-1:25 Music Room:1-1:25

*Origami club will be offered to infant classes in the following order:

Autumn 2: 2F, Spring 1: 2E, Spring 2: 1C, Summer 1:1D.

** Spanish Club will be offered with priority to year 6 pupils.

*** Auditions for the senior Choir will take place on Friday the 6th, 13th and 20th October

News:

Mini Vinnies

This year Miss O'Connor has taken over the Mini Vinnies. Fifty two children put themselves forward for one of these roles, affiliated to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

St Joan of Arc Mini Vinnie members are:

6M – Ellie & Amelia,

5K – Erin & Grace,

5L – Scarlet May & Alex M,

4I – Erin J & Leo,

4J – Cormac & Bethlem,

3H -Rebecca & Daniel,

3G –Lydia & Nina

They have selected their first fund raising initiative which is already underway in St Joan of Arc Church, whereby they are collecting specific donations for The Margins Drop In (based at Union Chapel) where there is also a night shelter in the winter months.

Please see the attached flyer which gives you information about their first fund raising initiative.

We will be having a special assembly on **Monday 13th November at 9.00am** to hand over donated items and for the children to receive their Mini Vinnie Badges. Parents of the children in this role are warmly invited to attend this assembly.

Digital Leaders

The SJA Digital Leaders will be involved in lots of exciting projects, campaigns and assemblies to raise the profile and importance of online safety this year, led by Miss O'Doherty. From over 30 applications, we managed to whittle it down to 10 successful applicants!

2017-18 Digital Leaders are:

Sorcha (N) – Senior Digital Leader; Natalia (N) – Senior Digital Leader; Andres (M); Edward (L); Amaechi (L); Grace (K); Alexandra (K); Beatrice (K); Angelica (L); Meghan (L).

The digital leaders will be going on their first computing trip today Friday, 6th October, where they will have the chance to explore various technological themed workshops at Base KX.

We will be having a special assembly on **Monday 16th October at 9.00am** to introduce the digital leaders and present their badges. Parents of the children in this role are warmly invited to attend this assembly.

School Houses

The school houses have seen a recent lift in profile. In order to streamline a whole school rewards system and encourage camaraderie in mixed year groups, all classes operate a system whereby children can be rewarded in house points. They can be rewarded for anything from an excellent mathematical calculation to displaying an act of kindness. These points are tallied up and a weekly winner is announced in Monday's assembly. The winning

house is granted an extra playtime in the week. At the end of the term, the house that has amassed the most wins will be treated to a special prize.

School houses will also be incorporated in school events throughout the year; including Sports Day and St. Joan of Arc Day.

House captains (Yr 6) and vice captains (Yr 2) were elected at the beginning of the year and their duties include points collection, Arc award monitoring and leadership duties during school events.

The captains will be presented with their badges later on **Tuesday 31st October at 9.00am** and their tenure is for the whole year. Parents of House and Vice Captains are invited to attend this assembly.

Congratulations to the following elected captains:

BENEDICT	DOMREMY	FLEUR DE LYS	ROUEN
CAPTAINS Olivia N- B (N) Izaak (M)	CAPTAINS Francesco (M) Olivia D- W (N)	CAPTAINS Andres (M) Olivia S (N)	CAPTAINS Leo (N) Grace (M)
VICE CAPTAINS Andrea (F) Linus (E)	VICE CAPTAINS Nicole (F) Gabriel (E)	VICE CAPTAINS Clara (F) Joel (E)	VICE CAPTAINS Jimmy (F) Elliot (E)

Events to come:

Dan the Skipping Man

...is visiting our school and holding workshops for all year groups on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th October. The aim of these days is to improve children's skipping techniques, which will enable them to skip independently and improve their overall fitness levels. The workshops are being funded by the PA but if you are interested in purchasing a solar skipping rope for your child, they will be on sale in the outdoor classroom at the end of the workshop days.

School Photographer

The children will be having individual/school sibling photographs taken on **Monday 9th October**. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform. The photograph proofs will be sent home with your child about one week later (Tuesday 17th October). If you order on line during the following two weeks there will be no posting and packing charge and your photographs will be sent back to school after half term. For any photographs ordered after two weeks there will be a £2.95 posting and packing charge and they will be sent directly to your home address.

International Evening

The next event organised by the PA is the SJA International Evening on **Friday 13th October from 6.30 to 9.30 pm**. It should be a great evening for the whole family including a disco, raffle, bar (for the adults), soft drinks, sweet stall and glo-sticks and we hope as many of you as possible will come along. The PA would like each family bring a national dish to share (or entry is £5 per family) - starters, mains, salads, sides, puddings or baking- everything is welcome.

Parents' Association –AGM

Another important date for your diaries is the PA Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 8th November at 7 pm** 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 has already been sent out. All parents / carers are welcome.

Unfortunately we can't cater for children at the AGM, although you are welcome to bring babies if necessary.

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 first payment was made on the outdoor classroom, tube train and nursery playground update which was installed in the summer holidays. This is a two year project and so any funds raised this year will go towards these updates.

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, please either attend the AGM meeting or leave your details in the school office and we will pass them on to the relevant person.

Parents' Evening

Individual consultations with class teachers will take place on **Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th November from 3.40-6.20pm.**

Appointments can be made using the on-line booking system introduced last year. You will be able to book an appointment from Tuesday 31st October, a letter with instructions will be sent to you the week before half term.

Children's books will be available for viewing, so it is advisable to arrive about ten minutes before your consultation so that you can have a look at the work your child has been doing this term. Nursery parent consultations will take place in the Green Room – main school building.

For security reasons, entry and exit for parents' evenings is via the main door on Northolme Road.

We will also be conducting a parents' survey during these evenings to ascertain your perceptions of the school and suggestions of how we can further improve.



Welcome to SJA Tech Spot – a brand new section of the SJA newsletter to keep you updated with our latest Computing and Online Safety news!

We hope that you find this small section informative and useful.

Over the summer holidays, the children's commissioner started a campaign which likened consumption of social media and screen time to junk food and encouraged families to consider the #Digital5ADay approach. This approach has 5 key ideas to maintaining a healthy balance when using technology:

- Connect
- Be Active

- Get Creative
- Give to others
- Be Mindful

You can find out lots more information about this campaign here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2017/08/06/digital-5-a-day>

At SJA we love to focus on positive technology but it is also important to remember to maintain a healthy life balance between on and off-screen time!

Lastly, we are looking for a committed volunteer to support us with Code Club this year. If you have an interest in coding and are willing and able to dedicate a few hours each week (during the school day) to support us with this exciting initiative please get in contact with Miss O'Doherty.

Lost Property

We are aware that a number of children have already misplaced their jumpers and coats this term and we understand how frustrating and annoying this is for you. We are doing our best during the school day to ensure that clothing items are returned to their owners, which is obviously easier to do if they are named.

Mr Campana is in the process of constructing a new lost property cupboard which will be placed on the playground beside the large hall. This should make it easier for you to look for any items that have been lost rather than trying to get to the current cupboard which is inside the school building.

We will remind the children regularly about taking responsibility for their clothing items.

School Half Term Holidays

The school closes on **Friday 20th October at 3.25pm** for one week. The Extended School service will be open as normal after school on Friday.

We have a staff training day on Monday 30th October and so the school re-opens for pupils on: Tuesday 31st October 8.50am.

Yours Sincerely



Miss. C. Campbell
Headteacher