

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
[www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](http://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk)

Newsletter Number1

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.

### **Thank you for your support**

The staff really appreciated your kind words and support regarding the sad passing of Ms Burns.

The children were a real credit to you at her funeral and Ms Burns would have felt very proud of them.

### **New Members of Staff and staff changes to some classes**

I would like to welcome two newly appointed teachers who have joined us this year: Ms Farrell, who is teaching in Class 4I and Mr McCormick who is teaching in Class 6M. Ms Vassello who was due to teach in Class 3H had unplanned surgery during the summer holidays and so is recuperating at home. Mr Vallejo and Mr Fuiava will be covering this class in her absence until further notice.

There have also been minor changes to the Teaching Assistants responsibilities: Ms Convey is now in Class G, Ms Cumpstey – Class H and Ms Bowden is in Year 5.

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](mailto:leoniecurtin@gmail.com)

### **Baby news!**

We are delighted to announce that Ms Gyles gave birth to a baby girl (Imogen) 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, Ms Connolly will be teaching children in Year 6 and Ms Moriarity will be supporting some children with their reading in Years 1 and 3.

### **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 27<sup>th</sup> September – Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Years 2 & 3

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Reading meeting**

Our English consultant, Martin Galway is leading a parent's workshop on how to support children with their reading at home on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 9am**. Martin has amazing knowledge on the whole reading process and has lots of ideas of how you can engage your child and become more interested in reading at home. This is well worth attending if you can spare the time and will last about 45 minutes.

### **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. 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://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.mathplayground.com/index_addition_subtraction.html)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/number/addition\\_subtraction/play/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/number/addition_subtraction/play/)

[http://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/category/9/addition\\_and\\_subtraction](http://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/category/9/addition_and_subtraction)

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

### **Mathematical Reference:**

[www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com](http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com)

## **The Arc Newspaper**

Towards the end of last term, some of our current Year Five pupils, rather than winding down for the summer holidays, were busy investigating, interviewing and editing. The fruits of their labour was the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of THE ARC newspaper published in July. Independent of their school learning, they collaborated to produce a paper packed with athletics reports, book reviews, comic strips, hard hitting current affairs reports and interviews with certain members of staff. It is lovely to see children applying their English skills in such a creative way and to such good effect. Well done to Alastair, Arty, Tom (the editorial team) and to the contributing writers- Arthur, Jake, Sebastian and Yasmina in Year Five, who were ably assisted by Annabel in Year Three.

## **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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Breakfast Club/French Lessons**

Florence Guérin, director and founder of Coucou Loulou, will continue to offer French classes at St Joan of Arc in September. The lessons are geared towards absolute beginners or children with very basic notions of French and will take place one morning per week, from 8.00 am to 8.45 am.

Tuesday: Reception – Year 2

Wednesday: Year 2 – 4

Thursday: Year 4 -6

Florence is a French native speaker and qualified Modern Languages teacher who has taught in Outstanding London schools for the past 11 years. She launched her own language school, Coucou Loulou, in September 2017; her vision is to enthuse everyone about foreign languages and she teaches through play, puppetry, crafts and songs.

If you would like your child to join these extremely popular classes, please click on the link below:

[www.coucouloulou.com/sja](http://www.coucouloulou.com/sja) and use the password BonjourSJA (case sensitive) to book a spot for your child.

Please then fill in a contact form:

<https://forms.gle/K4Mn6z4zoxkATye47>

If you book your child into French club you will also need to book them into the school's breakfast club, forms are available from the school office or from the school website, the cost is £4 per day.

### **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.

### **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. 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.

### **Parent Coffee Morning**

We are hosting a coffee morning for both new and established families on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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. They also funded the new outside covered shelter for Year R to enable the children to access this area in all weathers.

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 13<sup>th</sup> September at 8.50am. All parents/ carers welcome.

Another important date for your diary is the PA Annual General Meeting on **Friday 15th 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](http://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 signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Miss. C. Campbell  
Headteacher

## **SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019 – 2020**

### *Autumn Term 2019*

Tuesday 3rd September - Friday 20th December 2019 - Close at 2pm

Half Term -Monday 21st – Friday 25th October

Inset Days – Monday 2nd September and Monday 28th October

### *Spring Term 2020*

Tuesday 7th January - Friday 3rd April - Close at 2pm

Half Term – Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Inset Day – Monday 6th January

### *Summer Term 2020*

Monday 20th April - Friday 17th July - Close at 2pm

May Day - Friday 8th May 2020

Half Term – Monday 25th – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

Inset Days - Friday 22nd May and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020