

Wednesday 13th June 2018
www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Newsletter Number 10

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we prepare for our final half term of the year, I have listed some of the events to come, as well as the latest school news.

PA BBQ/Auction

This wonderful evening raised **£10,256** which is a real credit to all of those involved. We are very fortunate to have such a proactive parental body. The children, staff and governors really appreciate all the effort which goes into raising money for the school. Your hard work, support and efforts are very much appreciated. The money raised from this evening will go towards the installation of the 'Covered Shelter' which was installed last year.

Sports Day –Thursday 28th June

This will take place at Finsbury Park athletics track from 9.15 – 12.00pm. Please bring your children straight to Finsbury Park running track for 9.15am. If you are unable to do this, children need to be dropped off at school at 8.30am and members of staff will walk down to the park with them. Please see the separate letter attached.

Summer Fete – Saturday 30th June

This will take place from **12.00 – 3.00pm**. The fete is completely volunteer-run and open to the community, it features nearly 30 stalls including pottery, last man standing, face painting, hook a duck, a photo booth, raffle, jumble stall, food and more. This year will feature free live magic shows and football tournament! More important info below:

Call for Fete Volunteers! It takes over 150 people to run and we are half way there, but we still need a lot more volunteers. We invite all parents & carers to sign up to help support this amazing event. Please click on the link <http://signup.com/go/VmnFyRH> to see a full list of activities and spots to fill. Choose a specific activity or simply volunteer to be a flexible helper on either Shift 1 (11:30-1:30pm) or Shift 2 (1:30-3:30pm). We have split all activities into 2 shifts to ensure you have plenty of time to enjoy all the Fete has to offer.

Collection for the various retail stalls: a call for gently used clothes in great condition, bric a brac, toys, second hand books & CDs for the various retail stalls at the fete. Please leave any unwanted items (in functional and good condition) at the front office in the school starting the week of Monday June 26th.

Stripey Bags - You will notice PA volunteers handing out stripey bags at school pick-up soon, the objective of this is that they are to be partially filled at home with sweets (not chocolate) or small toys (think of all those party bag fillers you want to get rid of!!) and returned to school the week of June 26th to be sold at fete.

Assembly for Jimmy – Years 5 and 6 –Thursday 5th July

Jimmy Mizen was a sixteen-year old schoolboy from Lewisham, south east London who lost his life in an unprovoked attack in a bakery in 2008. His parents made national headlines when immediately after the murder of Jimmy, they spoke of compassion rather than revenge. Since that day, they have worked

tirelessly with young people across the country sharing Jimmy's story and delivering programmes of Forgiveness and peace. Margaret (Jimmy's mother) will be visiting our school to speak to Years 5 and 6. During the talk, Margaret will deal with themes such as forgiveness, anger, consequences, peace and change; all for a safer community. We thought this would benefit Years 5 and 6, especially in the current climate.

The children in Years 5 and 6 will be allowed to wear non-uniform clothing on that day and we are asking for a donation of £1 which we will donate to the 'For Jimmy' organisation, helping them to continue their positive work with young children in London.

We look forward to the positive lessons our children can take from this experience, as well as being able to donate to this wonderful organisation.

Year 6 – Leaving celebrations

This year we will be having a celebration assembly for Year 6 pupils on **Monday 16th July at 9.00am**.

This is our opportunity to thank the children for their contribution to our school and wish them well in the next stage of their education. They will also be presented with a gift, funded by the Parents' Association. Parents of year 6 pupils are warmly invited to attend.

The Year 6 Disco will take place on **Thursday 19th July from 6.30-8.30pm**. This is an event that the children really do look forward to but relies on parental support. If you are able to help with the setting up of the hall and having a subtle presence at the disco (strictly no parental dancing), please leave your details with the school office.

The 'Leavers' Mass' will take place on **Friday 20th July at 9.15am** and will be led by the children in year 6. Seats will be reserved at the front of the church for parents from this year group.

Breakfast Club opening in September

A reminder that Breakfast Club is opening in September. Information and application forms are available on our school website www.st-joanoafarc.islington.sch.uk

Year Group Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 21st June to take year group photographs, please ensure your child is wearing their correct school uniform on that day. If you do not want your child to appear in these group photographs please let the office know in advance.

Moving on

If your child is leaving SJA at the end of the school year (and is **not** in Year 6), please could you inform the school office in writing as soon as is possible. We also need to know the school they are transferring to, so that we can complete local authority records.

Staff News

It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this academic year. Some years we have more staff moving on than others, and this is one of those bumper years. Once you have digested the list below, you will realise that that they are all leaving for very good reasons.

Ms Moriarity, who has been teaching for over thirty years and has dedicated the last twelve of those to SJA, has decided that now is the time to take early retirement. After dedicating most of her working life to teaching children in Catholic Schools in North London, this is something to be celebrated. It is very rare to find a teacher who has worked for so many years in the classroom with such positivity and energy. We have been very fortunate to have had such a hardworking member of staff who has worked tirelessly for the children in her care and contributed significantly towards the development of the whole school. We wish Miss Moriarity all the best in what will hopefully be a more relaxing future, with plenty of holidays out of term time!

Miss Newson, who has been at our school since 2010 and has been teaching in the infants has been appointed as an Assistant Headteacher in a Primary School in Wandsworth. This promotion is well deserved and is a reflection of the hard work that she has put into developing herself as an excellent teacher and leader over the years. We wish Miss Newson all the best in the next stage of her career.

Miss O'Doherty will be taking her lovely smile, calm demeanor and excellent teaching skills to Ireland. Parents of Year 5 will know that she got married in half term and so with the wedding ring came a change of home too. Many Congratulations are extended to Miss O'Doherty and her husband, Alan, and we wish them a long and happy life together (don't forget to pack your rain coat).

Sadly the list goes on; Miss Maher is leaving to teach in the United Arab Emirates. Miss Rudd is returning to Australia and Mr Foreman (who works part time) is also getting married and will be spending some time in America. These staff members have all made a significant contribution to the education of our children. I would like to thank them all for their contributions to SJA and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Last and by no means least, Miss O'Connor is starting her maternity leave in August and has a new role as mum to prepare for. I shall let you know of her news in September.

The good news is that we have had a very successful recruitment campaign and all of the above teaching positions have been filled with both experienced teachers and teachers just starting out in the profession. I will inform you of new staff appointments in my final newsletter, which will be published on Wednesday 18th July.

Violin Lessons at SJA from September

Leonie Curtin will be continuing to teach violin at St Joan of Arc in September during the school day. These will either be individual lessons or in small groups.

Having formally taught at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Leonie has been teaching privately in London since 2005. She also teaches at St John the Evangelist and Sacred Heart Primary Schools in Islington.

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

Proposed building works - Update

You will remember from my last newsletter that the school has received funding from the DfE to extend the small hall to incorporate children's toilets, small group tutorial rooms and a separate entrance for extended schools' services (Breakfast and After School Clubs). We have applied for planning permission and have been informed by the Council that these plans have been opposed.

As a school it is always difficult to strike the right balance between trying to provide up to date facilities for children to access, whilst maintaining good relationships with neighbours within the immediate proximity of the school.

We are working closely with our architect and Islington's planning case officer to try and resolve some of the concerns raised by local residents. Our planning application can be viewed on Islington Council's website – reference number 2018/1231/FUL. It would be really helpful to provide Islington with a more balanced view and so if any of you are able to submit supportive comments to Daniel Jeffries on: Daniel.Jeffries@islington.gov.uk stating the application reference (2018/1231/FUL), I would be very grateful. We have been very fortunate to receive funding for this project and if we are not successful in the planning process, we will be required to return the funding to the DfE and may not get the opportunity to be considered again in the future

Dates of events are listed below, and a reminder of the school term dates for the next academic year.

Please also check the full diary on the school's website.

A summary of the dates:

Thursday 21st June	Year Group Photograph
Thursday 28th June	Sports Day – Finsbury Park Athletics Track: 9.15 -12.00pm
Friday 29th June	School Mass led by Year 2 – Feast of St Peter & St Paul: 9.15am SJA Church
Saturday 30th June	Summer Fete: 12.00- 3pm
Monday 2nd July	Year 6 Drama Production: 9.30am
Friday 6th July	Reports sent out to parents
Monday 9th July	Year 6 Activity week
Wednesday 11th July	Parents' Evening to discuss your child's report if required. Please see the class teacher to make an appointment: 3.30-5.00pm
Monday 16th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly: 9.00am – School Hall
Wednesday 18th July	Children to meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom Senior Choir performance at Union Chapel: 5.30pm
Thursday 19th July	Year 6 Disco: 6.30-8.30pm - School Hall
Friday 20th July	School Mass led by Year 6: 9.15 - SJA Church 2pm – School closes for the Summer holidays

I look forward to meeting you at one of the events before the end of the summer term.

Yours sincerely



Miss. C. Campbell
Headteacher