

Friday 20th March 2019

www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers.

As we approach the end of the spring term, please see below for a summary of school news and information about future events.

'Pupil News'

Athletics Team

Last term, our Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics team won the Islington borough championships for the second year running. Therefore we qualified for the first round of the London Youth Games on the 14th February. The team competed fiercely in both track and field events against the top schools from many of the London boroughs. Well done to our squad: Martha (Captain), Cecilia, Meghan, Rosalind, Grace-Ann, Abigail, Ciara, Flora, Beatrice, Kiara, Yalenna, Tarrell, Xavier, Tuvia, Jake, Leon, Edward, Ephraim, Samuel, Alex K, Matteo, Shevin and Kenzie for finishing in a very commendable 4th place!

Cross-country News

Forty eight children from Years 5-6 participated in the Islington Schools' Cross Country Running Championships on 13th February. Well done to everyone who took part – we were really impressed with your perseverance and stamina on what was a very muddy and tricky course. In total there were 8 individual medalists. St Joan of Arc came 2nd in the Year 5 competition and first in the Year 6 competition.

Thank you to all the staff who accompanied the runners and to all the parents/carers who came along to watch. It was great to have so much support.

Book Week and World Book Day

We had another successful World Book Week here at St Joan of Arc last week. The children participated in a variety of reading activities; including going to a different member of staff for story time; participating in story-telling workshops delivered by Emily Hanna-Grazebrook from Tales from the Dragonfly, as well as dressing up. We saw some fabulous costumes and would like to thank you for all of the effort involved. The School Council had a difficult time judging the winners, but well done to the following children who were the year-group winners:

Nursery: Luca, Reception: Rafael, Year 1: Joseph, Year 2: Otilie, Year 3: Rocco, Year 4: Filippo, Year 5: Mila, Year 6: Grace

We also received an overwhelming response to the Reading in Strange Places competition. There were some truly remarkable entries, so thank you again. Our story-teller, Emily, judged the winners from each phase. Congratulations to Patrick in EYFS / Year 1, Lorenzo in Years 2/ 3 and Carolina in Years 4/ 5/ 6.

We would like to thank all of the parents/carers for your involvement in creating costumes and printing photographs. A special thanks to those of you who gave up your time to come into school and read to the children in the afternoons. We appreciate how busy you all are and your support is very much appreciated.

E-Safety Poster Competition

This year the theme was *'Together for a better internet'*. Congratulations to the following pupils who each won a book voucher from INK@84: Alberic (B), Loris (C), Ottilie (E), Arthur (F), Joel (G) Stephen (H), Rebecca (I), Feven (J), Ciara (K), Lola (L), Lexi (M), Grace (N). Their winning posters will be displayed around the school. Thank you to our Digital Leaders for selecting the competition winners.

Parent Update/Events to Come

Proposed new school extension update

After a very lengthy process, Islington Council have formally confirmed that the school extension will be granted Planning Permission.

This is very good news and has come within the required time frame to allow us to retain the funding. It should be noted that the planning permission has conditions attached. These are being agreed now and will need to be met, some prior to relevant works commencing, some prior to works being completed and some will need to be upheld once the new facility is in operation. We are currently working on this and hope to have these finalised prior to the Easter holidays.

Thank you very much for your patience and offers of help and support during this long process, which have been much appreciated. We are very much looking forward to being able to provide an educational environment that meets the many demands of 21st century schooling which will benefit your children and future generations to come.

I will keep you updated on the proposed timescales for building work once these have been agreed.

Nursery applications

We are currently accepting applications for places in the school nursery for children born between **01.09.15 – 31.08.16** to start in September 2019. Places are available for both 15 hour and 30 hour provision. The closing date for applications is 31st March 2019. The nursery is led by a fully qualified teacher and is ably assisted by an Early Years Education worker and Nursery Nurse. Information and application forms can be accessed via the school's website: www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Parent Consultations

Thank you for your continued support in this area. 94% parents attended meetings with their child's class teacher which really shows your continued commitment to your children's education.

Easter Preparation - Events to come

During the week beginning **Monday 1st April**, we will be preparing for Holy Week. For junior children (years 4-6), part of this preparation will be to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Years 3-6 will also be participating in the Stations of the Cross on a daily basis at St Joan of Arc Church.

Infant children will visit the church to look at the Stations of the Cross and to participate in an appropriate prayer and reflection service.

The children in Year 5 will be performing the Easter Passion Play on **Tuesday 2nd April at 9.30am.** Parents of children in Year 5 are warmly invited to attend. It would be lovely to invite all of you, but I am sure you appreciate that we have limited space available.

Easter Raffle

The Parents' Association will be organising the traditional Easter Raffle which all the children really love. This year there will be three prizes per class which will be organised by the Parents' Association. Donations of **smaller Easter eggs** (the ones on sale for **£1** in major supermarkets) would be much appreciated and can be left at the school office. This is to ensure that each child receives a prize. Children are allowed to purchase a maximum £1 worth of tickets. Mrs O'Neale will be selling the tickets during the school day (week beginning **Monday 1st April**) and the raffle will take place on the last day of term, **Friday 5th April.** For more information see the Parents' Association news below.

2019 Lenten Appeal - Catholic Children's Society

The theme of our 2019 Lenten Appeal is 'Shine Your Light.' The children have been asked to use their talents to make the world a brighter place. The Catholic Children's Society, founded in 1859, endeavours to bring hope and change to children and families experiencing hardships; emotional, financial and psychological. The children have read about some of the local children the CCS has assisted and shared ideas regarding using their talents to fundraise.

A child in Y4 has sold his baked goods while another has completed a sponsored swim. A child in Y3 has completed a sponsored Maths/English Test. These are just some of the creative ideas the children have come up with.

Any contribution, whether it be through talent-based fundraising or other means, will be greatly appreciated. These funds are due in the week beginning **Monday 25th March.** Closing day for collection: **Friday 29th March.** The Mini Vinnies will be collecting these funds from the classes every morning.

For more information: <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/>

End of Term Mass

This will take place on **Friday 5th April** at 9.15am, led by class 3G. All parents are welcome.

2pm Closure

A reminder that school will close at **2pm** on **Friday 5th April** for the Easter holidays. Extended Schools' provision closes on Thursday for the holidays.

Parents' Association News

Spring is a busy time for our school community! We have a lot to celebrate this month - and there are a few important dates and information we thought you'd want to note in your diaries. Remember to visit our website for our [event calendar](#) or join our [PA Facebook group](#) for regular updates on our

activities. We also welcome all parents to join our next PA meeting on **Friday 26th April at 9am**. We've invited representatives from the School Council to join this meeting to present their recommendations for digital hashtags we can use in social media in 2019!

Updates and Thank You

New School Canopy

We hope you have noticed the new canopy outside the reception classrooms. The canopy is one of our three fundraising goals for the year along with technology for our children and supporting school trips. All the money our community has raised from our events, cake and uniform sales, etc is making a visible impact!

February Quiz Night

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers that that made Quiz Night a success - what a fun event for our SJA community and we raised £1800! Also, congratulations to the winners of the Quiz night 'Colouring-in Competition' as judged by Key Stage 2 classes: 1st- Reception Rebels, 2nd- Jam Today, 3rd- Around the Globe. Special thanks to the School Councillors and Ms. Connolly for organizing the vote! Visit our [PA Facebook group](#) to view the winning images!

Dates for Your Diary and Ways to Help

Easter Egg Raffle (Donate an Egg by Friday 29th March)

The PA is sponsoring an Easter Egg raffle for the children on the last day of the Spring term. We're asking parents/carers to please donate a small size chocolate egg and deposit all eggs at a drop off point by the school office by **Friday 29th March**. If your child has an allergy, please donate an allergy-safe egg noting their name and class. Please contact Pipa (philippa.greenbank@gmail.com) with any questions.

Auction and BBQ Catalogue Donations (Submit donations by Friday 29th March):

The St. Joan of Arc School BBQ & Auction is on **Friday 10th May**. This school-wide, family-friendly event features a vegetarian and meat BBQ, treat stalls, children's entertainment, raffle, silent auction and a live auction of lots offered by our generous school community. All funds go to our wonderful school!

We are currently collecting donations for the auction catalogue. Unsure of how to contribute items to the auction catalogue? Below are some ideas!

- **Donate an item:** in the past parents donated bikes, iwatches, pictures and even holiday houses!
- **Donate your time:** we have parents offering to cook meals, babysit, take kids to exhibitions etc
- **Donate your expertise:** architects, sport instructors, beauticians, photographers, restaurant owners amongst our talented parents are donating their advice or service to other parents

Please submit all donations to Cat (c.rigoni@outlook.com) by **Friday 29th March**.

Auction and BBQ Children's Raffle Donations (Submit donations by Friday 5th April):

We are also collecting donations for the children's raffle which we will hold during the Auction and BBQ. We are looking for new items (not pre-loved) such as puzzles, small children toys, chocolates, etc. that we can include in the raffle. Please submit all donations to Giusi Coppola (gusicoppola@hotmail.com) by **Friday 5th April**.

Auctions and BBQ Volunteering:

It's not too early to sign-up to volunteer for the Auction and BBQ! It's easy to [signup online](#) and recruit your friends. You can bbq, bartend, sell soft drinks, run a treat stall, sell raffle tickets, run the auction or silent auction. Shifts are generally 6-8pm and 8-10pm. All help welcome! If you prefer not to use the online signup, please email sjoavolunteers@gmail.com and we can sign you up manually.

School reopens on Tuesday 23rd April at 08.50am

To come..

Earth Week – 23rd -26th April

As a school we are in a position to empower and educate our pupils with the knowledge required to defend our environment. Part of this role is to understand many of the challenges we face regarding the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports.

As an introduction to this, the children will be participating in a number of workshops during the week beginning **Tuesday 23rd April** on the theme of 'Protect our Species', as well as participating in a poster competition pledging to help end plastic pollution.

We are seeking donations of plastic bottle lids which will be used as part of this project. Please send them in via your child, who will put them in the various collection points around the school.

St Joan of Arc Day –Friday 24th May 2019

This year Saint Joan of Arc Day will be celebrated under the theme of French Art, commencing on the week of the **20th May**. Each year group will be researching an artist with close connections to France and every child will be given the opportunity to recreate famous pieces of French art. We have already been lucky enough to have a few parents with an artistic background volunteer to help and we are keen to have more on board to support with art workshops and an internal French fair. If you would like to pass on any expertise and volunteer some of your precious time, then please get in touch with Miss O'Brien in the Nursery.

Thank you for your support this term. We wish you all a wonderful Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Miss C Campbell
Headteacher

Diary dates are listed below and are also available on the school website.

March

Friday 22nd 3.25pm PA Cake and Recycled uniform stall
Thursday 28th Year 5/6 Rugby Trip
Friday 29th 9.15am Nursery and Reception Mother's Day Assembly

April

Tuesday 2nd 9.30am Year 5 Easter Passion Play - Year 5 parents invited
Year 2 visit to Florence Nightingale Museum
Friday 5th 9.15am End of term Mass led by Class 3G
2pm School Closes