

Tuesday 9th January 2019

www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Newsletter Number 5

www.st-joanofarcpa.org

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your kind Christmas wishes and gifts, which were very generous and much appreciated.

Christmas Concerts

We are sure that you will agree that the Christmas performances were spectacular.

The children always look forward to having a parent/carer there to see them in their starring role, so thank you for taking the time to support these events. Thanks are also extended to all of the staff who prepared the children for their performances, in particular Miss Tibbs, Miss Newman and Mr Shreeves.

Year 6 Citizenship Cup Winner

This award is presented at the end of each term to a year six pupil who, during the course of their time at St Joan of Arc, has been an example of model citizenship in our school. I am delighted to announce that Martha (Class N) was last term's worthy winner.

Many congratulations are extended to Martha and her family on receiving this prestigious award.

Staff News

We welcome onto our school staff, Ms Desci, who will be working in the nursery as a senior nursery officer with our youngest pupils.

Congratulations are also extended to Ms Tibbs who got married over the Christmas holidays.

Other News

National Young Mathematician of the Year Award

For the second year running, SJA entered a team into the National Young Mathematician of the Year award, held by Explore Learning and Cambridge University. A team of four year 6 children- Alexandra, Flora, Quentin and Xavi- competed against teams from over 1000 schools from all over the country in a number of heats, putting their reasoning and problem solving skills to the test!

Teams had one hour to work together to answer a complex question in each round. The team did amazingly well, making it to the semi-finals along with 400 other schools, and were gracious in defeat before the final- to which only 5 schools across the country progressed.

Alexandra, Flora, Quentin and Xavi were an absolute credit to our school and it was a true pleasure to see their enthusiasm, creativity and team spirit shine throughout the competition!

Many thanks to Ms Connolly and Ms Laszcziw for preparing the children for this competition.

Athletics update

On Thursday 6th December, children from Years 3 and 4 competed in the Sports hall athletics competition, held at City Sport. The children took part in a number of track and field events and races and competed against 13 other schools. They performed brilliantly against the other schools, showed excellent sportsmanship and represented the school well by behaving so beautifully. The children came 4th, well done to all the children who competed.

Many thanks are extended to Ms Thomas and Ms Gibbs for their excellent coaching skills.

Also last term SJA's year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics team competed at City Sport at the Islington Championships. The team had trained extremely hard and had strong hopes to retain their title that they won last year. Children performed in sprints, middle distance and obstacle relays, and won most of these events! They also competed fantastically well in the field events, jumping and throwing lots of personal bests. After a tense hour-long wait, while the scores were calculated, SJA were finally announced as borough Champions once more!

A huge congratulations to all of the athletes in the 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. A big thank you to Miss Newman for her fantastic training skills.

The team will now be training hard for the London Youth Games in March.

Rugby News

In November, our Year 5/6 rugby team played in the Islington Championships. The team (Meghan - Captain, Martha, Cecilia, Betlehem, Beatrice, Flora, Charlie, Leon, Xavier, Tuvia, Tarrell, Shevin and Edward) performed amazingly well in the group stages, winning all of our games very comfortably. They went on to beat Ashmount in the semi-finals 3-1, and then played a very tight final against our rivals, Canonbury. The final was a draw at full time, but SJA stayed focused and Leon scored the winning try extra time!

A special mention go to Flora and Xavier for their spectacular defence, to Edward for being our play-maker and to Leon for being top try scorer.

The team are now training hard to represent Islington at the London Youth Games in March.

Spring Term Slam

Throughout the Spring Term, Key Stage Two children will take part in a Spring Term Slam; a times table tournament that will boost their knowledge of multiplication and division facts and challenge their mental calculation strategies. Children will have the opportunity to compete individually and as a class, with year five and six statisticians calculating class averages and awarding individual champions in each class. All children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take part, with round one taking place the week beginning Monday 28th January. Please encourage your child to practise their multiplication and division facts at home. The following websites will be of help:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

<https://tablestest.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<http://www.timestables.me.uk/>

Dates:

As usual, there is quite a lot happening this term. Assembly dates and Parent Evenings are listed in the school diary, which is attached. The Diary dates are also available on the school website:

www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Several parents have asked for the term dates for next year to ease holiday bookings (September 2019- July 2020). These are listed at the end of the newsletter for your convenience.

The following is information that you may require immediately:

1. Admission into Reception / Nursery

The closing date for St Joan of Arc School applications into Year R for September 2019 is: **Tuesday 15.01.19.**

Parents of children attending the school nursery need to make a separate application for a place in Reception for

September 2019. You must also complete an application form from the borough in which you reside.

2. School Mass – Beginning of Term

The school mass for the beginning of the term will take place on **Friday 11th January at 9.15am**. This will be led by Class K. Parents/Carers are warmly invited to attend.

3. Message from the Parents Association

This year the St Joan of Arc Quiz Night will be held on **Friday 8th February**. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets will be on sale on **Tuesday 22nd January at 8.40am** in the school playground. Tickets are £15 each and includes a fish & chip meal, vegetarian options will be available. There will be a cash bar and a raffle on the night, prizes include an iPad! This is the only adult-only event of the year and is always a great evening for parents and teachers alike. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there!

The next PA Meeting on **Friday 11th January at 9.00am** in the staffroom - all parents welcome.

4. After-School Club

Please find attached information from Highbury Roundhouse about the enrichment classes.

Yours sincerely



Miss C Campbell
Headteacher

2019-2020 SCHOOL DATES

Autumn Term 2019

Start Date – Tuesday 3rd September

Half Term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th October

Finish Date – Friday 20th December

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

Spring Term 2020

Start Date – Tuesday 7th January

Half Term – Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Finish Date – Friday 3rd April

Inset Day: Monday 6th January

Summer Term 2020

Start Date – Monday 20th April

May Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May

Half Term – Monday 25th Friday 29th May

Finish Date – Friday 17th July

Inset Days: Friday 22nd May and Monday 20th July

