

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
[www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](http://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk)

Newsletter Number 6  
[www.st-joanofarcpa.org](http://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, Miss Ward 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 Maria (Class M) was last term's worthy winner.

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

### **Reading Champion**

In order to promote a passion and interest for reading, we have launched a reading Champions Badge for children in Reception and Year One. In order to achieve this, children need to read twenty books by a set author over the entire academic year (in addition to their school reading books). I am pleased to announce that Oscar in Class 1D is the first child to be awarded this badge. Well done Oscar, this is an amazing achievement.

This term's author focuses are as follows:

Reception: Julia Donaldson , Year One - Oliver Jeffers

We have also introduced class readers for Year Two upwards. The aim of this is for children to read a range of books, therefore familiarising themselves with different genres and styles before they leave primary school.

The school has made a large financial investment in purchasing brand new class sets of books so that children have one between two. On a daily basis, led by their class teacher, the children will read and discuss the text in order to improve their fluency and comprehension skills. However, our overriding aim is to really instill in children a real love for reading that will stay with them for life.

This half term the classes are focusing on the following class texts:

Year 2 - The Green Ship - Quentin Blake

Year 3 - Pugs of the Frozen North by Philip Reeve

Year 4 - Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Year 5 - Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen

Year 6 - Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman

All of the local libraries stock an excellent range of books and of course access to them is completely free. They now offer an on-line renewal service, so you can keep the books out for a longer period of time if required. We are also very fortunate to have an excellent bookshop 'Ink @84' on our doorstep who have a fantastic range of children's books located at the back of the store. They also have a section for boys who are reluctant to read as well as specialist books for children with dyslexia.

Don't forget we also have our recycled book stall located in the outdoor classroom on the playground. Lots of families have donated books that their children have grown out of so please avail of this free service. If you are having a 'Spring' clean after the Christmas festivities and have books to donate, we would love to have them. We now have a number of children who are the school's librarians who are in charge of this area and will ensure that your donated books are displayed appropriately and go to a good home.

You will also be pleased to know that lots of children who prefer a 'quieter' playtime, use this area and avail of the books at play and lunchtime, which is lovely to see.

## **Other News**

### **School Building Extension News**

We have finally received notification of the agreed planning permission required for us to commence work on our proposed building extension. This has taken much longer to achieve than estimated but the end result will be worth waiting for. We are committed to ensuring that our classrooms and outdoor areas continue to be as safe and modern as possible to support your children's learning. The new extension which is going to be located adjacent to the small hall, will provide the children with much needed internal toilets, a new teaching room, which will enable us to expand our range of curriculum opportunities currently on offer, a teaching kitchen and a separate controlled entrance for our extended school's service.

The school's architect is now in consultation with the builders regarding a proposed building schedule of work and commencement date. I will endeavour to keep you updated of the progress made in this area in subsequent newsletters. For now, I would like to thank you for all of your support (and patience) over the last two years in order to get this much needed agreement finalised.

You will appreciate that as the planning permission has taken two years to finalise, the costs associated with the works have now increased.

Like all other faith schools, St Joan of Arc is a Voluntary Aided (VA) school, which means that our grounds and buildings are only partly funded by the Local Education Authority. **The government requires all Catholic and other faith schools in England to provide 10% of these costs.** We do this by

asking parents to make a contribution to the School Building Fund. This year 51% of families currently attending the school have made a contribution to this fund, which we are very grateful for. If you haven't yet done so, it's not too late to make a donation – every little helps. Attached to the newsletter is a copy of the letter sent out in the Autumn Term with the details of how to make a donation.

### **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](http://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk)

Several parents have asked for the term dates for next year to ease holiday bookings (September 2020-July 2021). 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 2020 is: 15.01.20.**

Parents of children attending the school nursery need to make a separate application for a place in Reception for September 2020. You must also complete an application form from the borough in which you reside.

#### **2. EYFS Parents Maths Workshop – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 9.00am**

This is being led by the school's Maths advisor Gill Shearsbury-Fox, and is a practical session on how you can support your child with their early maths and counting skills. This is aimed at parents of children in the nursery and reception classes. This will take place in the large hall. We will have some toys out for the younger children to play with so please do not feel that you can't attend if you have a baby or pre-schooler with you.

#### **3. Breakfast Club – French Classes**

There is still time to enrol your child for French. Coucou Loulou offer French classes three mornings per week. The lessons are geared towards absolute beginners or children with basic notions of French.

Classes take place from 8am to 8.45am:

Tuesday: Reception – Year 2

Wednesday: Year 2 – 4

Thursday: Year 4 – 6

If you would like your child to join in these extremely popular classes. Please click on the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xLRJa7GfN5dkr9AEnRf4aHSMPSL2VFaeJ7HifbOou2w>

Please be aware that you will also need to enrol your child in the school Breakfast Club, information is available on the school website or from the school office.

#### **4. Year 4 visit to the Tate**

If travelling around London recently, you may have noticed advertising boards at train stations displaying photographs of Year 3 classes. These portraits were taken as part of an ambitious artwork

project undertaken by recently knighted Steve McQueen who wanted to create an epic portrait of 7- to 8-year-olds who live in London. During 2018-19, a team of photographers visited Year 3 classes in schools all over London. Over 76,000 children had their class photograph taken, including our current Year Fours. They will be visiting Tate Britain on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month to see their photo displayed in this world famous art gallery. The exhibition will be in place until early May this year- their portraits are not labelled but can be found in section 10 of the Year 3 Steve McQueen exhibition.

## **5. Update from the Parents Association**

Happy New Year! The PA has a few updates and dates for your diary.

We are happy to announce that the SJA Parents Association has elected a new Board for the 2019-2020 year. A warm welcome to the incoming members.

### **The 2019-2020 Board includes:**

Chair: Veronica Burci

Joint Vice-Chairs: Caterina Rigoni and Vanesa Pazos

Joint Treasurers: Benedict Rodgers, Aine Stewart, Kevin Fuller

Secretary: Nuala Madden

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **- 17 January**

**Cake Sale - 17 Jan:** Calling all bakers - we need your cakes! The next cake sale is 17 Jan at 1515 in the playground. Please be generous and bake or buy as many cakes as you can. Let's put a smile on our kids faces during the bleakest month of the year. Can you volunteer to help on the day between 14.00-15.45. Contact Charles at 07944174956. Bakers theme is 'Welcome 2020!'

**Uniform Sale - 17 Jan:** Have uniforms available to donate or in need of new items? Visit the next uniform sale on 17 Jan at 1515 in the playground. If donating, please donate uniforms that are washed and folded. Can you volunteer? Contact Julie at 07841081460.

**PA Meeting - 17 Jan:** All are welcome to join our next PA meeting on 17 Jan at 08.50 in the staff room. Meet new friends, grab a cup of tea and contribute to ideas for activities that will benefit our children and school community.

### **- 7 February**

**Parents Quiz Night - 7 Feb:** It's Parents Quiz night on 7 February! Doors will open at 7pm. The tickets go on sale on 22 Jan in the playground. Tickets are £15 each (they include Fish&Chips). New parents: don't be shy, you can create a table of 8 with your fellow parents [or just come alone and we will pair you up]. It's a fun, parents-only evening - don't miss out!

**Volunteers Needed for Quiz Night - 7 Feb:** We need volunteers for quiz night! Please use the signup link <https://signup.com/go/iuvTzoE>

**Donations Needed for School Raffle:** Any unwanted xmas presents? Put them to good use! Adults prizes are urgently needed for the Quiz Night and any other prize is welcome for next events- leave with office ASAP!

**Join Easyfundraising:** It's easy! Easyfundraising is going strong! We've already raised £320 with just 67 parents doing it! Please give it a go, once you start it's highly addictive. Remember you can raise FREE donations for our school every time you use easyfundrasing to shop at over 4,000 online retailers at no extra cost to you. **Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjoapan5](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjoapan5)**

Remember to visit our [website](#) or join our [PA Facebook group](#) for regular updates on our activities.

Thank you,  
Your PA

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miss C Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Campbell".

Miss C Campbell  
Headteacher

## **2020-2021 SCHOOL DATES**

### **Autumn Term 2020**

Start Date – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Half Term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Finish Date – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Inset Days: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### **Spring Term 2021**

Start Date – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Half Term – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Finish Date – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April

### **Summer Term 2021**

Start Date – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April

May Bank Holiday - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Half Term – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Finish Date – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July

