

Wednesday 6th February 2018
www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Newsletter Number 6
www.stjoanofarcpa.org

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a short newsletter to keep you up to date with school news, as we come towards the end of the half-term.

Years 5/6 Tag Rugby Team

On Friday 19th January, the Years 5/6 Tag Rugby team were invited to represent Islington at the PCUBED Schools Challenge at The Honorary Artillery Club. They performed brilliantly against some other top teams in London and at the end of an exciting day came out as 3rd place runners up. Well done to all of the team: Year 6 - Ife, Finian, Alexander, Omarie and Christian; Year 5 – Meghan, Leon and Xavier. Thank you to Ms Newman and Ms Laszcziw for training and accompanying the team.

Basketball Team News

On Thursday 25th January the basketball team participated in a competition against other Islington schools at City Sport. On the day they competed against six schools and went on to the semi-finals. The game was extremely close and ended a draw, this meant the game had to go to sudden death and unfortunately the other team scored one extra shot then we did. The team displayed great sportsmanship and their behaviour was impeccable. Special thanks go to Miss Kelly and Mrs Mullen for training and accompanying the team. Well done to all the team players: Year 6- Amelia, Christian, Alexander, Omarie, Olivia DW, Francesco, Finian & Louis; Year 5- Sham, Xavier, Ronan and Chinyelu.

Our school focus this year – Improving standards in writing

As a school, we are always looking for ways to further develop the achievement for all of the children in our care. This year, we have been working to increase the motivation and attainment in writing, especially for boys.

With that in mind, we would like to know:

1. If we have any willing authors, journalists or writers who would come in and talk to the children about the importance of writing.
2. Any male family members (dad, older brothers, uncles, grandfathers) who would be willing to give up an hour or so of time to support reading. This must be for a minimum of half a term and subject to DBS clearance. If you cannot commit to regular support, then we would always appreciate any volunteers who would like to read a story to a class! (DBS is not necessary for this)
3. We also need to provide a purpose for writing. So, if we have any creative males who are artists, sportsmen, scientists etc and would be prepared to deliver a workshop (with support from the school) in order to provide some inspiration and motivation for writing.

This may seem quite a daunting prospect, but we would assist you in any way we can. If you are willing and able to support with any of the above, then please either get in contact with your child's class teacher, Miss Tibbs or Miss Vassallo.

E-Safety Week – Starting Monday 5th February

This year's theme is 'Create, Connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you'.

This theme has been chosen as it reflects the importance of all stakeholders of the internet in effecting positive change. This campaign hopes to empower young people to take control of their digital wellbeing and explore the opportunities the internet has to offer in a positive way.

During this week the digital leaders will be leading online safety activities in the outdoor classroom to support other members of the school, guiding them towards making positive choices and developing healthy online relationships. The children will also take part in an online safety poster competition based on this year's theme.



Using technology safely and respectfully is an important issue which we all need to take responsibility for. At the start of each school year, children sign an AUP (acceptable user policy) to declare that they promise to use the internet in a safe and positive manner. Now that technology is such a dominant tool in all aspects of everyday life it is more important now than ever to equip our children with the necessary skills to stay safe online.

CEOP Report Abuse Button

Children need to be explicitly aware that the Internet, although a fantastic tool, can be a dangerous place. There is a range of ways that children can report any concerns or inappropriate behaviour that they may have when using the internet: talking to a trusted adult; calling Childline (0800 1111); using reporting buttons within websites, games and apps; clicking the CEOP button.

The CEOP button is on various online platforms; it is a mechanism to empower children to report suspicious online behaviour directly to law enforcement quickly and easily. During online safety lessons, children are taught to recognise this button and how to use it if they ever feel at risk.



Working together, we can all help to make the internet a positive environment for our children; ensuring that they have the skills and knowledge that they need to be safe and responsible digital citizens. To find out more information about the CEOP button please visit www.ceop.police.uk/Safer-By-Design/safety-centre/



Many children (and adults!) love to spend some of their free time playing games online. PEGI ratings provide guidance to consumers (particularly parents) to help them decide whether or not to buy a particular product.



The rating on a game confirms that it is suitable for players over a certain age. Accordingly, a PEGI 7 game is only suitable for those aged seven and above and a PEGI 18 game is only suitable for adults aged eighteen and above. The PEGI rating considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty.

PEGI is used and recognised throughout Europe and has the enthusiastic support of the European Commission. It is considered to be a model of European harmonisation in the field of the protection of children. To find out more information about PEGI ratings please visit www.pegi.info/en/index/

Sportshall Athletics Team

The Sportshall Athletics team (who became Islington Champions in December!) are currently training hard ahead of their London Youth Games Qualifier on Friday 23rd February. They will compete against other talented athletes from across London in track and field events, to hopefully win a place at the London Youth Games Finals. Good luck team!

Book Week 26th February – 2nd March

This will take place after half-term from **26th February – 2nd March**. This year our focus will be on Rodger Hargreaves stories – famous for writing Mr Men and Little Miss stories. We would like children to come dressed up in a character from one of his stories for **World Book Day on Thursday 1st March**. The School Council will be giving prizes for the most creative costumes. Please see attached letter for more information.

Parent Governor Elections

Thank you to those parents who have put themselves forward for consideration in the Parent Governor Election. To have seven parents standing for election is a real testament to the valued support that you give the school. Every candidate has different skills and life experiences which will further enhance our current Governing Body. You should have received a letter and ballot papers via your child's book bag on Friday. If you didn't please ask your child to look in their tray and if that fails, the office will give you a duplicate copy.

The closing date for parents to vote is Thursday 22nd February at 3.30pm.

As you know, all schools are facing a challenging time ahead and so we want to ensure that your voice as parents is heard at a strategic level.

Lent & CAFOD Appeal

The focus for our Lenten appeal this year is 'Give it up'.

Poverty is not part of God's plan. As a Catholic community, we should not give up on the poorest people. **Give it up** instead and take on the challenge to build a better world this Lent. It's simple; choose something, give it up and donate the money you save. Alternatively, think of something more challenging and get sponsored to give it up. Then watch your fasting transform into something amazing that helps poor communities.

This Lent you can make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will contribute a pound, up to a total of £5 million.

We will be sending home our Lenten appeal envelopes later this week. Your support in this area of school life is always much appreciated; thank you for joining us this Lent by giving something up!

Parent Consultations

These will take place on **Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th March** from 3.40- 6.35pm. Meetings will take place in your child's classroom. Nursery parents, please go to the Green Room for your appointment.

Appointments can be made using the online booking system, **from the week beginning 26th February at 10am** you will be sent a reminder about how to log in nearer the time. If you do not have access to the internet, appointments can be made using the i-pad in the main entrance.

If you require support from an interpreter, please leave your details at the school office and we will do our best to help you. For security reasons, entry and exit for parents' evenings is via the main door on Northolme Road.

Collecting children from After School Club

We are doing everything possible to ensure that the school is secure both during the day and after school. To help us with this, it is vital that adults collecting children from the 'After School Club' ensure that the nursery gate is closed securely after entry. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are adults permitted to leave this gate propped open.

Pupil Absences

A reminder - please call the school before 9.30am, press 1 for the absence line and leave a brief message if your child will be absent for all or part of the day for any reason.

INSET DAY

A reminder that the school is closed to pupils on Monday 19th February to allow for staff training and will reopen for pupils on Tuesday 20th February.

Diary Dates

The full diary for this term is attached, it is also available on the school's website: www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Miss C Campbell
Headteacher