



# Newsletter No.1

Fri 17th September

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been lovely to see and speak to lots of you during the last three weeks and particularly nice to get to know the new families to our school. I am pleased to report that the children have been very settled and have adapted quickly to their school routines. It has been lovely to take whole school assemblies again, see children playing with their friends in other year groups and the reopening of shared areas in the school. On a personal note, I have found the last three weeks a very humbling experience and have felt so proud of the children and staff.

We are really looking forward to reopening the school to you as parents as well. You are as important as the children and I understand that many of the infant parents in particular have never actually been inside the school. We have a few things planned for this term which will hopefully make you feel more included in your child's education and the school community. More detail on this is included later in the newsletter.

The newsletter is published every fortnight on a Friday and covers news as well as key information which you are required to know. As this is the first edition, it contains lots of important information which I ask you to please read carefully and keep a copy for future reference.

I look forward to working with you and your family this year to ensure that your children have an enjoyable and fulfilling educational experience in the year ahead.

Kind regards,

*Clare Campbell*

## Structure of the school day:



Thank you very much for adapting so well to the earlier start of school in the morning. 98% of children are arriving on time every day. This is a very positive start so thank you for adjusting your routine at home to facilitate this.

Below is a summary of the school day:

	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Gates open					8.15			
Start					8.30			
Playtime			10.00			10.15		10.30
Lunch			11.40				12.20	
Finish					3.00			



### **Healthy Eating:**

All children are encouraged to bring a named bottle of water to school, which they can use during class time. On hot days, the staff top the water bottles up for the children during the day to ensure that they remain hydrated. The school water fountains are back in operation.

We are part of the national free fruit scheme for infants, so children in years R to 2 receive a piece of fruit daily. Junior children are required to bring their own.



### **School dinners:**

A copy of the school's menu for this term is on the school's website: [www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](http://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk)

Any parents choosing to send their child in with a packed lunch should bear in mind that sweets, crisps, fizzy drinks, chocolate and foods containing peanuts are not permitted. Please ensure that all packed lunch boxes/bags are labelled with your child's name and class.

As healthy eating is an important issue, and an increasing number of children have a range of intolerances/allergies, children are not permitted to bring in sweets or cakes to celebrate their birthday.

### **Medical Needs:**

For any child needing to receive medication during the school day, this can be dropped off on the playground in the morning to Ms Doogan.

If you need to discuss any medical issues regarding your child's health (in particular the use of long-term medication) please ring the office to arrange for Miss Doogan to call you to discuss this matter. If your child is returning to school in plaster, please make an appointment to see Ms Doogan prior to their return, as special arrangements have to be put in place.

The school also needs to know if a child has measles/ mumps/ chicken pox or has been in contact with another child or adult who has had any of these illnesses. The wellbeing of all our pupils, particularly several who are vulnerable to infection, is paramount to us.





**Pupil Attendance and Punctuality:**

If your child is unable to attend school, you need to telephone the school office and press 1 on the automated message service to report the absence before 9.00am. Alternatively you can e-mail on:

absence@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

It is your responsibility to inform the school of your child’s absence now that compulsory schooling has resumed.



**School Uniform:**

The children have all returned to school looking very smart in their school uniforms. It is much appreciated that everyone follows the school uniform guidelines. A reminder to ensure that all uniform is labelled to reduce the valuable time lost in reuniting children and items of uniform! Please make sure labels are clear, legible and not faded. The correct footwear policy has also been reinstated.

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/downloads/Uniform-Policy.pdf>



**PE Kits:**

See below for a reminder of your child’s PE days. Children need to come to school dressed in their SJA PE kits with trainers or plimssoles.

Year Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception				✓	
1	✓				✓
2		✓			✓
3	✓		✓		
4		✓		✓	
5			✓	✓	
6	✓	✓			

### Virtual opportunity to meet your child's class teacher:

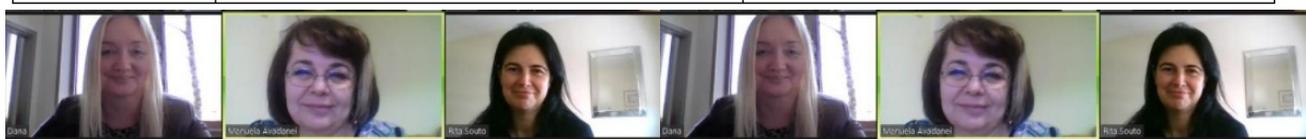
During the week beginning Monday 4th October there will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher virtually to find out what they will be learning in the year. These sessions will take place via zoom (will take approx. 30 minutes) and we will send a link to the zoom session on the day via email and text.

Some of the things that will be discussed are:

- Topics that your child will be covering in class
- The class rules and routines
- The behaviour policy and how this is put in place in your child's new class
- How homework is set and marked
- The school's expectations for attendance and punctuality
- Upcoming events for the term
- An opportunity to ask any further questions

Please see below for when your child's session will be held:

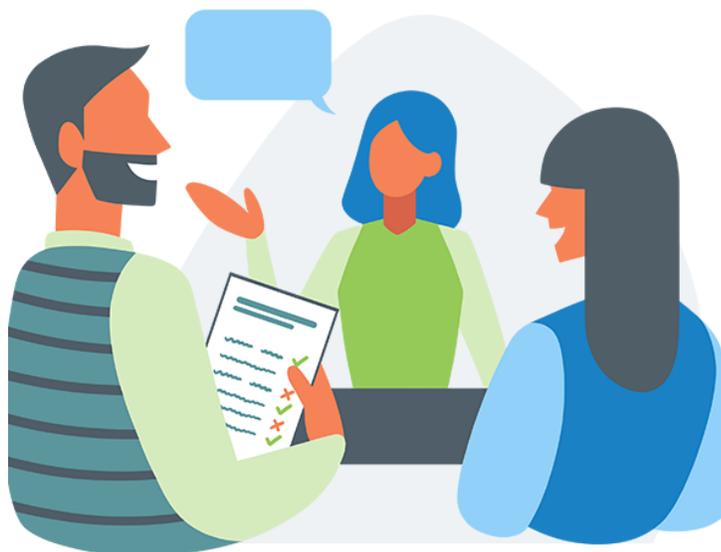
Class	Teachers	When
Nursery	Mr Newman	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> 9.00am
Reception	Ms Tibbs and Ms O'Brien	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> 3.45pm
Year 1	Ms Nicou and Ms O'Connor	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> 3.45pm
Year 2	Ms Vassallo and Mrs Farrell	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> 4.15pm
Year 3	Ms Kelly and Mr Shreeves	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> 3.45pm
Year 4	Mr Gordge and Ms Newson	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> 4.15pm
Year 5	Ms Williams and Ms Connolly	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> 3.45pm
Year 6	Mr McCormick and Mrs Gyles	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> 4.15pm



### Meeting your child's teacher in person:

For the autumn term, we are going to hold parent consultations face to face. These will take place in your child's classroom on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th October from 3.15 to 5.45pm. Appointments can be booked from Monday 27th September. Information on the booking procedure will be e-mailed separately.

In preparation for this, we have sent home today in paper format a form for you to complete, which will be discussed at the parent's eve. These can be returned to your child's teacher via your child's book bag.



### Year Group assemblies :

Each year group will be hosting an assembly during the year which you are warmly invited to attend and take place in the school hall.

Y6 Assembly	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 9.00am
Y5 Assembly	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 9.00am
Y4 Assembly	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 9.00am
Y3 Assembly	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 9.00am
Y2 Assembly	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 9.00am
Year 1 Assembly	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 9.00am
Rec Assembly	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 9.00am

### School Masses:

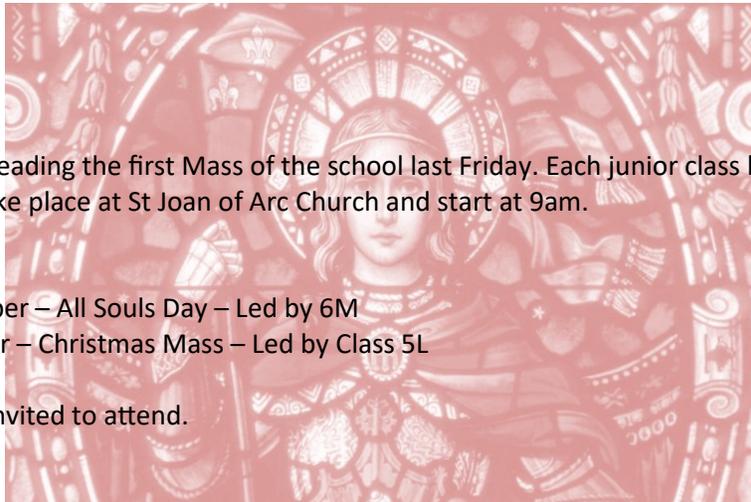
Thank you to 6N for leading the first Mass of the school last Friday. Each junior class has an opportunity to lead a Mass which take place at St Joan of Arc Church and start at 9am.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 2nd November – All Souls Day – Led by 6M

Friday 17th December – Christmas Mass – Led by Class 5L

Parents are warmly invited to attend.



### International Evening:

The first event of the year organised by the PA is the SJA International Evening on Friday 1st October from 6.00 to 8.30 pm. It should be a great evening for the whole family including inflatables, raffle, bar (for the adults), soft drinks, sweet stall and glo-sticks and we hope as many of you as possible will come along. The PA would like each family bring a national dish to share (or entry is £5 per family) - starters, mains, salads, sides, puddings or baking- everything is welcome.





Thursday 30th September 2021

Small Hall between 8:15 and 9:15 am

I'm delighted to announce our first coffee morning for the families of children with SEN. I am hoping to be able to introduce myself and share with you the kind of support we can offer as a school, provide you with the relevant SEN updates as well as an opportunity to socialise, share experiences, and connect with other families with similar needs. Please note I will also be running the same virtual session for parents unable to attend in person in the morning. I look forward to meeting you all.

Anthony Vallejo

Inclusion Manager

Virtual Coffee Afternoon Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Zoom between 4:00 and 4:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87018051681?pwd=bkFvNXkxbFNGdDV4Qkl3YlkwWlFWZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 1805 1681

Passcode: 103600

## **Bicycle and scooter safety:**

**With more and more children riding to school, we thought it would be a good time to remind you** Younger riders (especially in EYFS and KS1) need to be closely supervised especially in these wet winter months. It is advisable for these children to use the pavement to ride to school being safe when approaching other users.

This animation made by Brake Charity was made in 2018 and points out the advantages to bike-riding, as well as

## BIKE

There are so many great reasons to ride your bike: It offers fun, freedom and exercise, and it's good for the environment. We want kids and families to ride their bikes as much as possible. Here are a few tips so that you'll be safe while you do so.

### The Hard Facts

Properly-fitted helmets can reduce the risk of head injuries by at least 45 percent – yet less than half of children 14 and under usually wear a bike helmet.

### Top Tips

- 1 Wear a properly-fitted helmet. It is the best way to prevent head injuries and death.
- 2 Ride on the sidewalk when you can. If not, ride in the same direction as traffic as far on the right-hand side as possible.
- 3 Use hand signals and follow the rules of the road. Be predictable by making sure you ride in a straight line and don't swerve between cars.
- 4 Wear bright colors and use lights, especially when riding at night and in the morning. Reflectors on your clothes and bike will help you be seen.
- 5 Ride with your children. Stick together until you are comfortable that your kids are ready to ride on their own.



A properly-fitted helmet is the most effective way to prevent a head injury resulting from a bicycle crash.

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## What are the current rules in England?

- 1m-plus social distancing guidance remains in some places such as hospitals and passport control
- **Face coverings no longer required by law**, but the government still "expects and recommends" them in crowded/enclosed spaces
- Some **shops and transport operators still require masks**
- Anyone with **Covid symptoms must self-isolate for 10 days** (or until a negative PCR result)

Businesses such as nightclubs **are encouraged to use the NHS Covid Pass** to check people are fully vaccinated.

People who have been working from home **are being encouraged to return to the workplace gradually**.



### COVID-19 RESPONSE: AUTUMN AND WINTER PLAN

The Prime Minister has announced their plans to combat the virus throughout the autumn and winter months. Plan A includes booster vaccine shots and a focus on ventilation while a Plan B contingency is on standby should covid rates escalate to alarming rates.

More details can be found here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-autumn-and-winter-plan-2021>

As per the essential measures set out by Public Health England, it is vitally important that your child stays away from school if they are in quarantine or displaying any of the following symptoms for potential Covid 19:

- A new and continuous dry cough
- A high temperature over 37 degrees
- Loss of taste or smell

September 2021

#### **Term Dates:**

Attached are the school dates for the year. Please keep them in a safe place for your reference. They are also available via the school's website: [www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](http://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk)

