



Newsletter No.1

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been lovely to see and speak to lots of you during the past week and particularly nice to get to know the new families to our school. We offer you a very warm welcome and look forward to getting to know you and your children as time progresses.

I am pleased to report that the children have been very settled and have adapted quickly to their school routines. We have spent this week focusing on our four Christian values of Respect, Love, Service and Courage and how this fits in with the school's Mission Statement and our new Behaviour Policy. Each class has devised their own school rules and shared those in a whole school assembly on Monday.

You will receive a summary of the school's new Behaviour Policy, as well as the home school agreement in a separate email. It is really important that pupils, staff and parents work together on this to ensure that everyone is clear about expectations.

Over the summer holidays, new library corners, furniture and books were installed in each classroom and they look fabulous. The children are incredibly lucky to be able to take brand new books of their choice home to read and enjoy. This has been funded by our wonderful Parents Association, to whom we are extremely grateful. We will send some pictures via email to you so you too can see how amazing these library corners are.

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



It is with tremendous sadness that we learned yesterday of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. May she rest in peace. We dedicated our first school Mass of the year this morning to Her Majesty and thanked her for her devoted service over the last seventy years.

We thank God for the life of
Queen Elizabeth II.
For her service to our country
For her example of dignity and
duty.
Comfort her family and guide our
country at this sad time.
Amen



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

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 nuts of any type are not permitted, this includes Nutella type spreads and Peanut Butters. Please ensure that all packed lunch boxes/bags are labelled with your child's name and class.

Medical Needs:

For any child needing to receive medication during the school day, this can be dropped via the office 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:

After the last two years it is vital that children are in school everyday unless

they are unwell. Excellent school attendance enables them to access every opportunity to support their global development.

On the final page of the newsletter I have inserted a chart which explains the learning time lost by being late or absent from school. If your child is unwell, or will be absent from school for any reason, please 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



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. In regards to footwear, children should be wearing plain black/navy shoes of leather appearance, with Velcro, buckles or laces. The shoes should be free of sports labels/branding and should be able to be polished.



PE Kits:

On the day/s of your child's PE sessions, they are expected to come to school dressed in their PE kits. A reminder of the school PE kit is as follows: • White T-shirt with school logo • Navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms / school sweatshirt on colder days • Trainers (whatever trainers your child already has will be fine for PE)

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

Virtual opportunity to meet your child's class teacher:

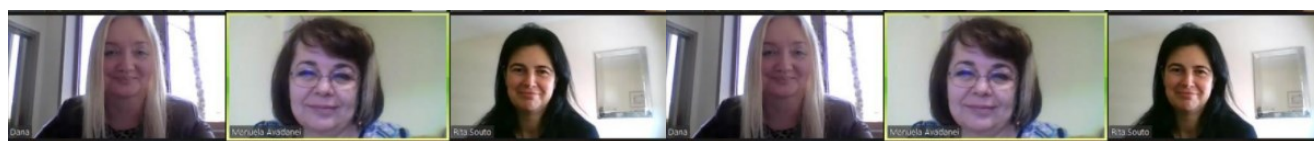
During the week beginning Monday 19th September there will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher virtually to find out what they will be learning in the year. These sessions will take place via zoom (will last approx. 30 minutes) and we will send a link to the zoom session on Friday 16th September 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
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Class	Teachers	When
Nursery	Ms. M. Kelly and Ms Decsi	Wed 21st Sep – 3.45 PM
Reception	Ms Tibbs and Ms Susko	Tue 20st Sep – 3.45 PM
Year 1	Ms Nicou and Ms O'Connor	Mon 19th Sep – 3.45 PM
Year 2	Mr Shreeves and Mrs Farrell	Mon 19th Sep – 4.20 PM
Year 3	Ms Kelly and Ms Newson	Tue 20st Sep – 4.20 PM
Year 4	Ms Williams, Ms Thomas and Mrs Rawlings	Wed 21st Sep – 4.20 PM
Year 5	Ms Vassallo and Mr Gordge	Thu 22nd Sep – 4.20 PM
Year 6	Mr McCormick, Mrs Gyles and Ms Newman	Thu 22nd Sep – 3.45 PM

An opportunity to ask any further questions



Meeting your child's teacher in person:

There will be an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher face to face during parent consultations. These will take place in your child's classroom on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th October from 3.15 to 5.45pm. Appointments can be booked from Monday 3rd October. Information on the booking procedure will be e-mailed separately.

We pride ourselves on positive home / school relationships so if you have something that you need to discuss with your child's teacher before then, please make an appointment directly with them.



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 3 rd November 9am
Y5 Assembly	Thursday 17 th November 9am
Y4 Assembly	Thursday 1 st December 9am
Y3 Assembly	Friday 13 th January 9am
Y2 Assembly	Friday 3 rd February 9am
Y1 Assembly	Friday 10 th March 9am
Reception Assembly	Friday 24 th March 9am

School Masses:

**Thank you to 6M for leading the first Mass of the school today.
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:

**Wednesday 2nd November – All Souls Day – Led by 5L
Friday 16th December – Christmas Mass – Led by Class 6N**

Parents are warmly invited to attend.



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

EXTENDED SCHOOL



Extended School Service:

Our service which runs both childcare and clubs is open after school every night from 3-5pm or 5.45pm. This is now managed by Ms Cumpstey, with Ms Long and Ms Squire as Deputy Managers. All of the staff on duty each evening are members of the school staff so, there is continuity of care from the school day to after school for the children.

Children attending the club are escorted from their classroom by their TA to the small hall for registration and are then handed over to the coaches for their clubs or they can choose an activity to do if they are remaining in childcare.

As well as reviewing the clubs and activities on offer, we have revised the snack menu provided each night. Different snacks are on offer depending on the length of time the children are attending the service.



Monday to Friday 3.00-5.00pm	Monday to Friday 5.00-5.45pm
Water & Juice Fruit Carrot and cucumber sticks	Water & Juice Fruit Carrot and cucumber sticks
with one of the following options:	with one of the following options:
Cheese and crackers, Toast or Crumpets with cheese, ham, jam	A light meal (e.g pasta, pizza, sandwich)



The booking service for after school is <https://stjoanofarc.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>

Unfortunately like most services, we have had to increase the cost of this provision for this academic year. The Governing Body's Finance Committee discussed this at length and it was with real regret that the increase was implemented.

Costs for this service must be covered by the income accrued so, with rising energy, food and staffing costs they were left with no alternative. The new prices will remain in place for this academic year.

We currently do not qualify for any grants to support with this part of the school day. However, Islington are in the process of reviewing how grants are allocated with the hope that more schools will benefit in the future. I will update you further when we have been informed about their decision.

If you have an enquiry about your booking or need to speak to the Extended Schools Manager, Ms Cumpstey is on duty from 2.00-5.45pm and the direct line number is: 07949 406543 – email – extendedday@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

A reminder that a prompt collection at either 5pm or between 5 and 5.45pm is required as the staff on duty have been here since 8am and like you all have children at home to deal with too!

Staff Welcomes:

A warm welcome is extended to Ms M Kelly, our new nursery teacher, and Ms R. Nel and Ms Barnett, teaching assistants in years 2 and 3. Some familiar faces have also returned from maternity leave, Ms Rawlings (teacher of 4I) and Ms Newman (Year 6 teacher) – we are delighted to have them back.

Just a reminder, that if you have a concern about your child, the first point of contact is their class teacher. They are in the best position to answer any questions about your child or investigate your concern. You can make an appointment with them by leaving a message in the school office or via email on info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

On the rare occasion, where you feel not completely satisfied with the outcome of your concern, the following senior teachers with responsibilities for specific year groups will meet with you:

Ms Tibbs – In charge of Nursery and Reception (Phase 1)

Ms Newson – In charge of Years 1, 2 and 3 (Phase 2)

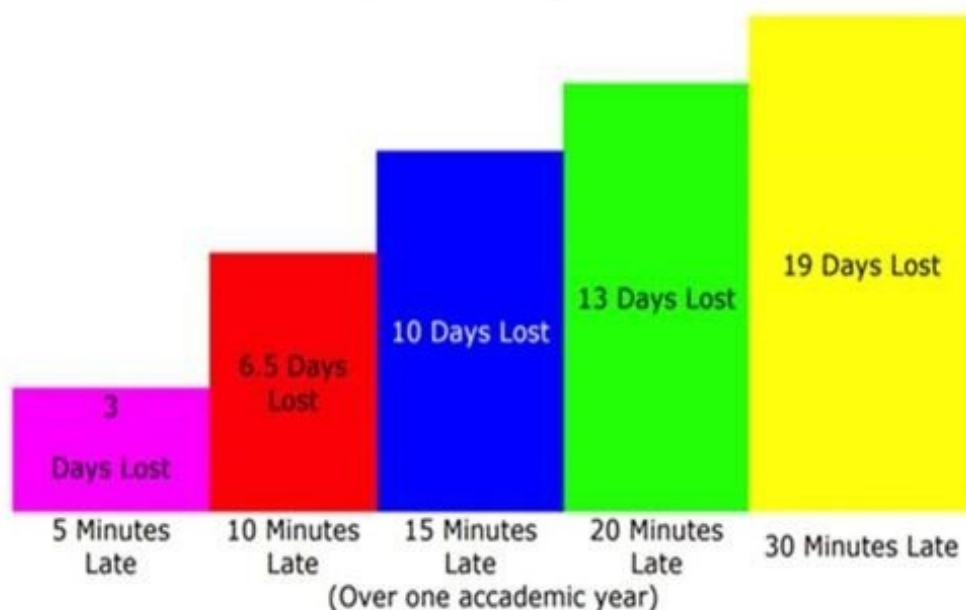
Ms Newman – In charge of Years 4, 5 and 6 (Phase 3)

The same procedure for contacting them applies as specified above.



Every Minute Counts

If you arrive late to school everyday your learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school everyday over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR
ATTENDANCE
FIGURES
ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!

Percentages based on 190 academic days



SEPTEMBER

Week beginning 19th September:

Virtual parent curriculum meetings - see schedule of dates in newsletter

OCTOBER

Monday 3rd	10am Bookings for Parent Consultations opens
Friday 7th	School is closed for an INSET Day
Tuesday 11th	9 -9.45am Open morning for prospective parents
Wednesday 12th	Judaism workshops - years 1 - 6
Friday 14th	School Photographs - individual and sibling groups. Full uniform should be worn if it is your child's PE day please send in their PE kit in a bag for them to change into.
Wednesday 19th	3.15 - 5.45pm - Parent Consultation Meetings
Thursday 20th	3.15 - 5.45pm - Parent Consultation Meetings
Thursday 20th	Bishop Hudson visiting the school
Friday 21st	8.30-9.30am Parent Coffee Morning - Small Hall
Friday 21st	School closes for Half Term - Normal closing time for school 3pm for Extended School 5.45pm
Monday 31st	8.15-8.30am School reopens