

Newsletter No. 10

Friday 3 February 2023



Dear Parents / Carers,

I wanted to say a big thank you for making alternative childcare arrangements on Wednesday. I know, as a working parent myself, how difficult this can be so thank you for your support with this. I want to reassure you that staff choosing to participate in strike action is not a decision that would have been made in haste. It is always useful to know what the dispute is about and how it actually affects your child's school so, I have inserted a short summary below:

The dispute is with the Secretary of State for Education with regards to the National Education Union's view that there has been a 'failure to provide a fully funded above-inflation pay rise (as measured by September 2022 RPI). A fully funded pay rise is one that is funded by additional resources sufficient to provide the above-inflation pay rise'

The government is also failing on their recruitment targets with the current pay conditions resulting in a mass exodus of educators with no view to replace them with qualified staff.

Funding in schools has not kept in line with rising costs resulting in experienced staff shortages, SEND children not receiving adequate support and resources and extra-curricular classes being cut from schools. (NEU).

Within our budget there is funding for a certain level of increase in costs, including staff pay rises. Although the pay rises were below the level of inflation, they were significantly higher than what we were funded for.

This is money that should have been spend on resources for the children.

Let us hope that a resolution can be reached in the coming weeks.

Yesterday, our lovely Year 2s held their first parent assembly and I can honestly say that I felt so proud of each pupil. They did an amazing job showcasing what they have learnt since September under the guise of 'Who wants to be a millionaire'. They also performed two beautiful songs and a lovely dance routine, demonstrating how much they have grown in confidence.

They were so amazing that I had to get my Headteacher stickers out of the 'safe' and present each child with one at the end of the day. Thanks to all of the Year Two parents who have waited patiently for three years to see their child's assembly, as well as taking time to attend.

Next week is Online Safety Week as well as a focus on pupil Mental Health.

The children will be participating in special assemblies and follow up sessions in class in order to raise the importance of both of these areas.

We close next Friday (10th February) for half term and with the days definitely getting lighter, I hope you all have an enjoyable week away from the hectic school routine. Just to remind you that we have a staff training day on Monday 20th February. Staff will be in school updating their knowledge on the teaching of maths, which is a school focus this year. The school will be closed to the children on that day.

Tonight, is the PA's annual Quiz night. Many thanks to those parents and staff who will be attending. I hope you all have an enjoyable evening, with some healthy competition!



Latest News.



28.01.2023
Chess Club at SJA



27.01.2023
English across the whole school



27.01.2023
History across the whole school

Check out the following newsfeeds on the school website

Chess

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/news/year-3/chess-club-at-sja/>

English

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/news/nursery/english-across-the-whole-school/>

History

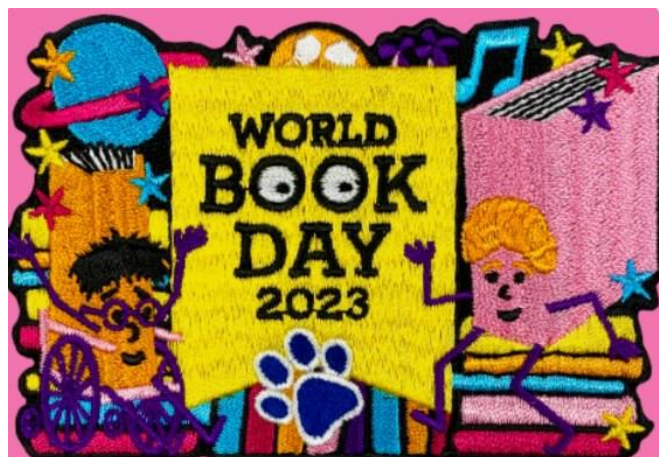
<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/news/nursery/history-across-the-whole-school/>

Book Week 27th February– 3rd March

We are delighted to announce that the school will be holding a book week commencing on Monday 27th February to celebrate the joy and importance of reading. The children will be participating in a number of reading activities during the week both in their class and as a year group. At 2.30 pm each day, the children will be able to choose to listen to a story read by another adult in a different classroom.

Advanced notice—**World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March** and this year we would like children to come dressed up as a character from their favourite story book.

In line with the school's drive to be more sustainable, The Green Team will be asking pupils to think about using current clothing items as a costume instead of buying one-off dressing up costumes. There are lots of characters that children can come as by wearing their casual clothes, e.g. Harry and the Dinosaurs, Laura's Star etc. The Green Team will be leading an assembly on this prior to half term, to give children some ideas of how creative they can be.



Safer
Internet
Day 2023

Tuesday
7 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

Online Safety Week - Starting Monday 6th February

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on the 7th of February, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.

The Digital Leaders will lead an assembly to explore the theme and launch the class-based activities. This week will be linked to Mental Health Awareness Week, as we promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology. At home, talking to your child about their life online and encouraging them to share their experiences with you, is a key part of helping to safeguard your family. Look out for further resources during this special week.



Reading in a strange place

After the success of last year's competition, we are again opening up the chance to win a book voucher for a photograph of your child reading in a strange place! Last year we had pictures of children reading in their garden shed, on the tube and London Bridge to name but a few.

Entries to be submitted to info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk by Friday 3rd March @3pm. More information about other events happening during this week, will be published in the next newsletter

As part of the celebration and the World Book Day activities St Joan of Arc School are organising a book sale for the children during the school day on Thursday 3rd March.

This is a great opportunity to recycle books and to encourage children to renew their book collection.


To ensure this event is a success we need donations of lots of books. We are looking for books from reception through to older readers - Years 6+.

No baby board books please.

We will be collecting the books at school from Monday 27th February — Friday 3rd March. Children will need to leave donations in the school office. All the money raised will go to the school to purchase much needed school resources for our children.



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
2 MARCH 2023



Year 2 assembly





Children's Mental Health Week

To celebrate children's mental health week we have organised lots of exciting activities on this year's theme - Let's Connect. The aim of the week is to encourage children (and the staff) to look at how we make meaningful connections. There will be opportunities for children to discuss their mental well-being, the importance of a healthy diet & frequent exercise and celebrate safer internet day. Please see specific dates below. There will also be lunchtime activities that will be available on a first come, first served basis within different year groups. The children will receive more information on this in their classes.

Tuesday: Dress to Impress

We are asking the children and staff to dress up in a clothing that represents something they do for their well-being.

Examples: Sport clothing or P.E kit for exercise, a character from a book or an apron if they bake.

We would like to express there is no expectation to buy something new for this day.



We are also asking that the children bring in a £1 contribution to Mrs Farrell's fundraising for Mind. She is running the London Marathon 2023 for the charity which relies entirely on donations. Many of the vital resources and training staff access for a mentally healthy school is provided by Mind.

For more information you can visit: [Just Giving Page](#)

Safer Internet Day assembly led by the digital leaders. The theme this year is 'Want to talk about it?'. Follow up activities will take place in the classroom.



Wednesday-

The children will be given the opportunity to connect with children in different year groups and teaching staff to create artwork for a whole school display and share reading in our new reading corners.



Do you have any expertise in any of the areas mentioned that you feel you could share with the school? Please contact Mrs Farrell or Miss Kelly via the school office.

Friday- Classes will be showing 'The Boy: The Fox, The Mole and The Horse.' A story of kindness, friendship, courage and hope for viewers of all ages in a heart warming, hand-drawn animated 30 minute film based on the children's book by Charlie Mackesy.





PA CALENDAR 2023

JANUARY

Tue 10th - PA meeting 8:30 staff room (Quiz Night update, Auction kick-off)

Fri 13th - Uniform Stall (drop off only)

FEBRUARY

Fri 3rd - Quiz night 7pm

Fri 10th - Valentine's day Cake Sale (organised by Year 6)

Thu 23rd - Uniform Stall (drop off and pick up)

Fri 24th - PA meeting 8:30am staff room (Auction update, Summer Fête kick-off)

MARCH

Fri 17th - St Patrick's Cake Sale (organised by Year 5)

Tue 21st - PA meeting 8:30am staff room (Auction and Summer Fête update)

APRIL

Mon 24th - Uniform Stall (drop off only)

Fri 28th - PA meeting 8:30am staff room (Auction and Summer Fête)

Fri 28th - Spring cake sale (organised by Year 2)

MAY

Mon 8th May - Big Help Out

Fri 12th to Thu 18th - Proposed NEW dates for Online Auction

Thu 18th - PA meeting 8:30am staff room (Summer Fête)

Fri 19th - Cake Sale (organised by Year 1)

JUNE

Fri 9th - PA meeting 8:30am staff room (Summer Fête update)

Tue 13th - Uniform Stall (drop off and pick up)

Fri 16th - Summer Cake Sale (organised by Reception)

JULY

Sat 1st - Summer Fête