

Newsletter No. 11

Friday 3 March 2023



Dear parents and caregivers.

We have had a very busy return since half term and this week was no different.

Our Early Years children were busy making and tasting pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. The smell of their great cooking skills transferred across the school making us all feel hungry for the whole day. This was followed by our Ash Wednesday Mass led by Class J to mark the beginning of Lent. It was lovely to see these children read so confidently at Mass in front of so many people. The children were incredibly well behaved and a credit to their family and school.

The excitement in school today was palpable, with not a child to be seen but instead an influx of book characters. The costumes were amazing and I could see that lots of effort was taken to try and meet our sustainable theme. World Book Day also marked the whole school having an assembly together. Burglar Bill was in attendance and had managed to steal an item from each classroom. The children had to guess who they belonged to, which brought out their very competitive nature and good humour. A lovely day has been had by all.



Latest News.



05.02.2023
Year 4 Science Experiment



02.02.2023
Year 2 Special Assembly



28.01.2023
Chess Club at SJA

Check out the following newsfeeds on the school website

Chess

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

Year 2

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/news/year-2/year-2-special-assembly/>

Science

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/news/year-4/year-4-science-experiment/>

READATHON

St



JOAN

of

ARC SCHOOL

2nd March –

21st April 2023



Birds have wings.
Humans have books.

<https://sja.rallyup.com/sja-readathon2023/Campaign/Details>

World Book Day

On Friday 3rd March, we celebrated World Book Day.

As always, the children had a fantastic day, celebrating their favorite books and authors. The costumes looked incredible and it was lovely to see how creative the children (and their parents/carers) had been. During our assembly, the Eco Team chose a winning costume from each class which celebrated sustainability and it was wonderful to see how many children had embraced the idea of environmentally, homemade costumes. As you can imagine, these were very tough decisions as there were so many brilliant costumes.

All the classes visited our book sale and every child was able to choose a nearly-new book from the amazing selection of donations we received. There was a real buzz in the air as the children chose their books and they were all very keen to get stuck into their new books. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who kindly donated such good quality books for our sale.

The children also had a chance to read with children from different year groups, swapping classrooms with their 'Buddy Classes' from across the school.







ONE MORE TRY

Available to purchase on [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



*A story about a father teaching his little girl how to ride her bike without stabilisers.
A great story about encouragement & perseverance.*

On Wednesday 1st March, Ndidi Amaechi came into to school to talk with children in Year2, 3 and 4 about his new book "One More Try".

As well as reading the book to the children, he discussed his inspiration for writing the story, how he developed the illustrations and some top tips for effective writing. They children loved the experience and were inspired by Ndidi's story and his creativity.

If you would like to learn more about his book, please scan the QR code.

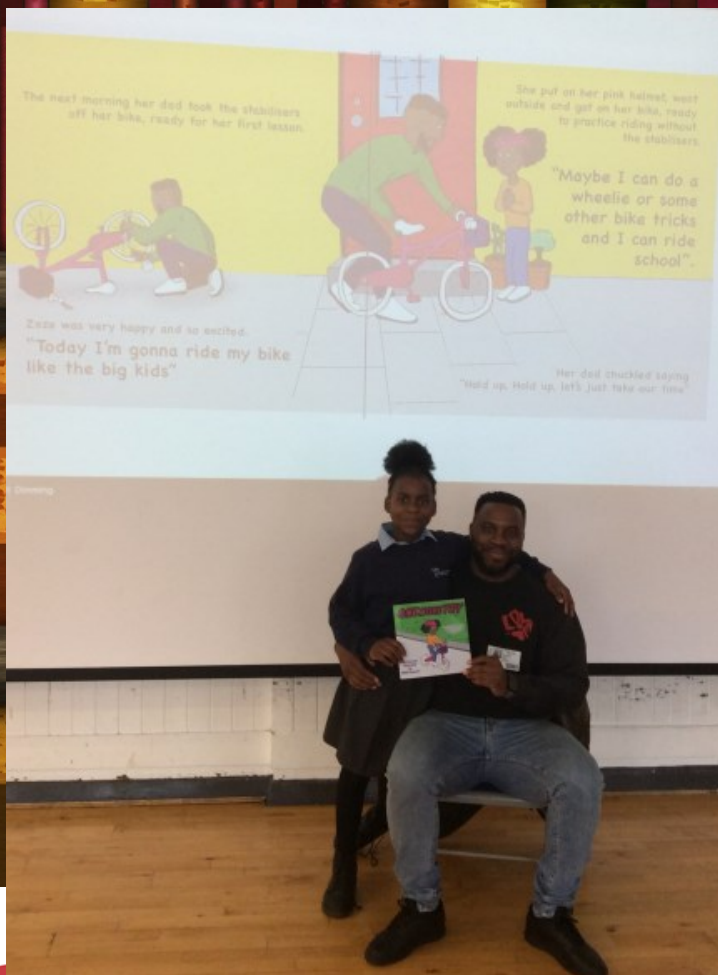


Table tennis success:

Two of our pupils competed last week in the Central London Schools' Table Tennis Competition in west London. Jim F (Y6) and Joseph P (Y5) proved themselves worthy contenders. Both players reached the quarter final after having won in the group stage—beating a number of kids coming from schools where table tennis is part of their PE programme and have after school club training! So Jim and Joseph were very impressive and unfortunately were knocked out in the quarter respectively by the no. 3 and no.8 in the England table tennis ranking for the under 11 year category (which unsurprisingly were the winner and the runner up of the tournament)

An excellent effort boys. We are proud of all our pupils who pursue excellence with their talents. The boys enjoyed their day and were great ambassadors for the school and their families.



Netball News

Sports Captains' Sports Report by Emily M and Ottie

On Thursday 9th February Miss Newman and Ms Astronomo took a netball team of 8 to High-bury Fields to compete against other Year 5/6 teams. Unfortunately, after topping their group easily, SJA lost in the final, however, they had a promising 9-1 win against Moreland Primary in the semis. The final was against old rivals Canonbury and after going ahead at first, the opposition seized the victory from our hands for a 5-4 win. The team consisted of only 2 Year 5's, Myles and Maddox, and 6 Year 6's Anselme, Bella, Salihom, Cara, Emily M and Ottie who captained our team to a satisfactory second place.



Athletics

Last week our strongest athletes from year 5 & 6 competed at the Islington Sportshall Athletics Competition at Beacon High School. Children had trained hard at school to be ready to race in a range of events from the obstacle relay to the long distance 6 lap paarlauf. They also competed in field events such as speed bounce, foam javelin and standing triple jump. Our children performed incredibly well in both track and field events and ended up coming joint first overall with Canonbury. Both schools scored exactly 154 points! Well done to Myles, Aidan, Ambar, Eloise, Bella, Emily M, Emily H, Solomiia, Amelia, Alisia, Anselme, Luke, Joshua, Bruno, Ted, Maddox, Taylor, Ben, Oattie and Eva. A special mention goes to Florence who was an exceptional team manager for the day.





Mini Vinnies

A group of 20 children from Year 3 to year 6 were thrilled to receive their badges presented by Mrs Moriarty, a St Vincent de Paul Society representative, in the Mini Vinnies' Commissioning Ceremony held on Monday 27th February. The Mini Vinnies made their promises to make a difference by caring for others in their school and community. They reminded us of the Parable of The Good Samaritan that loving God is the best thing we can do with our lives, and we demonstrate love for God by loving one another, no matter who it is that needs love.

Meet the Mini Vinnies!



CCS Lent Appeal: Building Bridges

This year's appeal is inspired by Pope Francis's call to 'build bridges, not walls' and find ways to connect and help others in their time of need.

For lent, our school supports a worthy charity. The Mini Vinnies will lead this initiative and will be asking pupils to think about ways they can raise money for the Lent Appeal. Every penny raised by our school will be given to the Catholic Children's Society to support local disadvantaged children and families.

Children will be given a Lent Appeal box for the money they raise which they have to return to school after Lent. Date for return will be announced at a later date.

Lent Appeal!



Nursery applications – closing date 31st March- to Start in September

The school's nursery admits children the term after their third birthday. We are currently accepting applications for children to start in September 2023. Places are available for both 15 hour and 30 hour provision. The closing date for applications is 31st March 2023. The nursery is led by a fully qualified teacher and is ably assisted by an Early Years Education worker and Nursery Nurse. Information, application forms and a virtual tour can be accessed via the school's website:



www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

New website

Please take the time to visit the new website and explore what the school has to offer. This new revamped website was launched last term and is a wonderful insight into the school, its culture and ethos.

Furthermore, this will be the main medium for disseminating pertinent information as opposed to the newsletter

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/>



[About Us](#) [Admissions](#) [News](#) [Calendar](#) [Curriculum](#) [Year Groups](#) [Extended School](#) [Parents](#)

[Term Dates](#)

Hello

Welcome to St. Joan of Arc Roman Catholic Primary School. As a faith school our values are based on ensuring the development of all aspects of a child's learning. Rated in the top 3% nationally for progress, we also provide a rich and varied timetable of activities to stimulate and nurture all our children. You can get a flavour of our school from this short film.

[About Us](#)

[View our full video](#)



This week's house champions are...

Fleur De Lys

Keep up the hard work, and check back next week to see who's won!

Attendance Winners

This week's attendance winners are...

Class 5L	100%
Class 5K	99.7%
Class 4J	99%

Upcoming Events

MAR

3

World Book Day / Readathon Starts – Non-uniform Dress as a book character

MAR

3

World Hearing Day

MAR

8

Recycled Uniform Sale 8.15am & 2.30pm

DID YOU KNOW?

**Our School is open
8.15am – 5.45pm**

Designed to offer maximum flexibility, our school is open from 8.15am – 5.45pm for all children from Nursery up to Year 6. After the school day ends at 3pm parents can choose from a variety of clubs and classes, all delivered by a qualified staff member who know the children well.

[Extended School](#)

[Book a Place Online](#)

Dates for your diary:

Monday 6th March – 10am – Parents Evening Booking system opens

Wednesday 8th March – 8.30 and 3pm – Recycled Uniform stall

Thursday 9th March – 8.45am – Year 1 assembly – Parents invited

Friday 10th March – 8.30am – PA meeting in the staffroom

-Year R visting Little Angels Theatre

Wednesday 15th March -Possible Strike Action – I will advise the week prior

Thursday 16th March - Possible Strike Action – I will advise the week prior

Friday 17th March – 8.45am – Year R assembly – this has been moved from the Thursday just in case we are closed on the 16th – Parents invited

-9.00am – School Mass led by 4I -Parents invited

-3.00pm – Cake stall organised by parents of Year 5 pupils

Tuesday 21st March -3.15-5.45pm -Parents' eve – please arrive 5 minutes before your appointment to look at your child's books

Wednesday 22nd March – 3.15-5.45pm - Parents' eve – please arrive 5 minutes before your appointment to look at your child's books

Friday 24th March – 8.30-9.45am – Parent Open Morning – please come and have a coffee in the hall and then pop in and see your child in class.

Wednesday 29th March – 8.45am – Year 5 Passion Play – Y5 parents invited

Friday 31st March – 9.00 – End of term Mass led by 3G

School closes 1.30pm

School uniform

As part of our strategy to resume normal practices and standards, we are asking all pupils to wear the correct uniform and to wear it with pride. The uniform promotes unity and allows opportunities to practise discipline and responsibility. This includes footwear. Can you please help the cause by ensuring your child has the correct footwear—plain black/navy shoes of leather appearance, with velcro, buckles or laces. **Trainers are not permitted.** If there are legitimate reasons why your child needs to wear trainers, please inform the school via the reading record or email.

Thank you for your support in the matter.



Parents' Evening Booking:

The online appointment booking service will open on Monday 6th March at 10am in preparation for the parents' evening being held on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March after school. You should have already received an email on how to book your appointment this week. Parent consultations will take place in person in your child's classroom, apart from nursery parents – yours will be in the Green Room in the main school. Please come to the main entrance 10 minutes prior to your appointment to view your child's books.



Easter Raffle:

This year the school's House Captains will be organising the traditional Easter Raffle. This is the time of the year that the children really look forward to.

We would be very grateful for donations of Easter eggs – the ones that cost approx. £1 in major supermarkets. Please send them in with your child at school drop off time.

We would ask parents of children with specific allergies to provide an egg for their own child with their name / class on and we will ensure they are given that egg on the raffle day.

Ms Doogan will be selling the tickets during the school day (week beginning Monday 27th March) and the maximum purchase is £1 per child. The raffle will take place on the last day of term, Friday 31st March. Money raised goes towards the PA's fundraising initiative.



A Lenten Prayer

Lord, I know how much you love me
It's hard for me to feel it sometimes
but I know your love is always with me
Help me to use your love as a way
to persevere in my Lenten intentions
I am weak, but I know with your help
I can use these small sacrifices in my
life to draw closer to you. Amen

