



Newsletter No. 12

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you all had a good half term and managed to make the most of the limited dry days that we had. We have returned this week to our final Fit for Feb week, which has included the Skipathon and Boxercise classes for pupils. I have to say it had been a really uplifting month seeing the children so engaged in exercise. All the children and staff have embraced this focus with great enthusiasm. I had a fantastic day on Wednesday leading the Skipathon and can say that by the end of the day all of the children had improved their skipping skills (and so did I). The Sports Captains and helpers, Blanche, Lewis, Samuel, Azara, Leo and Masty were amazing and

showed their excellent leadership skills whilst running a skipping coaching session. I couldn't have managed without them, so thank you wonderful children.

A really big thank you is extended to Ms Newman for organising and running many of the Fit for Feb events on top of having a class teaching role. We have lots of photos and other news in the newsletter.

A reminder that normal uniform rules resume on Monday, with children only wearing their PE kits on their allocated days.

Clare Campbell



Extended School Childcare & Clubs



Extended Schools Booking –

Summer Term 2026

Bookings for childcare and clubs go live this

Sunday 1st March at 8pm.

Please remember if your account is in arrears or you have missed payments from your payment plan, you will be unable to make childcare bookings for the summer term.

Please ensure you book in the correct year group.

Parent Consultations

Bookings for parents evenings on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th March will go live at **10am on Monday 2nd March**. Please ensure you have booked your appointment as the booking system will close on Monday 16th March. Booking slots are 10 minutes per child so to help them to run to time, please knock on the classroom door when your time slot is due.

Entry and exit for all appointments is via the main entrance on Northolme Road.

Parents of Nursery children should use the paper-based booking system available from the Nursery staff at drop off or pick up. Parents of children with an EHCP will have a separate meeting regarding their child's progress.

These meetings are a really important opportunity to share with you how your child is progressing both academically and socially so please make every effort to attend.



RETURN TO SCHOOL UNIFORM

Reminder: From Monday 2nd March all children should return to wearing their school uniforms every day except for their class PE day(s).



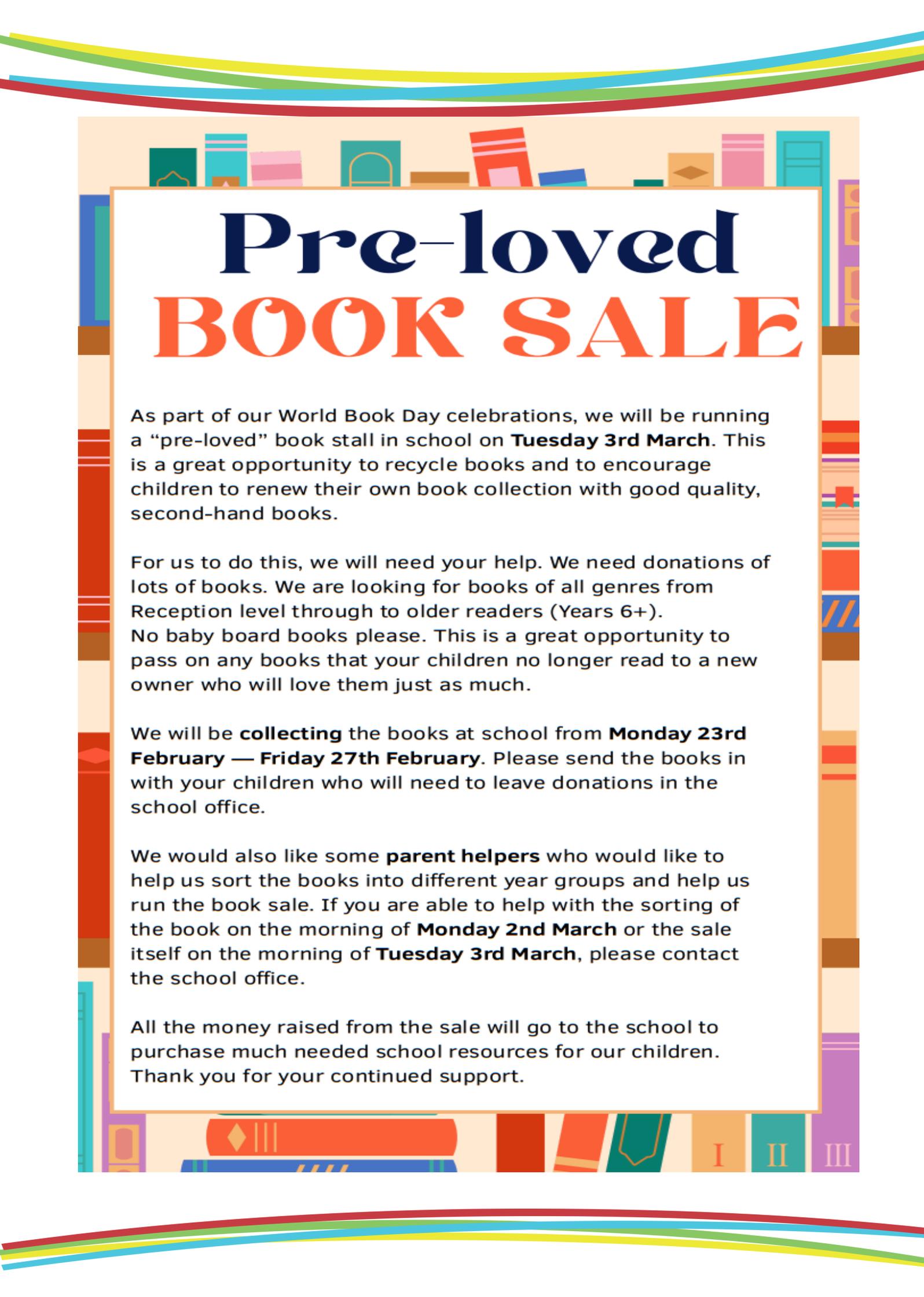
FIDGET TOYS



At St Joan of Arc we work hard to create an inclusive environment where everyone can concentrate so that they can learn successfully. Recently teachers have reported an increase in fidget toys and spinners being brought in from home- these are becoming increasingly complicated and ornate, often becoming a distraction for both the owner and their peers. We ask that these are not brought to school **unless** they are a necessary tool for your child's specific learning needs, as agreed with their teacher.

It is important to recognise that while some children use these to help them concentrate or to regulate their emotions, for most children they quickly become a distraction that reduces their chances of successful learning, for this reason they should only be used when they are truly beneficial to a child. If your child does not use one regularly at home to aid their concentration, there will be no need for them to have one at school.

Thank you in advance with your support in this area.



Pre-loved BOOK SALE

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we will be running a “pre-loved” book stall in school on **Tuesday 3rd March**. This is a great opportunity to recycle books and to encourage children to renew their own book collection with good quality, second-hand books.

For us to do this, we will need your help. We need donations of lots of books. We are looking for books of all genres from Reception level through to older readers (Years 6+).

No baby board books please. This is a great opportunity to pass on any books that your children no longer read to a new owner who will love them just as much.

We will be **collecting** the books at school from **Monday 23rd February — Friday 27th February**. Please send the books in with your children who will need to leave donations in the school office.

We would also like some **parent helpers** who would like to help us sort the books into different year groups and help us run the book sale. If you are able to help with the sorting of the book on the morning of **Monday 2nd March** or the sale itself on the morning of **Tuesday 3rd March**, please contact the school office.

All the money raised from the sale will go to the school to purchase much needed school resources for our children. Thank you for your continued support.

Publication of the Government's White Paper

You will have heard this week that the government have published a new Schools White Paper 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving', This was announced by the Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, which introduces a national vision for change across education, including significant proposals related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). A copy of this is attached. Also attached is a copy of another document released at the same time 'Our plan to help every child do well at school'.



Both of these documents can be accessed at [Every child achieving and thriving - GOV.UK](#)

This White Paper sets out a renewed focus on improving outcomes for all children and includes a parallel consultation on SEND reform titled Putting Children and Young People First. This forms part of a wider national commitment to strengthening SEND support in mainstream schools. Early indications highlight plans for reforms that will shape, over time, how SEND provision is overseen, supported and delivered in schools.

You may also be aware from national updates on Monday that the Government has signalled new investment in SEND services and that the reforms are intended to ensure all children receive the right support at the right time.

While we welcome this much needed new investment, we await confirmation of what this will exactly mean for our school.

What this means for our school right now

I want to reassure all parents and carers, especially families of children with SEND, that there will be no immediate changes to the support your child receives.

All existing provision will continue exactly as planned.

Our regular individual SEND reviews, organised by our Assistant Headteacher/Inclusion Leader, Mr Vallejo, will continue throughout this term as usual. These meetings remain an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, support strategies and next steps.

Schools will receive further detailed guidance and information about the White Paper and the SEND consultation in the coming weeks. Once this additional detail is made available, we will carefully review the implications for our school and we will ensure that any future changes are communicated clearly to you

Fit For Feb!

Highbury Fields Park Run

Last Sunday, many of our SJA families came out to complete a 2K park run around Highbury Fields.



The children (and some parents!) braved the rain and ran with big smiles around the course. Well done to everyone who made it to the event – it was lots of fun!



And a huge thank you to the PA for organising the event.

Fit For Feb!



Reuben Arthur



We were thrilled to welcome athlete Reuben Arthur to our school for an inspiring visit that left a big impression on everyone! Reuben shared his journey from his own primary school days at St. Joan of Arc to becoming a Commonwealth Champion, reminding our children that big dreams can start small and grow with hard work and determination. His message about hard work, self-belief and perseverance truly resonated with the children and staff. The assembly ended with plenty of energy and laughter as Reuben set a high-knees challenge, which many brave children and teachers were eager to take on. It was a memorable day that inspired our school community to aim high and keep moving forward.



Fit For Feb!

An unbelievable achievement for Sonic, a true club legend

Sunday will be special at StoneX 🤩

#StrongerTogether 🇬🇧🇮🇪



Sonic has had a 22-year long career playing for Saracens and shared her secret of hard work and discipline

Special Guest Visit

As part of Fit for Feb, we had another special guest visit us today. Sonia 'Sonic' Green, ex-England 7s and Saracens rugby captain, spoke to our juniors in KS2 assembly. Their own values that are important to them and important people in their lives that support them with holding these.



(two of Saracens's values) which enabled her to play top-flight rugby at such a high level, alongside a full-time teaching job for so long.

She spoke of inspirational figures in her life and urged the children to consider their own values that are important to them and important people in their lives that support them with holding these.



St Joan of Arc Teachers v Parents Netball Match

Congratulations Parent Netball Team

We had been warned that the parents had taken this challenge very seriously, including scheduling additional practices at Highbury Fields. This paid off as they were well and truly the better team and

were successful in winning the netball match against the staff.

They showed excellent team work, great skill and won.

Congratulations to all team members. The children loved this event and brought about a great sense of community.

Fit For Feb!



Fit For Feb! Skipathon –Skipathon was a great

success and really ignited the children’s love for skipping. Children are welcome to bring in their own skipping ropes to use at playtime.



Boxersize & Shadow Boxing The children had the opportunity to take a training session with our visiting boxing coaches this week William Akins from TKS and former pupil Joseph Burton from Islington Boxing Club. Both coaches put the children through their paces with fancy footwork, skipping and general fitness .

Fit For Feb!



Fit For Feb! Rhythmic Gymnastics

The children in the infants enjoyed having a rhythmic gymnastics session with Ellen from Alien Zoo.

They explored making patterns and shapes using special ribbons and lots of fun was had by all, including the adults.



MARCH

Week Beginning Monday 2nd

- 3rd - Book Sale Bring £1
- Reception and Year 6 Measurement Programme
- 5th - World Book Day wear your Pyjamas to school
- 6th - KS1 Road Safety Theatre Performance
- Yr 4 Reconciliation

Week Beginning Monday 9th

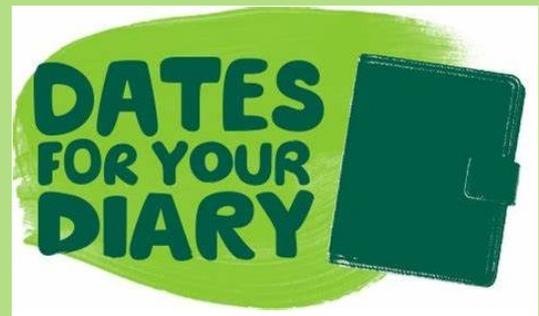
- 12th - Year 4 trip to The Science Museum
- 13th - 8.45am Mother's Day Assembly led by Reception - Mother's invited
- Yr 6 reconciliation

Week Beginning Monday 16th

- 17th - 3.15 - 5.45pm Parent Consultation
- 18th - 3.15 - 5.45pm Parent Consultation
- 19th - 8.30am Uniform Stall
- 8.45am Yr 4 Assembly—Parents invited
- 20th - Year trip to The Arsenal Hub—Irish History Month
- 3pm Cake Stall

Week Beginning Monday 23rd

- 23rd - 27th Reconciliation
- 24th - 8.30am Parent Support Network
- 25th - Years 4-6 Orienteering Trip
- 26th - 8.45am Easter Passion Play—Y5 parents invited
- 27th - 9am End of Term Mass led by 4J—Parents invited
- **1.30pm – school closes for the Easter holidays**



PARENTS EVENING

Tuesday 17th and
Wednesday 18th March
3.15-5.45pm



School Opens
For
Summer Term
8.30am

