

Newsletter No. 14

Friday 21st April 2023



Dear parents and caregivers.

I hope you all managed to have a lovely Easter break. The children and staff certainly looked refreshed on their return to school on Monday. We started the summer term off with a lovely whole school assembly, which Classes A and B attended for the first time. We discussed the events that took place in the Church during Holy Week, culminating in the Easter story.

Class H led the first Mass of this term today and did really well with their readings and singing.

Thank you again for your very generous donations of Easter eggs for our raffle at the end of term. It was lovely for every child to receive one. This resulted in lots of happy faces all round!

This term we are reintroducing the Parent/Caregiver Forum, which I am sure most of you are unaware that it actually exists (not surprisingly as we haven't met since before Covid). Regular communication and consultation with parents and caregivers is important to the school. This Forum, which will meet once a term, is a valuable way to share information, views and ideas, and to make suggestions for how the school can be improved. All families are represented on the Forum by their class reps.

The aim of the forum is to:

- To provide a forum to share information and views on general school related topics
- To widen communication between school staff, Governors and families
- To provide an opportunity for all parents/caregivers to have equal voice through using the structure of class representatives

We will be having an Initial introductory meeting with Class reps on Thursday 18 May, 8.40am, with the first full Forum meeting – Thursday 15 June, 8.40am. More information on this will be sent in the next newsletter.

You will all be aware that schools in London are finding it incredibly difficult to retain pupils as families are moving out of London. St Joan of Arc is no exception to this, as you will probably personally know friends of your children who have recently left.

I thought you might like to read this article which was published during the Easter holidays, which highlights this issue and the impact on schools.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/13/city-without-children-dystopia-new-reality-london?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Going forward, The Parent/Caregiver Forum will be an essential communication channel for the school as we will need to do some things slightly differently.

The summer term is always busy with lots of school events, in addition to what is always a busy time for families. This term we have the King's Coronation to celebrate as well as our Sports Day and Summer Fair. These dates are all on the calendar on the school's website:

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

Good luck to all Marathon Runners

Sunday is a big day for all the runners who are participating in the London Marathon. I know we have a few parents running as well as one of our teachers Ms Gyles – so good luck to everyone and enjoy this fantastic experience.

King's Coronation

We will be celebrating the King's Coronation on **Friday 5th May** by asking children to come to school in colours of red, white and or blue. Please do not purchase any special clothing items for this. The children will be celebrating this occasion in their phases so look out for more information from their teacher on Google Classroom or Tapestry.

Pupils with injuries

If your child sustains an injury which means that they have a body part in plaster, please ensure you have seen the school's Welfare Officer, Ms Doogan before your child returns to school.

Readathon

Many thanks for encouraging your child to participate in the school's Readathon. It is so encouraging to see so many children actively reading in their spare time. So far this has raised over £7,000 which is much appreciated. Although the on-line part of the Readathon closes tonight, <https://sja.rallyup.com/readathon2023/Campaign/Details>, cash donations are also accepted and can be handed into the school office next week.

Finally, many congratulations are extended to James L from Year 6, who was last term's worthy winner of the Citizenship Award.



Check out the following newsfeeds on the school website

African theme day

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/news/african-themed-day/>

Mini Vinnies

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/news/year-3/sja-mini-vinnies-turn-concern-into-action/>