



Newsletter No. 16

Friday 15th May 2026

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Well done to our Year 6 children who worked very hard this week on completing their statutory SATs papers. There is huge national debate about whether our children should have to go through testing at primary school, but I can say with confidence that all our children know that they are more than a score!

The Year 6's had a lovely time in Clissold Park today as a reward for their hard work and they are even getting a weekend free from homework.

We have had several school trips and sport competitions taking place as well. Thank you to all the parents who have given up their time to accompany the children whilst they are off site. Your help has been very much appreciated. More details about the trips and competitions appear later in this newsletter.

Next week is our final week before the May half term holidays. We look forward to Year Three's assembly on Thursday and St Joan of Arc Day on Friday.

Clare Campbell



Thank you for supporting the auction

A huge, heartfelt thank you to every one of you who contributed to the auction and class lots. Your kindness and generosity have blown us away — and we're thrilled to share that we've raised close to **£13.5k**, exceeding our target by a significant margin.

This incredible total means all our children will continue to have music lessons led by a music expert next year, which is something we're so proud to secure as a community.

SJA Auction Team & SJA PA



Year 2 Gymnastics Competition



A huge well done to our Year 2 gymnastics team who flipped, balanced, and tumbled their way to success at Tuesday's Islington school competition. They all showed incredible dedication and commitment to learning four routines each. Their hard

work paid off with a fantastic **3rd place finish!** We are so proud of the confidence they displayed on the floor. Well done to our Year 2s!

Watches in school



Please note that only a simple watch that tells the time is allowed in school. Watches that have cameras or access to the internet are not allowed.



CHILDREN'S ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school for any reason, it is extremely important that you let us know. You can inform us by telephone (0207 226 3920) during school hours or leave a message at any time by choosing option 1. You can also email us at - absence@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic trip to see **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at the **Unicorn Theatre**. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were a real credit to the school throughout the day.

Following the show, the children enjoyed lunch by the river, taking in some of London's most iconic landmarks including Tower Bridge, the Sky Garden, HMS Belfast and the Tower of London. It was a lovely day and a memorable experience for all involved.



Extended School Childcare & Clubs



It's that time of year again whereby we need to review the logistics of our Extended Schools service in preparation for the new academic year.

I know there has been a lot of discussion about the booking system at Parent Forum- particularly about how stressful it is trying to secure childcare

three times a year and a call for a yearly booking system. Like with all systems there will be some parents that prefer this termly flexibility and other who don't.

I have analysed pupil attendance over the last three years and two factors are consistent

1. numbers in the infants attending Extended Schools remains consistent across the year.
2. The numbers for older children are higher for the first half of the year and then really decline. This is due to parents in Years 5 and 6 wanting their children to be more independent and walk home on their own for the second part of the year.

You will therefore see from the questionnaire; we are asking for your preference to either keep the system as it is or to go for a booking system twice a year so that it benefits both infant and junior pupils

Nursery parents – there is a specific question for you to answer, which hopefully will cover items raised at Parent Forum too.

If you could spare 5 minutes of your time to complete the questionnaire, I would be very grateful.

Questionnaire Link: <https://forms.gle/YYk33TYk7YzrYd9r5>

St Joan of Arc Day



In celebration for the feast day of St. Joan of Arc, the children will be partaking in different lessons/activities.

Nursery and Reception classes will be decorating cookies highlighting their house logos as well as making house shields.

Year 1 and 2 will also be creating shields as well as marble and fire art reflecting the house logos.

Year 3 will be compiling fact files on historical figures related to SJA as well as baking madeleines using their food-technology skills.

Year 4 will also be baking madeleines and creating computer codes to create a SJA quiz.

Year 5 will be using software to recreate existing house logos as well as submit a pitch for 'The 5th House' complete with value, ethos and logo design.

Year 6 will be designing a presentation comparing our school with other SJA schools internationally or creating a tourism presentation for Rouen. They will then compose a script to record a screencast of their presentation.

During the week there will be a special assembly as well as a KS2 house tournament. Each class will also have an opportunity to learn new playground games led by Y6 pupils. The week will end with a SJA Mass on Friday and a cold icy treat for the whole school in the playground.

A busy week but hopefully a fun and memorable one.



Summer Fete

Summer Fete — Saturday 4th July, 12–3pm

Join us for a wonderful afternoon of fun. The Summer Fete is a brilliant opportunity to show everyone how special our school community is, so please do invite family, friends and neighbours.

A signup sheet will be shared soon, but if you're interested in leading a stall, please email us at sjoacommitee@gmail.com.



The school will also be led by a new Headteacher for the day, Mr McGrath from Class M (who won this prize in the auction). I shall be very much looking forward to my day off and also getting some feedback as to how I can improve my effectiveness. Mr McGrath will share his feedback in the next newsletter.

Preparation for Warmer Weather After Half Term

As we head into the **warmer months**, I want to mention a few matters regarding **sun safety and hydration**. Firstly, please ensure your child applies **sunscreen** before coming to school. Protecting their skin from the Sun's rays makes a big difference in preventing sunburn and long-term damage.

Secondly, please ensure your child has a refillable **water bottle** in school. Staying hydrated is essential, especially during hot weather.



Additionally, I recommend that your child has a **sun hat** which covers their head, neck, and ears. This will offer extra protection from the Sun's heat and help prevent heat-related issues.



I pray to you St Joan of Arc,
to help me hold firm in my faith,
to believe in my ability,
to act well and wisely

Amen

EVENTS TAKING PLACE THIS TERM

School Masses

All at **St Joan of Arc Church** – starting at 9.00am

Friday 22nd May – St Joan of Arc Day Mass led by Class 4J

Friday 26th June - St Peter and St Paul Feast Day Mass led by Year 2

Friday 17th July – Year 6 Leavers' Mass



Year Group Assemblies

All in the **large hall** – starting at 9.00am

Thursday 21st May— Year 3 Special Assembly

Friday 19th June – Year 1—Fathers' Day

Cake Stall – Today!

All on the **top playground** 3pm, led by parents/caregivers
in allocated year groups

Friday 15th May – Years 2 and 3 parents



Recycled Uniform Stalls

Saturday 4th July-12-3pm @ the Summer Fete

Sports Day

Thursday 11th June

Finsbury Park Athletics Track ----- 9.15am - 12.00pm



PA Events

Friday 5th June 8.30am—PA Meeting

Saturday 4th July 12-3pm – Summer Fete



Dates for your diary

Week beginning Monday 18th May

- 19th - 9am New Reception Parent meeting
- 20th - 8.45am Nursery transfer to Reception Parent Meeting
- 21st - 8.45am Assembly led by Year 3 - Parents invited
- 22nd - 9am St Joan of Arc Day Mass led by 4J, St Joan of Arc Church - Parents welcome
Children to wear House colours
Pm Years 5&6 Cricket Final, Tufnell Park

Week beginning Monday 25th to Friday 29th—Half Term

Week beginning Monday 1st June

- 1st - INSET Day - School closed
- 2nd - Return to School 8.15 for 8.30am
- 3rd - Year 3/4 Athletics, Finsbury Park Athletics Track
- 5th - 8.30am PA Meeting in Staff Room
Year 2 Mini Olympics, Sobell Centre

Week beginning Monday 8th June

- 9th - 8.45am Parent Support Group
Year 5/6 Gymnastics, Sobell Centre
Year Group Photographs - All Classes in Playground
- 11th - Sports Day, Finsbury Park Athletics Track

Week Beginning Monday 15th June

- 15th to 26th - Class 5L Swimming Lessons at Highbury Pool
- 16th - Year 3/4 Tennis Tournament, Finsbury Park
- 19th - 8.45am Father's Day Assembly for Year 1
Year 5/6 Ultimate Frisbee, Barnard Park Astro turf - TBC

Week Beginning Monday 22nd June

- 24th - Year 5/6 Tennis Tournament, Finsbury Park
- 25th - 10am Whole school dance performance and filming in playground
- 26th - 9am St Peter and St Paul Feast Day mass led by Year 2

Week beginning Monday 29th June

- 29th to 3rd July - Year 6 Activity Week
- 29th to 10th July - Class 5K Swimming Lessons at Highbury Pool
- 30th - 8.45am Parent Support Network
- 1st - Year 4/5 Orienteering, Highbury Fields
- 3rd - Year 3/4 National School Sport Week Multi-Sport Festival, Sobell Centre - TBC

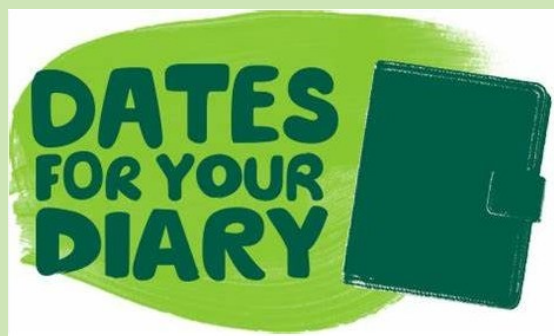
Saturday 4th July 12-3pm Summer Fete

Week beginning Monday 6th July

- 8th - Year 5/6 Athletics Championships, Finsbury Park Athletics Track
- 9th - 8.30am Parent Forum Meeting
- 10th - Treeroots - Multi-Sport Festival for SEND, Sobell Centre

Week beginning Monday 13th July

- 15th - 9am Year 6 End of Term Play - Year 6 parents invited
6.30 - 8.30pm Year 6 Leavers Disco
- 17th - 9am Leavers Mass, St Joan of Arc Church - All parents invited
1.30pm School breaks up for the Summer Holiday



St Joan of Arc Day

2026						
MAY						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

INSET DAY

2026						
JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sports DAY

2026						
JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Summer Fete

2026						
JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31