



Newsletter No.19

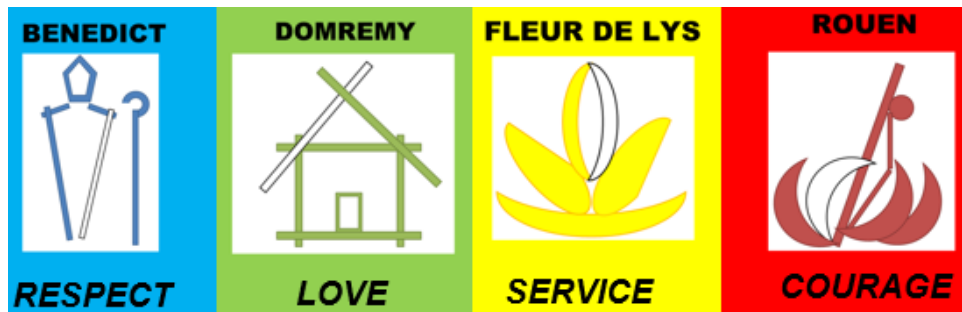
Fri 18th June 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a lovely return to school in the sunshine for a final half term of the year. Year 6 children had their leavers hoodies delivered last week and were proudly wearing them (in the heat) to remind us sadly that their time at SJA is nearly over and they are getting ready to move on. Although the news on Monday wasn't what we have all been hoping for, we have learnt in the last 18 months to be patient and make the most of what we can do.

We are delighted that we can reinstate some of our traditional end of term events such as school Masses, leavers' disco and sports day for our pupils which we have been able to adapt to keep everyone safe. We are forever hopeful that in the new school year, we can start to invite parents back to assemblies and other events that make SJA what it is. For now, we need to continue to adjust and work together to ensure that we are all following the rules and keeping safe.

Claire Campbell



Generous spirit

With birthday parties starting to resume it is so humbling to hear that Leonardo in 1C requested no gifts from his guests for his birthday. Instead he asked them to make a small donation and place it in his home-made collection box. Last Monday, he presented me with his donation box and asked for the contents to be used to buy more new books, as he loves getting a reading book which is brand new. I was totally blown away by Leonardo's act of kindness at such a young age. It can never be said enough but children are great teachers!



COVID-19 UPDATE

Lockdown easing: the rules in England from 21 June



More than 30 guests can attend a wedding but must be seated at tables of six

Other restrictions remain in place



Up to six people or two households can meet indoors



Pubs and restaurants table service only



Theatre and cinema audiences limited to 50% capacity



Bigger crowds allowed at some pilot events for sport and entertainment



Social distancing remains in place



Nightclubs remain closed

On the 14th June Boris Johnson announced that current restrictions will continue until July 19th. Therefore all our systems of control remain operational.

Masks are optional on the playground.

Face-to-face meetings are not encouraged.

Ingress and egress systems remain the same.

Please arrive at the correct time slot in the morning and afternoon.

Please do not enter the school against the one-way system; even if you are late.

Thank you for your patience and adhering to the guidelines for the safety of our community.

If your child experiences any of the symptoms, isolate them and acquire a PCR test.



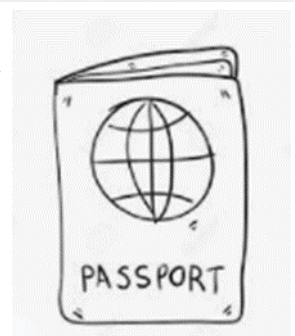
Travelling Abroad This Summer?

If you have booked or are planning to book an overseas trip during the school summer holiday, you will need to let us know. We continue to follow government guidelines concerning foreign travel restrictions and require evidence of return travel dates and destinations you are returning from.

We understand that families will want to get away over the Summer but our priority needs to be to protect the whole school community. Please check the government list of Green/Amber/Red countries to keep up to date with current regulations.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england>

As always, we appreciate your continued support in all Covid related concerns.



Diary Dates

Y6 Activity week

5th –9th July

Sports Day—Thursday

24th June at Finsbury Park

9.15—12.30 (KS2)

Year 2 end of year Mass

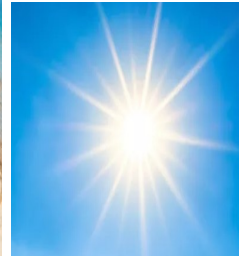
Friday 9th July 10.15am Y2 parents/carers invited

Year 6 end of year Mass

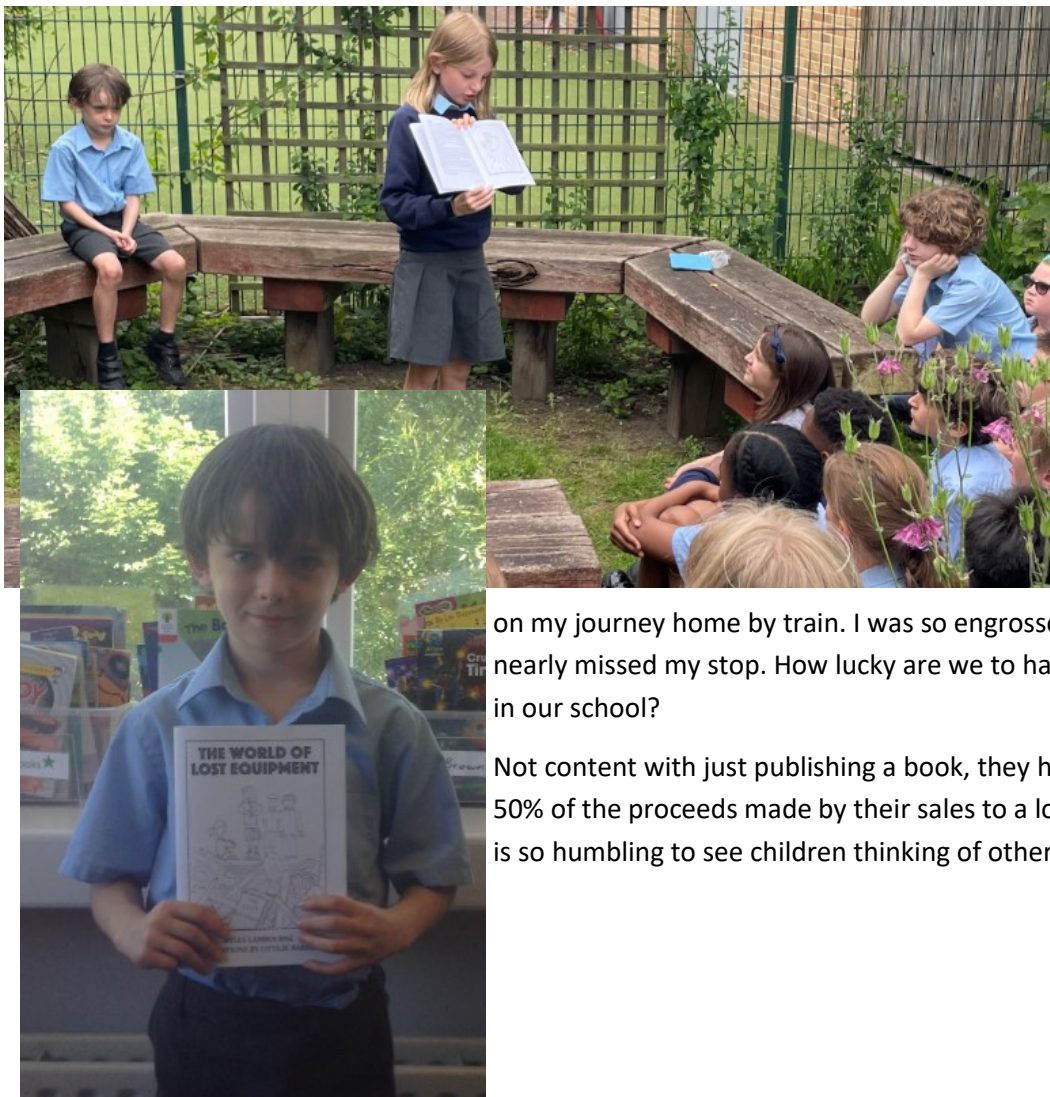
Friday 16th July 9.30am Y6 parents/carers invited

Protection from the sun:

As the summer temperatures continue to soar, please ensure your child has a water bottle, and sunscreen applied to exposed skin. Water fountains are still inactive due to the mitigating actions we have implemented.



Amazing achievement and a second act of kindness



Miles (3G) and Otilie (4J) have just written and illustrated their first novel called 'The World of Lost Equipment'. The fact that they did this in their own time at home, shows what motivated and skilled children they are. I was really lucky to have been presented with a copy to read which I read

on my journey home by train. I was so engrossed in the plot that I nearly missed my stop. How lucky are we to have such talented pupils in our school?

Not content with just publishing a book, they have decided to donate 50% of the proceeds made by their sales to a local homeless charity. It is so humbling to see children thinking of others ahead of themselves.

Extended Schools:

You will have read in the communication sent before half term, that we are going to be running the Extended Schools Service from September internally.

We are in the process of finalising details of both the childcare element and clubs as well as setting up an online booking system. We are aiming to get this to you on Friday 2nd July so you can book prior to the term ending ready for the Autumn Term.



For those of you feeling anxious about getting childcare sorted (and I am with you on that one as I know how difficult it can be), below is a quick summary to enable to you know in advance, what we are going to be offering and whether this is going to meet your needs:

1. Childcare for children in Years R to 6 – from 3pm to either 5pm or 5.45pm – Monday to Friday
2. There will be at least one club offered for each year group over the week and you can book the club offer – which will end at 5pm and add childcare for 45 minutes if required

The pricing structure agreed by the Governing Body's Finance Committee is as follows:

- Childcare only from 3-5pm - £8.00 per session
- Childcare only from 3-5.45pm -£12.00 per session
- Club (3-4pm) and childcare (4-5pm)- £9.00 per session
- Club (3-4pm) and childcare (4-5.45pm) -£13.00 per session

The booking system will allow you to do a mix and match of the above so is flexible to meet your daily after school needs. We will be asking parents to book for the whole of the autumn term and payment can be made by setting up a monthly payment plan, with childcare vouchers or payment for the whole term. You can also pay with a combination of childcare vouchers and card.

More details, including how to set up an account on our new booking system will be sent via e-mail to all parents on **Friday 2nd July**.



Parent volunteers – we need you!

As restrictions begin to ease, we are hoping to welcome parent volunteers to assist with reading across the school from September. Literacy is found to be one of the strongest predictors of academic success and research studies show that parental involvement in education is an important component in school success and is correlated with increased achievement. We would be delighted to hear from any parents or carers who are able to make a regular commitment to improving the success of our children's reading through one-to-one sessions across the school. This could be for one hour (or more) per week.



Prospective volunteers will need to complete the necessary DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) documents as this is a legal requirement. You will be asked to provide 3 forms of identification, for example passport, driving license, bank statement, utility bill etc. Please contact the school at info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk (in subject box please enter: FAO C Vassallo—English Manager) as soon as possible stating your interest, in order to obtain the necessary forms so that we can have this in place for the start of the new academic year.

We would ask that only those who are able to make a regular commitment apply as the cost to the school for obtaining the DBS checks is quite considerable. Once you have received DBS clearance we will then allocate



Important information about Sports Day 2021 has been emailed to EYFS & KS1 and a letter sent home today with KS2 children.

Prayer for the weekend:

Have a safe weekend.

We are blessed to have God's love in our school through your children.

