



## Newsletter No.2

Fri 1st October

Dear Parents & Carers,

Now we have reached the end of week five, we continue to be blessed with our amazing children in school. Staff are reporting that they are working hard and I had the pleasure of awarding some certificates in assembly yesterday to a number of junior children for being real super stars.

As expected, once society reopened the bugs in school have returned! The infant children in particular are suffering from colds, coughs and high temperatures. As you know, we do our very best to keep children in school unless they are really unwell. This week, Ms Doogan, our Welfare Assistant, has been extremely busy sending children home after only being in school for thirty minutes. These children were clearly unwell before they left home. I know it is really hard to manage children when they are sick particularly when you are working but, I do have a duty of care to both the other children and staff in the class. Class teachers who are normally immune to these bugs have also been off this week and I have learnt very quickly that getting good quality supply teachers is as rare as finding petrol at a petrol station!

In order to keep the school running effectively, I am asking you for extra vigilance. Please continue to encourage your child to regularly wash their hands and keep them away from school if they are feeling unwell. You need to get a PCR test for your child if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case or have any of the following symptoms: high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss of taste or smell.

Kind regards,

*Clare Campbell*

### Goodbye to Ms Newman:

We said a temporary goodbye to Ms Newman in assembly on Monday as she starts her maternity leave today. The children had lots of tips for her as she prepares to become a mum, including patience and reverse psychology! We will miss her wonderful teaching as well as her passion for sport but hope she manages a few weeks of rest before her new arrival.





### **Uniform Stall / School Uniform:**

A big thank you to parents who have volunteered to run this initiative this year. This is a big voluntary role but is much appreciated by all the parents who benefit from purchasing good quality uniform at a much-reduced price.

There is a lot of uniform in stock across all age ranges so if your child is not wearing the correct uniform there is now no excuse!

The used uniform stall will be open next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (4-6th October).

On entry to the school, parents are informed of the school's uniform policy so there is an expectation that everyone adheres to this, including shoes.



### **Labelling jumpers and coats:**

On Wednesday evening, I picked up 16 coats left in the playground by children after various play and lunchtime activities. One had a name in it which has been returned to its owner. In assembly yesterday, the Year 6s were our human calculators and approximated the total cost of these coats which came to £620. I have reminded the children about taking responsibility for their belongings. I know as a parent there is nothing more infuriating at pick up time to be minus a jumper or, even worse, a coat, but name labels were a fantastic invention and help to reduce rising blood pressure levels of all adults involved (including mine)!



### **Message from Fr Gerard:**

First Holy Communion 2022 will be on Sunday 19 June. Registration forms for children, in Years 3, 4 and above, are now available from Father Gerard or Father Carlos after Mass at weekends to be returned by Sunday 28 November, 2021.



### **Virtual opportunity to meet your child's class teacher:**

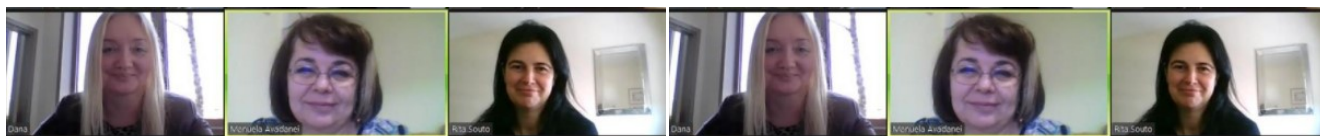
During the week beginning Monday 4th October there will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher virtually to find out what they will be learning in the year. These sessions will take place via zoom (will take approx. 30 minutes) and we will send a link to the zoom session on the day via email and text.

Some of the things that will be discussed are:

- Topics that your child will be covering in class
- The class rules and routines
- The behaviour policy and how this is put in place in your child's new class
- How homework is set and marked
- The school's expectations for attendance and punctuality
- Upcoming events for the term
- An opportunity to ask any further questions

Please see below for when your child's session will be held:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>When</b>
Nursery	Mr Newman	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> 9.00am
Reception	Ms Tibbs and Ms O'Brien	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> 3.45pm
Year 1	Ms Nicou and Ms O'Connor	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> 3.45pm
Year 2	Ms Vassallo and Mrs Farrell	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> 4.15pm
Year 3	Ms Kelly and Mr Shreeves	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> 3.45pm
Year 4	Mr Gordge and Ms Newson	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> 4.15pm
Year 5	Ms Williams and Ms Connolly	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> 3.45pm
Year 6	Mr McCormick and Mrs Gyles	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> 4.15pm



### **Pupil Photographs:**

The photographer will be returning to duty on Wednesday 15th October to take individual photos and those with siblings (who attend our school). Please ensure your child is in full uniform. If it is your child's PE day, please send their kit in a bag and they will get changed in school on this occasion.



### **Meeting your child's teacher in person:**

For the autumn term, we are going to hold parent consultations face to face. These will take place in your child's classroom on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th October from 3.15 to 5.45pm.

With this being the first 'in-person' parents' evenings in two years we would request your co-operation in making this run as smoothly and safely as possible. On this occasion, to keep numbers on-site low and to avoid waiting areas being too busy we would ask you to keep to the following guidance:

1. Only arriving just prior to your appointment – entry is on Northolme Road
2. Wearing a mask and sanitising hands on entry
3. Socially distancing while inside the school building
4. Departing as soon as your appointments have finished
5. If you feel unwell – informing the school to request a phone appointment – this can be done via email on [info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk)

We really want you to meet the teacher in person, as we know how important parent teacher conversations are, but we also need your support in helping to keep the minimum amount of adults in the building at one time. Following these simple measures helps to keep everyone as safe as possible and your co-operation is much appreciated in this area.





### **Black History Month and Show Racism the Red Card:**

This month is Black History Month, with the central theme being 'Proud to be Me'.

This year, across the whole school, we will be using British Museum's famous Black Britons resources. These introduce the children to ten pictures or objects featuring prominent Black Britons through British history and are designed to

provide teachers with an opportunity to build student familiarity with Black British history and the historical black presence in Britain.

Through discussion of the objects they will find out about the lives of the featured historical figures and learn about the contributions of Black Britons throughout British history. Older children will have the opportunity to research and write about these important historical figures alongside other more widely known famous Black Britons; creating timelines that recognise the significant achievements of Black Britons.

In addition to the study of Black history, the children will have the opportunities to listen to and enjoy the work of prominent Black authors in story time across all year groups. Years 1-6 have already completed a unit of work based around Floella Benjamin's 'Coming to England' chronicling her experience as a child of the Windrush Generation.

All children will also have the opportunity to show their support for the vital work of 'Show Racism the Red Card' by wearing red items of clothing to school on Friday 22nd October. During the day the children will also be asked to bring a voluntary contribution of £1 to go to the charity.



**Show Racism the Red Card**



### **Two Parent Governor Vacancies:**

The Governing Body of the School currently has two Parent Governor vacancies.

I have attached a more detailed letter for you to read at your leisure but for those of you who prefer a brief summary, this is below:

### **The Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body is responsible for both the conduct of the School and for promoting high standards. The Governing Body undertakes its role by setting the vision for the School and then ensuring that the School works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision. It does this by building a thorough knowledge of the School and its community, by both supporting and constructively challenging the School, and by ensuring accountability and compliance.

### **Expectations from a governor**

Governors are expected to attend termly Governing Body meetings, termly committee meetings, regularly visit the School for monitoring purposes and undertake relevant identified training. Governors need not be experts in the field of education. They need to have an interest in the School and in the welfare of the pupils and the time and willingness to become involved.

The skills you have can be very useful to the Governing Body. Parent Governors are representative parents but not parent representatives and bring a parental perspective to the board discussion.

The present Governing Body is made up made up of two men and nine women. Ideally, we would like to create a Governing Body which better reflects the diverse nature of our school community; achieving a more representative gender and cultural mix within our Governing Body. However, all applications will be very gratefully received.

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at the School, please email the school office on [info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk) and I will arrange for a Governor to contact you.

More information is available on the attached letter.

June 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		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			

### School Term Dates:

Since the last newsletter, the Council have requested that school's make one alteration to their term dates this year to consider the two public holidays that have been agreed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. As this extra Bank Holiday falls in the May half term week, the school will also be closed for an additional day on Monday 6th June 2022. Attached are the final school term dates for this academic year.

**Monday 6th Jun 2022**



### Dates for your diary:

4th -10th Oct – Year 5K – Daily swimming lesson

7th Oct – Judaism workshop for KS2 children

12th Oct – 9am – Prospective parents open morning

12th Oct – 3.15-5.45 – Parents Evening

13th Oct – 3.15-5.45 – Parents Evening

15th Oct – Pupil photographs

17th Oct -11.00am – SJA Church Mass to celebrate 100th Anniversary

22nd Oct – Non-uniform day – Wear Red – in support of Show Racism the Red Card

25th – 29th Oct – Half Term

### October—month of the Rosary:

During October we remember the prayer of the rosary, the faith of St. Dominic who was presented the rosary and the Virgin Mary who is mother to all.



# COVID-19 UPDATE

## What are the current rules in England?

- 1m-plus social distancing guidance remains in some places such as hospitals and passport control
- **Face coverings no longer required by law**, but the government still "expects and recommends" them in crowded/enclosed spaces
- Some **shops and transport operators still require masks**
- Anyone with **Covid symptoms must self-isolate for 10 days** (or until a negative PCR result)

Businesses such as nightclubs **are encouraged to use the NHS Covid Pass** to check people are fully vaccinated.

People who have been working from home **are being encouraged to return to the workplace gradually**.



The Prime Minister has announced their plans to combat the virus throughout the autumn and winter months. Plan A includes booster vaccine shots and a focus on ventilation while a Plan B contingency is on standby should covid rates escalate to alarming rates.

### COVID-19 RESPONSE: AUTUMN AND WINTER PLAN

## What is England's Plan A?

Under the government's **Covid-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan**, Covid **booster jabs** are being offered to about 30 million people, including the over-50s, younger adults with health conditions and frontline health and social care workers.

**Healthy 12 to 15-year-olds** are being offered a single dose and **unvaccinated people are being encouraged** to get jabbed.

Plan A also includes:

- the continuation of NHS Test and Trace and free PCR tests
- encouraging **free flu vaccine take-up**
- reminding people to let in fresh air when meeting indoors and to wear face coverings in crowded places