



Newsletter No.2

Fri 23rd September

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been lovely to see and speak to lots of you during the last three weeks and particularly nice to get to know the new families to our school. I am pleased to report that the children have been very settled and have adapted quickly to their school routines.

I am hoping that you found this week's parents curriculum meetings with your child's teacher helpful. It is always good to get an insight into what they are doing in the day as I am sure when asked by you at the end of the day what they have been doing, the response is usually 'nothing'!!

Year one's virtual curriculum meeting takes place on Monday 26th at 3.45 and Year two's at 4.20pm.

All slides shown at these meetings will be posted on either Tapestry or Google Classroom for you to refer to if required.

The weekly homework routine has also started for all year groups and as family life outside of school is very busy, this is now set on a Friday for completion by the following Friday. Hopefully, having the weekend to complete homework, will make your evenings after school less stressful. Reading books have also been sent out, with children expected to read for at least ten minutes per night for younger children and twenty minutes for our older pupils.

Assemblies over the last two weeks enabled us to gather together as a school community and remember the life of Queen Elizabeth II. We pray for our new, King Charles III that truth, justice, fairness and harmony flourish amongst us.

Kind regards,

Clare Campbell

Pupil Photographs:

The photographer will be returning to duty on Friday 14th 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.

SAY CHEESE!



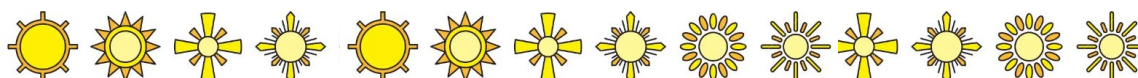
Meeting your child's teacher in person:

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 18th and Wednesday 19th October from 3.15 to 5.45pm (appointment slots are 10 minutes per child). Please note the change of date due to the rearranged Arsenal home match taking place on Thursday 20th October. Entry to the school is via the main entrance on Northolme Road. The focus for these meetings is to meet your child's teacher in person, to find out how they have settled into their new class and be made aware of what area of the curriculum they need to focus on.



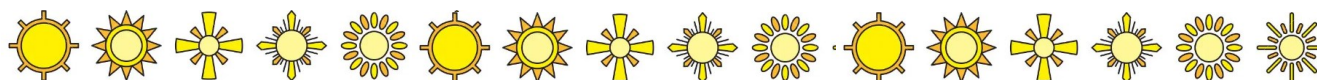
Appointments can be made from Monday 3rd October at 10am. Look out for a separate email from the office with details of how to book.

Summer fete:



Your efforts and support at last summer's fete was a heart-warming end to the year. Seeing the many families in our community come together and support the school is a wonderful sight. We are very lucky to have such a kind and willing community at SJA. The fete raised a whopping **£7800!**

Thank you to all who supported and a special thank you to the PA who work tirelessly to support the school



Parent coffee morning – Friday 21st October:

Termly coffee mornings are back and are open to all parents in the school. On this occasion, I would specifically like to invite parents from the nursery, reception, Years 1 and 2 to this event as we were unable to do a welcome coffee morning for you when your child started school. This is an informal 'come and meet other parents' and will take place in the large hall from 8.30-9.30am.



Update on Mrs Aristodemou – TA:

Those of you who were with us during the last school year will know that Mrs Aristodemou, one of our long serving TA's was seriously ill last year.

I am delighted to say that she was discharged from hospital in July and is convalescing at home.

She popped in to see us on the INSET day in September and was greeted by a big round of applause and a big cheer from all of the staff.

Mrs Aristodemou has asked me to pass on her thanks for all the prayers and get well wishes that she received from you and the children.





School Uniform:

Thank you very much for your part in ensuring that your child is wearing the correct uniform, including shoes. A reminder that school shoes need to be worn with uniform and trainers are for PE days only and correct school shoes should be free of sports labels/branding and should be able to be polished.

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/1Uniform-Policy.pdf>



Uniform Stall:

A big thank you to parents who have volunteered to run this initiative this year. This is a big voluntary role that requires more helpers. If you can spare a small amount of time to support with this well used facility, please e-mail the school office, putting help with uniform stall in the subject.

The next stall is on Monday 17th October and is located outside the main office

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



Labels:

And finally regarding uniform ..labelling jumpers and coats

Our lost property cupboard is already full with items that have not been named from the beginning of this term. Mr Fuiava has reminded the children during assembly about taking responsibility for their belongings and the importance of labelling items. 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)!



Book corners:

Many studies have shown that the greatest factor in a child's future educational success is the development of a love of reading for pleasure. To that end, at St Joan of Arc, we continue to try and promote a love of reading in all our children.

Over the summer holidays, our lovely new book corners were installed in all classrooms from year one to six. Thanks to the generous and committed fundraising efforts of the Parents' Association, the book corners have been improved beyond recognition; outdated Ikea furniture has been replaced with bespoke furniture designed to encourage the children to explore and engage with the books on the shelves. The children have really loved exploring the new areas and the books within them.

Alongside the installation of the new furniture, every classroom had their book stock updated with over fifty new reading books. Unlike banded books, linked to a child's decoding proficiency, all of the books in the book corners are available for all children in the class to borrow. We want children to be engaged and aspirational in their reading; making all books available to them is an important part of this. Many of the new books are from the Books For Topics recommended reads for each year group <https://www.booksfortopics.com/yeargroups>. You may wish to share the webpage with your child(ren) and talk about which books they may wish to read or explore in the coming weeks and months. All class library books have a sticker indicating which class they are from so they can be returned to the right classroom when they have been read.

All teachers have spoken to the children about looking after the new book corners and the books, encouraging them to be responsible borrowers so that all children get the chance to enjoy the books. Please encourage your child to look after the books that they take home so that they are returned in as good a condition as possible for other children to enjoy.

Thank you again for your amazing fundraising efforts to help make this wonderful improvement in our learning areas.

Old book corners:



New book corners:





INSET DAY reminder:

The school is closed on Friday 7th October for staff training.

October 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
31						



Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 2nd November – All Souls Day – Led by 6N

Friday 16th December – Christmas Mass – Led by Class 5L



October – The month of the Rosary:

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

A Prayer for our new King, Charles III:

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

