



Newsletter No.3

Thursday 6 October

Dear Parents & Carers,

Now we have reached the end of week six, 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 our new class librarians their badges in assembly on Monday. Many thanks to the parents who were able to attend at such short notice. I am sure that these children will be very good at keeping the library corners in order and encouraging their class members to return their books once they have finished reading them.

Not only are our present children amazing but in the past week a number of our ex-pupils have come to my attention with their achievements too. It is always wonderful to hear how children (who are now adults) are doing and a couple of parents have popped in to provide us with updates of children undertaking apprenticeships, going to college or University or going out into the world of work.

As a school, we strive to provide pupils with opportunities to develop in all curriculum areas so this week's updates of ex-pupils going to play basketball for an American College team, another starring in a tv series, House of the Dragon, another one on University Challenge and another has just signed for Juventus was so wonderful to hear. We all need good news stories (even if they make me feel very old)!

I am sure that you are looking forward to meeting your child's class teacher to find out how they are getting on in class at parents evening (Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October). If you haven't already signed up, please make every effort to do so. The focus of discussion will be on how your child has settled into their new class and progress in English and maths.

A reminder that the school is closed tomorrow for staff training and will reopen as normal on Monday.

Enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards,

Clare Campbell

Pupil Attendance and Punctuality:

As a school it is really important that we keep accurate records of the children's attendance

If your child is unwell, or will be absent from school for any reason, please telephone the school office and press 1 on the automated message service to report the absence. Alternatively you can e-mail on: absence@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

It is important that we have this information by 9.15am at the latest.





INSET Day Focus:

We are hosting four Islington Primary schools tomorrow for a training day on 'Let's talk about Race: Leaders Leading Change.' Professor Paul Miller, from the Institute for Educational and Social Equality is leading a session on racism in education in England and the need for a curriculum that is inclusive and anti-racist.

We also have Baroness Floella Benjamin coming to talk about her childhood journey to England as a child, a story which she wrote as a best-

selling book 'Coming to England', this is one of the books all children in Year 2 to 6 will know having studied it last year. EYFS and Year 1 will share the story this month.

We have been doing lots of work on reviewing our curriculum in school so I am sure that both of these speakers will help us in this journey to ensure that what we offer at SJA is reflective of the community that we serve.

Alongside this, some of our teaching assistants will be updating their First Aid training, so a busy day ahead for all of the staff.

Open Morning and Coffee Morning – Friday 21st October 8.30-9.45:

It is always nice to see your child in their classroom environment as I am sure, like my own children when you ask them what they have done all day they respond with 'nothing'! (I often wondered as a reception teacher why I was so exhausted at the end of the day - doing apparently nothing!)

We are hosting a combined coffee morning with an open morning so we can welcome, in particular, our infant parents alongside an opportunity for you to visit your child in class.



CHANGE OF DATE

The recycled uniform stall scheduled for Monday 17th October will now be held during the open and coffee morning on Friday 21st October

SAY CHEESE!



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.



Pokemon Cards/ World Cup cards:

Just to let you know that children are not permitted to have these cards in school. I spoke to the children in assembly on Monday about this and said the swapping of cards is for outside of school - for obvious reasons.



Cake stall :

Old style cake stall is back. We are calling on families to donate cakes - even home-made cakes if u wish.

The stall this year will be run by year group parents Each year group will have an opportunity to run a cake stall. The first cake stall of the year is on **Friday 21st 3pm**- this cake stall will be run by Y4 care-givers/parents.

If you can help please come to the main entrance at 2.30pm.

Next cake stall is on Friday 9th December - by Y3 caregivers/parents.



Nursery Vacancies:

We are currently accepting applications for pupils to start in the school nursery from January 2023.

The nursery is open to children the term after their third birthday and is led by a fully qualified Early Years teacher. As well as being open from 8.15-3pm, we now offer childcare for our nursery pupils until 5.45pm through our extended school's service. Application forms are available on the school's website www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk



This month is Black History Month:

Every year in October we teach the children about the stories and significant achievements of Black people who too often have been forgotten in the teaching of history. Though this should not be restricted to one month, during October we take the opportunity to learn and share the stories of Black achievement that many of the children may not know.

All of the children will learn about why Black History Month takes place and explore the excellent videos on Discovery Education's Black History Month channel. In EYFS, the children will share the 'We're Going on a Voyage' episode of Jo Jo and Gran Gran on the BBC i-player. The episode shares Gran Gran's journey from St Lucia and beautifully shares her tale as one of the Windrush generation.

Across the school, children will study significant Black individuals and some of their extraordinary achievements.

EYFS: The children will explore the picture books: Coming to England by Floella Benjamin and the My First Heroes; Black History book which introduces the children to Maya Angelou, Stormzy, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks.

Year 1: The children will explore the life of Sarah Forbes Bonetta and why her life was significant historically.

Years 2 and 3: Will learn about the life of Walter Tull and why he should be remembered as a person of significant achievement.

Year 4: Linked to their study of America in geography, the children will learn about the story of Matthew Henson; a man of significant achievement largely ignored in his lifetime due to the colour of his skin. Their learning will centre around the book Race to the Frozen North by Catherine Johnson.

Years 5 and 6: Will learn about Olaudah Equiano's life from being kidnapped from his village in Africa as a child and sold into slavery to earning his freedom and settling in London. Their learning will centre around the story Journey Back to Freedom by Catherine Johnson

As part of our ongoing commitment to making our curriculum and learning environments more reflective of our school community and wider society, we have been working to make sure that more diverse stories are thread through our school curriculum. One significant change this year has been our switch over to the Centre for literacy in Primary Education's (CLPE) units of work. Where possible, linked to other areas of the curriculum, we have been careful to ensure that the choice of books is truly diverse. We want all children to be feel represented in the stories they share and see themselves within the choices of books they can read from their class library. We hope your children will enjoy exploring the increasingly diverse range of books available to them in their reading book corners.





Dates for your diary:

Friday 21st October—Cake Stall—3pm (Y3 caregivers)

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

Friday 9th December—Cake Stall—3pm (Y34caregivers)

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

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>



Labelling jumpers and coats:

Thank you for your help with this. We have had a marked improvement in being able to return lost uniform to whoever owns it.



OCTOBER, MONTH OF THE ROSARY

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.