



Newsletter No.5

Fri 11th November

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you all had a nice half term and were able to recharge your batteries! We have had a calm and purposeful start to the second half of the autumn term, with Mass on last Tuesday to celebrate All

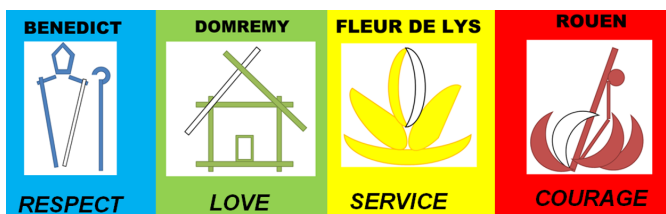
Saints' Day. Fr. Gerrard spoke about Carlo Acutis (3 May 1991 – 12 October 2006) an English born computer programmer who, during his short life, dedicated himself to Jesus and celebrated God in all he did. Since his death he has been beatified and will be declared a saint in the very near future. Fr. Gerrard highlighted the point that even young people can behave in a saintly manner.

Thank you to those Y4 caregivers/parents who volunteered to help with the first cake stall of the year. Your support is crucial to the success of the school. We look forward to the next cake stall on Dec 9th hosted by Y3 caregivers/parents.

As we move into the season of Advent, there will be a some opportunities to support those less fortunate than ourselves. The children at our school, through service, show their generosity every year—this is greatly supported by you at home and for that we are thankful.

Kind regards,

Clare Campbell



Prospective Parents Open Morning – Tuesday 15th November at 9.00am:

If you have friends in the community looking for a school or nursery place from September, please remind them about our open morning taking place on Tuesday.

As you will have seen first-hand on our parent coffee morning, we are a great school offering lots of learning opportunities for our pupils and we are keen to welcome new families into our school community.



Anti-Bullying Week 2022

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 is happening from Monday 14th – Friday 18th November and has the theme 'Reach Out'. It is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which is based at a leading children's charity—The National Children's Bureau. They have worked with over 300 children and young people to decide the theme for this year.

Across the week, the children will be learning about the positive things that we can do to halt hurtful behaviour in its tracks. In order to launch this special week, we are asking that all children come to school on Monday 14th November wearing odd socks- these can be as outlandish as they wish them to be.

Children will take part in a whole school assembly for years 1-6 on Monday morning and complete a lesson in class as well as complete activities related to anti-bullying.

If you would like to learn more about the anti -bullying programme, you can do so by clicking on this link <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

WHAT IS ANTI-BULLYING WEEK?

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event, held in the third week in November which aims to raise awareness of bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. It started in 2002 and has since grown to become a significant event in the calendars of children, families and schools with an estimated



80% of schools in the UK taking part reaching over **7.5 million** children and young people'.

Each year we work with 100s of young people to develop a theme for the week that is tailored to specific issues. For example, in 2021 we had the theme 'One Kind Word' and in 2020 'United Against Bullying'. We launch the theme each May to make sure people have plenty of time to get planning.

Anti-Bullying Week is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) in England and Wales and the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (ABA's sister organisation) in Northern Ireland.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

Research shows that



30%

of children have been bullied in the last year alone²



17%

having been bullied online.



With approximately
ONE CHILD IN EVERY CLASSROOM

experiencing bullying each day.

World Cup Celebration week:

As you may know, the men's football world cup starts on Sunday 20th November, in Qatar. To celebrate this, we will be holding our own celebration week from the 21st November. Each class will draw out a country that they will research and support through the world cup; they will also participate in football coaching sessions and house group competitions.

In addition to your child's original PE day/s, they will be required to wear their school PE kits on the day listed below. On this day only, your child is welcome to wear a top in the colour of their home country or a country they are supporting—no football shirts (unless country orientated). There is no expectation to purchase new clothing for this week.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Reception Year 1- class C Year 3	Year 1- class D Year 4 Year 5	Year 2 Year 6



Christmas card project:

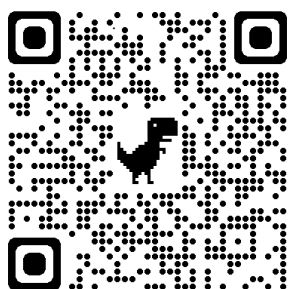
Thank you for your support in the Christmas card project. The children have enjoyed designing their own card and I am sure your families and loved ones appreciate the personal touch when receiving cards this festive season. Thank you for placing your orders.

School Inclusion Week

(26th Sep -2nd Oct)

National Inclusion Week is a chance to celebrate diversity in schools and broader society. It's also a chance to highlight the different challenges people may face and create a sense of belonging and understanding in the school. This year, Joan of Arc followed the theme of 'Time to Act: The Power of Now' and encouraged children to participate in a poster competition to create posters with the Hashtag -The Power of Now to ensure our school is a safe place for everyone.

Thank you to all the children for the overwhelming number of entries across the school. I want to take this opportunity also to thank our newly formed SEN Parents forum, which had the challenging job of selecting one winner per year group, announced after half-term, during our special assembly on how to be kind, delivered by Mr Heneghan. We have displayed the winning posters and many other entries outside the inclusion manager's office, which you are all welcome to come and see.





Christmas Appeal 21st Nov – 12th Dec:

Each year we aim to make the children aware of people in the world less fortunate than themselves. This year we are donating to The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). The SVP at St Joan of Arc Church does an enormous amount of work to support families and individuals within the local community.

The House Captains are asking the children to donate in any capacity they can to these causes.

Each house has been allocated specific items for donation. Items must be new and if they are food items, they must be in-date please.

End date: **Monday 12th December.**

Donations can be left at the office, dropped off to the display area (outside school office) or brought into class to be collected. Many thanks for your anticipated support with this charity appeal.

Rouen	Domremy	Fleur de Lys	Benedict
Food with long shelf life tinned meats, tinned fruit, biscuits	Sweets and chocolates Haribo, chocolate bars, sweet bags (no Advent Calendars)	Stationery small stationery set, pens, notebooks, felt tips, crayons, colouring pencils	Toiletries bubble bath, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, flannel, shower gel





Flu Catch -up:

This will take place on Thursday 1st December for those children that were absent last week or whose parents did not give consent the first time but now wish for their child to be vaccinated. Parents of these pupils should have already received an email from the office.

Maths Week :

Maths Week will be taking place at SJA from Monday 14th - Friday 18th.

Children will be exploring cross curricular links e.g. investigating data collection in science, poetry with numbers, measurements in geography. It's an opportunity for the children to realise that maths is all around us and encountered everyday as well as making it accessible to all children.



Parents' Association –AGM:

Another important date for your diaries is the PA Annual General Meeting on Friday 18th November at 08.45am in the large hall. As well as reviewing the PA activities over the year, this is the meeting at which the PA committee will be elected and key volunteer roles confirmed so please come along and show your support. Formal notice of the AGM and more information will be sent out shortly. All parents / carers / pre-schoolers are welcome.

We are fortunate to have a very active parental body that is very generous with their time and skills, resulting in valuable sums of money being raised for the school.

Last year, the high-quality library corners were installed in each classroom, as well as brand new books for children to read for pleasure. In addition to this, each class had access to a weekly music lesson taught by a specialist teacher all paid for by the PA. In essence every pupil in the school has benefited from the hard work put in by this committee.

Our current PA members have been supporting the school for many years and are now stepping down. If you can help to keep this wonderful association going in any capacity, please either attend the AGM meeting or email the school office and we will pass it on to the relevant person.

Cake Stall:

Our first in person cakes stall was a huge success. Thank you to the parents of Year 4 who took the lead on this and to all of you for your donations.

This sale raised £400

The next cake sale is on Friday 9th December and is being organised by parents of pupils in Year 3.



International Evening:

This takes place on Friday 11th November from 6-8pm in the main school halls. This is a family evening whereby we come as a community to share an evening together. This event has been organised by the PA and they would appreciate any help. Please use this link to sign up to help at this event. <https://signup.com/go/FvmbsMk>

Families are encouraged to bring a national dish to share (mains, salads, sides, puddings or baking)

If cooking isn't your forte please don't worry, we would love you to come along too.

There will be a raffle, bar (for the adults), soft drinks, sweet stall and glow-sticks to purchase on the evening. Cash purchases are encouraged.

Entry to the evening is free to families who make a food donation; alternatively a suggestion of a £5 donation for the whole family would be much appreciated.



Dates for your diary:

Monday 14th November—Odd Socks Day, Anti-Bullying Week and Maths Week

Tuesday 15th November—Prospective parents open morning—9am

Friday 18th November—PA AGM—8.45am

Friday 25th November— SEN Parent Coffee Morning—8.30-9.15am

Friday 9th December—Cake Stall—3pm (Y3 caregivers)

Friday 9th December—Nur, Rec and Y1 —9am and 1.40pm showings – Junior Hall

Tuesday 13th December—Y 2 and 3 Christmas Concert—9am and 1.40pm showings - Junior Hall

Wednesday 14th December—Y 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Concert 2pm—St Joan of Arc Church

Friday 16th December – Christmas Mass – Led by Class 6N—9am

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES:

Nur, Rec and Y1 will perform together and Years 2 and 3 will perform together

CROSS COUNTRY

Last Wednesday, our year 4, 5 and 6 cross country teams competed in the Islington Cross Country Championship and did remarkably well. Our year 4 team raced over 1200m and came 1st overall, with individual gold and silver medals for Ife and Oliver.

Myles from year 5 came 2nd individually and Aidan came 3rd individually which helped the year 5 team also achieve 1st over the 1600m in Islington.

Last but not least, year 6 also achieved 1st place overall in Islington with Emily M coming home in 1st place over 2000m. What a hugely successful day out for SJA! All of the 90 children who competed should be extremely proud of their efforts and it was lovely to see so many parents there to cheer them on.

Thanks to all the teachers, teaching assistants and parent helpers who made the trip possible; especially Ms Newman who organised the teams and staff.









Parish Quiz:

Fancy yourself a quizzier? You willing to prove that you're a legend among boffins? Well come along to the Parish Quiz. This year the quiz is being held to benefit our local St. Vincent de Paul group. This group is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty by providing practical assistance to people in need. All are welcome.

Details:

Sat 19 November at 7pm

Tickets £5 being sold after all Masses this weekend or contact Fr G to reserve a table or pay on the door

Venue: Community Centre

Teams of 8



Attendance and Punctuality:

Over the next few weeks, you will receive via your child a copy of their attendance and punctuality record from September to 11th November.

It is expected that children's attendance is a minimal of 96%. Registration is taken twice a day so for example if your child is away for one day, this is recorded as two sessions missed.

Please make every effort to ensure your child is in school, unless they are obviously unwell. A very high number of children are absent on Mondays and Fridays; there is also a high proportion of children absent for non-health related reasons.

A poster for 'Christmas CONCERTS' with a warm, orange-toned background showing a church interior with people seated. The title 'Christmas' is in a large, elegant, gold script font, and 'CONCERTS' is in a smaller, gold, all-caps serif font below it.

Friday 9th December
Nur, Rec and Y1 —9am and 1.40pm showings — Junior Hall

Tuesday 13th December
Y 2 and 3 Christmas Concert—9am and 1.40pm showings — Junior Hall

Wednesday 14th December
Y 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Concert 2pm—St Joan of Arc Church

A poster for 'Remembrance 2022' with a dark background and a red poppy flower in the foreground.

Remembrance 2022

Remembrance Sunday:
Sunday 13th November

Armistice Day:
Friday 11th November

A poster for 'Remembrance Day' with a background of red poppies.

Remembrance Day
Lest We Forget

*Ever-living God,
We remember those whom you have
gathered from the storm of war
into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.