



Newsletter No.7

Friday 14th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. I hope you have managed to get some rest over the holiday or enjoyed some time with family and friends. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your kind Christmas wishes and gifts, which were very generous and much appreciated.

We are sure that you will agree that the Christmas performances were spectacular.

The children always look forward to having a parent/carer there to see them in their starring role, so thank you for taking the time to support these events. Thanks are also extended to all of the staff who prepared the children for their performances.

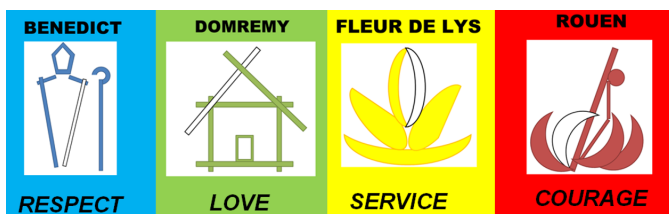
The children have made a very positive start to the Spring Term and have got straight back into working hard in class. The school has a very calm and purposeful working environment and it is a real pleasure to see the children so settled in class. It was nice to start the term with our whole school Mass last Thursday celebrating the Epiphany. Thank you to the parents of pupils in 5K who also attended.

On Monday I led an assembly for the school focusing on the fourth wise man, Artaban. He spent his life searching for Jesus to give his gift of precious stones. When Artaban eventually found Jesus he had no gifts left, but Jesus told him he had given his love to others by doing so many good deeds and that was all He needed.

This message is an inspiration to us all.

As we start 2022, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy and healthy new year, bringing positivity and better health for all of us.

Clare Campbell



Year 6 Citizenship Cup Winner:

This award is presented at the end of each term to a year six pupil who, during the course of their time at St Joan of Arc, has been an example of model citizenship in our school. I am delighted to announce that Nyla – Louise (Class M) was last term's worthy winner.

Many congratulations are extended to Nyla Louise and her family on receiving this prestigious award.



EXTENDED SCHOOL



Extended Schools:

Thank you so much for bearing with us over the last two weeks regarding our early closing.

I have made a decision to continue with the early closure of extended schools (5pm) until half term.

We are now in the second wave of covid-related staff absences since Christmas, with some of those who were at work last week now becoming infected with Omicron.

Our main priority remains the same, to keep classes open during the school day and prioritising the placement of available staff to ensure this. We are in the process of crediting the accounts of those parents affected by this and will let you know when this process is complete.

Thank you for all of your support regarding reorganising childcare from 5-5.45pm and apologies for this inconvenience caused.



Attendance at school and isolation:

I would like to say a big thank you to all parents who are continuing to support the school by keeping children at home when they have symptoms, and testing when appropriate, this is helping to keep us all safe and keep the school open.

A reminder that the e-mail address for reporting absences is:

absence@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk



Punctuality:

You may have noticed the school gates are closing promptly at 8.30am. We still have children arriving after this time which is disruptive to the class who have already started their first lesson.

Similarly, the school day finishes at 3pm and the same children are late to be picked up—some even 40 minutes late. We understand that sometimes it can't be helped, but patterns are emerging. Please be on time!

Gillespie Park:

In relation to the geography curriculum, the children had an opportunity to partake in an orienteering challenge at Gillespie Park. Thank you to all the adults who volunteered their time to accompany the children. Here are some pictures from the year 3 trip.



COVID-19 UPDATE

Covid update:

Please familiarise yourself with the letter sent on Monday summarising what you are required to do if your child develops symptoms.

UPDATE AS OF 13/1

*The isolation period for those who have tested positive for Covid has been cut to "5 full days" in England
From Monday, people will be able leave isolation from the start of day six after two negative tests*

- In addition, we will continue as we have been doing with regular handwashing/ sanitising and open doors / windows for good ventilation this term.
- Please provide your child with an additional layer (sweatshirt / jumper) that they can leave at school and wear in the classroom if required.

All classrooms have a CO2 monitor which measures how much air in the room has been breathed out and alerts the staff to ventilation requirements so additional windows and doors will be opened when necessary during the school day.

Reading Books - A little reminder:

As you know last year we asked the Parents Association to fundraise for new reading books.

We have invested £25,000 in books for both the classroom but primarily for home reading which the children are now taking home. We are following Ruth Miskin's highly successful phonics, reading and spelling program throughout the infants and juniors. The money donated has enabled us to purchase reading books for infants to read at home, that fully correspond to the phonics being taught in class on a daily basis.

We would really appreciate if you could spend fifteen minutes every evening reading with your child and then make a note of this in their reading record.

Book bags need to be returned daily to enable children to change their books and continue in their reading journey.

We will be providing an update on phonics, with some tips of how to engage children with reading at home, on **Friday 28th January at 9am. This session will be particularly useful for parents of pupils in Reception and Year One. This will be via zoom.**



Music teachers:

With generous funding from the PA, we are pleased to welcome Ms Gallagher and Mr Owen to our school, who will be teaching music throughout the school. The children are enjoying their music lessons and are engaging well.





Dates for your diary

Monday 17th January

Year 1 visit Gillespie Park – orienteering focus

Wednesday 19th January

Year 4 visit Museum of London

Thursday 20th January

Year 3 Special Assembly 9am – 1 adult per child invited to attend



Friday 28th January

Phonics and Reading workshop for parents of pupils in Reception and Year 1 via zoom - 9am

Friday 4th February

Uniform Stall – before and after school

Year 2 Special Assembly 9am – 1 adult per child invited to attend



PA Quiz Night - 7pm

Friday 11th February

Cake stall – donations required

School closes for half term (normal closing time – 3pm or 5pm)

St Joan of Arc Catholic Nursery School – Summer Term intake:

If your child was born between 01.01.19 - 31.03.19, and you are interested in applying for either a full or part time place to start in April, please contact the school's admissions officer on: 020 7226-3920.

Alternatively, information is outlined in the Nursery Admissions Policy which is on the school's website:

www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

The nursery is led by a fully qualified class teacher, early years practitioner and nursery nurse.

The nursery hours are: Monday to Friday from 8.15-3.00pm.



School uniform

As part of our strategy to resume normal practices and standards, we are asking all pupils to wear the correct uniform and to wear it with pride. The uniform promotes unity and allows opportunities to practise discipline and responsibility. This includes footwear. Can you please help the cause by ensuring your child has the correct footwear—plain black/navy shoes of leather appearance, with velcro, buckles or laces.

Trainers are not permitted. If there are legitimate reasons why your child needs to wear trainers, please inform the school via the reading record or email.

Thank you for your support in the matter.



DATES

2021

2022

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/term-dates/>

2022

2023

attached