



Newsletter No.13

Fri 26th February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The news we have waited for finally arrived on 22nd February; all schools will reopen on March 8th. We at SJA are very excited about our children coming back to the site where we can strive to holistically educate and guide them in person in our physical learning environments. We trust this news is met with a positive outlook by your families as well.

We will be returning to our staggered start and finish times and implore you to please resume your support regarding arrival and pick up times as well as maintaining social distancing and mask wearing on school grounds.

	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Start	9.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.40	8.40	8.30	8.30
Finish	3.00	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.00	3.00	2.45	2.45

Lateral flow testing has commenced for all staff working on site and this is another method of combating the virus; especially in relation to asymptomatic individuals.

We are in our second week of Lent and we trust your families will take heed of the three pillars of Lent: Fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

Our readathon launches this term as well and we hope you appreciate the twofold rationale of this initiative: nurturing the love of reading as well as fundraising much needed funds for the school.

Sincerely,

Clare Campbell



Parent consultations:

Diary Date - Parent consultations with your child's class teacher will be conducted by phone on Monday 29th / Tuesday 30th / Wednesday 31st March from 3.30-4.40

More details on booking a slot will be available in a subsequent newsletter.

COVID-19 UPDATE

National lockdown:

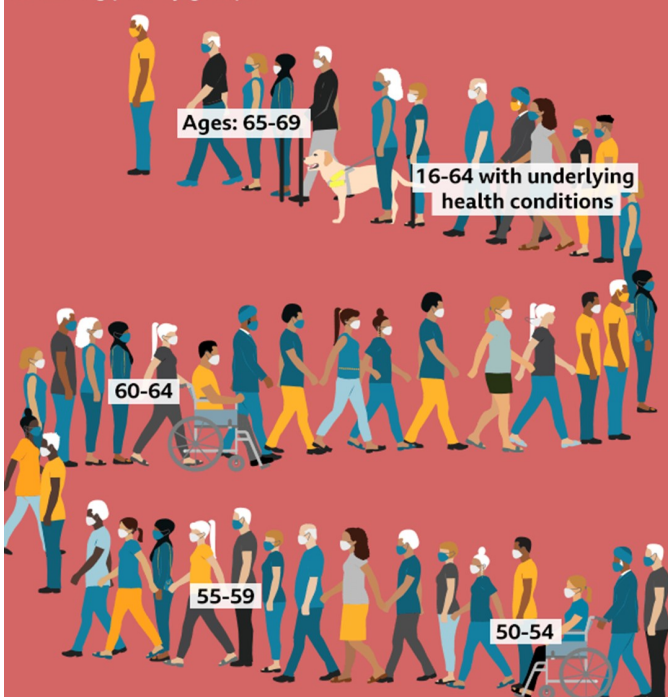
On the 22nd February, Boris Johnson outlined the 'road-map' for the UK to follow in the hopes of leading us out of this lockdown.

The vaccination roll-out is going extremely well with over a third of the population receiving their first jab.

The vaccine programme has entered its second phase after everyone in the first four priority groups has been offered their first jab.

The rollout is now being expanded to include those aged 60 and above and those deemed clinically vulnerable. The rest of the over-50s will follow, with the government target to offer everyone in priority groups five to nine a jab by mid-April.

End Feb onwards
remaining priority groups



Lockdown rules for England from 8 March



Stay home - only leave for work, essential shopping, exercise or medical appointments



Exercise allowed outdoors once a day, in your local area. You can exercise with your household, support bubble, or one other person



All schools open, with outdoor after-school sports and activities allowed.



Two people can meet outdoors to socialise eg to sit down for a coffee, drink or picnic



Care home residents are allowed one regular visitor, with whom they can hold hands



No household mixing indoors or outdoors unless in your support or childcare bubble



Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues closed



Pubs and restaurants closed, but takeaway food permitted



Isolation:

Please remember to inform the school if you are isolating due to any of the reasons listed below.

When to self-isolate

Self-isolate immediately if:

- you have any [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- you've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- [you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app](#)
- you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk – see [GOV.UK: how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK](#)

Self isolating:

Please remember that if someone in your household presents with Covid symptoms, the **WHOLE** household must self-isolate and the person displaying symptoms should get a test. The whole family must then stay in self-isolation unless the test result comes back as negative and that person does not have a high temperature. Self-isolation should begin from the minute a person in the household first exhibits symptoms. It is of the upmost importance that pupils **do not** attend school while family members are awaiting test results. For clarity, the directives from the NHS are included.

St Joan of Arc School Community Fund

£17,878 raised of £25,000 target

86 donors 46 shares 86 followers



Share



Donate now



Anonymous
£200 • 6 days ago



Anonymous
£250 • 10 days ago



Anonymous
£190 • 14 days ago

Thanks for your generous donations on

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/sjacommunityfund>

We are immensely grateful for the response from parents and hopefully this page will continue to see donations throughout the year. Everyone's circumstances are different and all levels of donations are gratefully received.

During these times of hardship, your spirit is very humbling. Thank you again.

We are past half way to our target. Thank you so much.

SJA Readathon:

In the coming weeks, we will be placing more focus than ever on the wonder of reading and the wonderful benefits reading can deliver to a child's imagination, understanding and well-being. There is nothing more important on a child's educational journey than learning to read; it is the master-skill of education and allows children to be transported to other worlds, to meet larger than life characters and to learn how the world we live in works. As a school, we want to celebrate reading in whatever way we can.

To encourage children's reading participation, we are launching our very first Readathon, which starts on Monday 1st March to Friday 26th March. We are encouraging all pupils to take part and to choose anything they fancy reading – from comics to classics and audio books to blogs -it's all about reading on their own terms. For younger pupils, it can be reading alongside an adult or retelling the pictures in a bedtime story.

Details of this, along with the sponsor card and book marks, have been posted onto Google Classroom pages. Simply put, the children will be sponsored for their amount of reading; this might be per book/poem/blog or per unit of time spent reading. The readathon will run until 26th March so there is plenty of time to seek sponsors and begin reading. We are incredibly grateful for your continuing support to the school and appreciate any money that can be raised. No amount is too small to sponsor a child for the readathon.

All the children need to do is:

1. Choose what they want to read – anything they like- fact, fiction, audio- books, blogs, comics or magazines
2. Ask family and friends to sponsor them per book, per page, per ten minutes. It's up to them!
3. Collect sponsors on their sponsor card
4. Encourage the sponsors to pay on line at <https://sja.rallyup.com/readathon>

Taking part in the Readathon is a brilliant way for children to get reading, whilst also helping our school's much needed fundraising drive this year. All proceeds go towards updating the school's reading books within school and for home use.

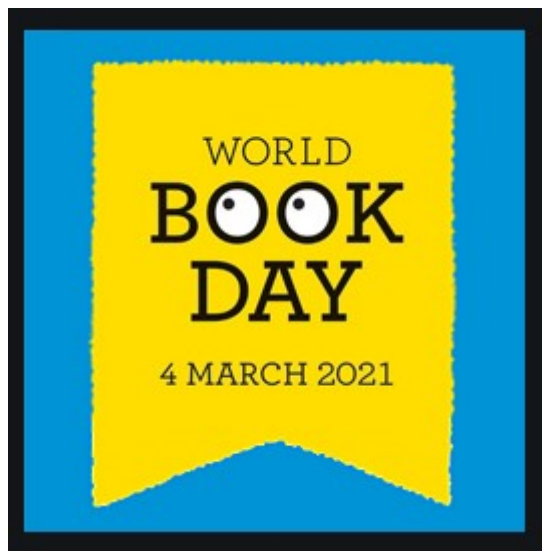
Sponsor cards can be downloaded via your child's Google Classroom / Tapestry page.

Alternatively, if you are out on your daily walk – we have placed a box with sponsor cards and book marks outside the main office and there are enough for every child to take one.

Staff will be promoting this as part of book week, as well as during their daily English sessions.

Prizes will be given to one child from each class that has become inspired to read more literature during the readathon. Winners will be announced at the end of term in the school's Happy News.


















World Book Day:

The readathon coincides with book week, which is the run-up to World Book Day on Thursday 4th March. We will be running several exciting activities and competitions such as Royal Academy art competitions, best costume competition and the famous 'reading in strange places' competition.

In addition, Scholastic are holding a series of live workshops ranging from drawing activities to writing riddles, poems and history. Registering for any of the events is a quick and easy process; simply visit the link below and select the event(s) you would like to stream at home.

[Scholastic Live World Book Day Event Week - Scholastic Shop](#)

Scholastic Live				
World Book Day Event Week				
Monday 1st – Friday 5th March				
MONDAY 1ST	TUESDAY 2ND	WEDNESDAY 3RD	THURSDAY 4TH	FRIDAY 5TH
10am drawalong				
 Doodle along Tom Gates style with Liz Pichon Ages 7–12	 Live history drawing with Thiago de Moraes Ages 7–12	 How to draw with Tom Knight (special guest: Michelle Robinson) Ages 3–6	 How to draw with Nicola Slater Ages 3–6	 Live nature drawing with Sharon Rentta Ages 3–6
11am writing workshop				
 Writing comedy with Simon James Green Ages 8–12	 Write like a wizard with Kimberly Pauley Ages 8–12	 Riddles and mysteries with Lisa Thompson Ages 9–12	 How to make everyone laugh with Helen Rutter Ages 9–12	 Fantasy world-building with Vashti Hardy Ages 9–12
2pm writing workshop				
 Victoria Schwab and Spooky Stories, in conversation Ages 10–13	 Writing workshop with Kimberlie Hamilton Ages 8–12	 Welcome to Albion with Annaliese Avery – exclusive preview event! Ages 9–12	 Design a witch with Katy Birchall Ages 10–13	 Writing history with K. N. Chimbiri Ages 9–12
4pm book club				
 Kereen Getten Ages 9–12	 Vick Hope Ages 9–12	 Dan Freedman Ages 8–12	 Phil Earle Ages 8–12	 Michael Rosen Ages 7+

Please do peruse the activities as there may be several that interest your child.

We hope that your child will enjoy a fun-packed final week of home-learning before our long-awaited reunion on 8th March. Happy reading!

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health and Well-being:

Following on from the information sent out during Mental Health week, please find below some more useful links.

Links to Action for Children, NSPCC and a Mental Health website with advice and tips for parents.

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-we-can-help/get-parenting-support/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/mental-health-parenting/>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/p/parents-and-mental-health>

Also, the following for children's well-being:

SmilingMind

SmilingMind is modern meditation for young people from 7 years up. It is a free web and App-based program, designed to help bring balance to young lives. Smiling Mind was created in Australia and is aimed at helping young people de-stress and stay calm. There are tailored programmes for different age groups.

Mindful Gnats

An app to help young people develop mindfulness and relaxation skills.

FLAMINGO CHICKS KEEPS COVID-ANXIOUS DISABLED CHILDREN CALM

This free new class is ideal as an emergency calming measure – but also helps to deal with ongoing anxiety. While great for ALL children, it's particularly made with disabled children in mind and includes Makaton signing.

<https://flamingochicks.org/calming-class/>

For other Flamingo Chicks' resources including virtual inclusive dance classes, spin off art and science experiments to help with home-schooling plus 'stories of inclusion' read by celebrities such as Ben Shephard visit: <https://flamingochicks.org/calming-class/>





PA Quiz Night:

Our annual quiz night organized by the supportive PA will be held Fri 26th 9pm. SJA is forever grateful for the undying efforts of the caregivers on the PA. Your time and dedication are cornerstones to the success educating our children. A massive thanks to you all. We hope you enjoy the evening and rumour has it there is a team of SJA teachers made up of the most competitive people on staff. Have a great night.



Pets on the playground:

A polite reminder that dogs are not permitted on the school playground – this includes carrying dogs in adult arms! In order to adhere to the health and safety regulations, we respectfully ask you to keep your pets outside the school gates. We thank you in advance for your support in keeping our school safe. *Official guide dogs are an exception.*

Prayer for our children:

As we prepare for the return of our children to schools, I thought it appropriate to offer a blessing to them. This week is also the second week of Lent. A time of praying, fasting and almsgiving. I hope you and your family are blessed and strengthened during this time of repentance and sacrifice.

