



Newsletter No. 14

Fri 12th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

After eight weeks of remote learning, we warmly welcomed back the children to the school this week. It was lovely to have the children back traversing the hallways, seated in the classrooms, playing on the playground – they all settled in well.

Caregivers, you are to be commended for supporting the children at home in their learning for eight weeks. This is no easy task and in years to come, you will wonder how you did it!

Thank you to all the school staff for being so adaptable and transferring their skills to remote learning as well as providing childcare for a large number of pupils.

I have nothing but admiration for how dedicated the staff have been, how committed the caregivers have been and how resilient the children have been.

Sincerely,

Clare Campbell



Nursery applications:

The closing date for nursery applications is 31st March- to Start in September

The school's nursery admits children the term after their third birthday. We are currently accepting applications for children to start in September 2021. Places are available for both 15 hour and 30 hour provision.

The closing date for applications is 31st March 2021. The nursery is led by a fully qualified teacher and is ably assisted by an Early Years Education worker and Nursery Nurse. Information, application forms and a virtual tour can be accessed via the school's website:

www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

QUIZ
Night

This year the school's House and Vice Captains will be organising the traditional Easter Raffle. The children missed out on this last year due to the start of the pandemic and have begged for it's return this year. After all the children have been through, this is the least we can do for them.

We would ask parents of children with specific allergies to provide an egg for their own child with their name / class on and we will ensure that are given that egg on the raffle day.

Ms Doogan will be selling the tickets during the school day (week beginning Monday 29th March) and the maximum purchase is £1 per child. the raffle will take place on the last day of term, Thursday 1st April. Money raised goes towards the PA's fundraising initiative.

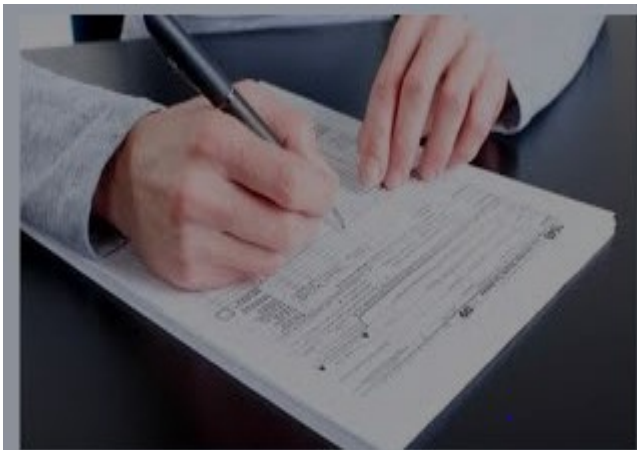




PARENT EVENING TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS

Parent Consultations will take place on Monday 29th March, Tuesday 30th March and Wednesday 31st March between 3.30pm and 5.10pm.

Bookings will open from 10am on Monday 15th March, you will receive a text containing a link to enable you to click through and book your appointment.



Parent Consultation

Today we have sent home with your child a paper document for you to complete and return to your child's teacher. This will help inform the class teacher if you have any concerns that you would like them to know about following the recent lockdown. This will be followed up during your parent consultation.



RECYCLED UNIFORMS

The PA will be running monthly recycled uniform stalls and would welcome donations of washed and folded used uniforms.

Please leave in bags outside the main entrance.

Thank you!

SJA Readathon:

All children have now received their sponsor cards and book marks and are looking forward to reading for fun and funds. The children of SJA always shine when it comes to school-wide efforts and we are very proud of them and anticipate a generous effort for the SJA Readathon.



Oxford Owl:

We are delighted to announce that the Oxford Owl e-book library has been updated to include a selection of phonics books. These are available to read using your usual login details and will appear alongside the existing library. In addition to these books, teachers have access to the full range of phonics books and are able to individually assign books to students in order to enhance their phonic knowledge and support the learning they are doing in class.



Reading in Strange Places competition:

On Monday we launched our famous 'Reading in Strange Places' competition. The closing date is next Friday and we look forward to seeing the ever-more-adventurous strange places that your children choose to read in. Simply take a photograph and upload it onto Google Classroom or send it in with your child to school. Prizes of an Ink 84 book token will be awarded per phase. Good luck!





Breakfast and After school club:

It is more than likely that children will need to remain in their year group bubbles until June 21st. With that restriction in place, it is not going to be possible to reopen breakfast and after school club for the summer term. We will however, be sending out a questionnaire to parents in the summer term to ascertain need, in the great hope that we can reopen these services in September.

However, we really appreciate that children have had limited opportunities to participate in sports clubs during the pandemic and have missed out greatly on this aspect of their physical and social development.

For the summer term, we have organised for professional qualified coaches to lead on a variety of sports after school, alongside a couple of our teaching assistants offering childcare until 4.45pm. These will be offered for one evening to children in Years 1-6 and two evenings for Reception. Due to the high adult staff ratio required for nursery, we have been unable to accommodate nursery children on this occasion. I will be sending a separate email about this next week so look out for it in your inbox.



Ingress system:

Thank you to all caregivers for your support at drop-off time in the morning. A reminder that the **8.30** slot is for **Y5/6 pupils and their siblings**. If your child does not have a sibling in Y5/6, then they are **NOT** in the 8.30 timeslot. We are trying to balance a minimal number of children egressing plus convenience for families. Please turn up only for your allocated timeslot and on time.

Gates close 5mins after your allocated time. If you are late, do not worry or panic, we will accommodate you as soon as it is safe to do so.

THIS INGRESS SYSTEM REMAINS THE SAME EVEN IN INCLEMENT WEATHER—PLEASE WEAR APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

8.30
Y5/6 and siblings
Gates close at 8.35

8.40
Y3/4 and siblings
Gates close at 8.45

8.50
Rec/Y1/2
Gates close at 8.55

Pets on the playground:

A polite reminder that dogs are not permitted on the school play-ground – 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.



PE Kits:

The children have absolutely loved coming to school this week dressed in their PE kits and participating in daily PE sessions. As this has been so successful, we are going to continue to provide these daily sessions for the rest of this term. From Monday 15th, we would like the children to continue to come dressed in sportswear every day. This can consist of the school's PE kit or other jogging bottoms/ sweatshirts and trainers that you have to hand at home. School uniform will be reinstated after the Easter holidays. Hopefully this will also aid families who have said that they are finding sourcing school uniform at this time difficult.

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers

Relationships Education and Health Education:

In the Autumn term 2021/22, Relationships Education and Health Education will become statutory in all primary schools in England. Part of the implementation of this new curriculum is to consult the school parents and caregivers. Please see attached letter regarding the new curriculum and methods for your thoughts to be voiced.



COVID-19 UPDATE

National lockdown:

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

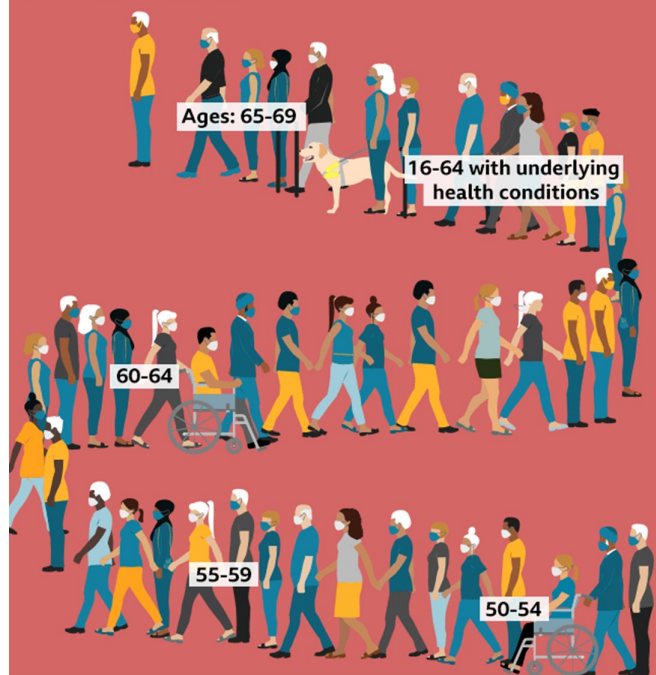


Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues closed



Pubs and restaurants closed, but takeaway food permitted

End Feb onwards remaining priority groups



Lent:

We are still in the season of Lent and we remind ourselves of the 3 pillars: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In that spirit, I offer this prayer which is appropriate considering the brighter mornings and evenings that greet us.

a jelly bean prayer

red is for the blood He gave.

green is for the grass He made.

yellow is for the sun so bright.

orange is for the edge of night.

black is for the sins we've made.
white is for the grace He gave.

purple is for His hour of sorrow.

pink is for the new tomorrow.

Handfuls of jelly beans, colorful and bright, a prayer, a promise of a brand new life.