



Newsletter No.3

Friday 8th October

Dear Parents & Carers,

Now we have reached the end of week five, we continue to be blessed with our amazing children in school. Staff are reporting that they are working hard.

This week we launched our Climate Change for Kids Project which started with each class from Years 1-6 visiting Clissold Park. This is a year long project whereby the children are going to be finding out about how important it is to make changes to the way that we live, in order to protect our planet. A big thank you is extended to Ms Thomas who is leading this project.

Thank you to the large numbers of parents who accompanied the children on the trip. Lots of you commented on how well behaved the children were outside school, as well as how informative the trip was.

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 (Wednesday 18th and Thursday 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.

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 9.00am at the latest.





International Evening

Our school's much loved **International Evening** is upon us again and has been organised for **Friday 13th October from 6.30-8.30pm** in the main school halls. For those of you who have not attended before this is a family evening for both children and adults whereby we come as a community to share an evening together. This is the first event of this year being organised by the PA so support in any capacity that you can offer, would be much appreciated.

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.

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.

All monies raised on the evening go towards the much needed school fund.

Please ensure that you wrap up warm as we also use the infant playground for this event (please note that the top playground will not be in use so children will be reminded not to bring any footballs with them).

It also goes without saying that as this is a PA evening, parents are responsible for looking after their own children during this event.



Open Morning and Coffee Morning – Friday 20th October 8.30-9.45:

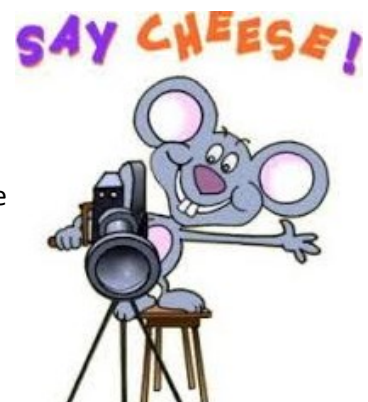
It is always nice to see your child in their classroom environment as I am sure, like my own children when you ask them what they have done all day they respond with 'nothing'! (I often wondered as a reception teacher why I was so exhausted at the end of the day - doing apparently nothing!)

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.

Entry is via the extended school entrance and the tea/ coffee morning will be in the infant hall with an opportunity to visit your child's class from 9am.

Pupil Photographs:

The photographer will be returning to duty on Wednesday 11th 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.



Judaism

The Judaism workshop is part of our Religious education curriculum covering the study of another faith. As a Catholic school we still have an obligation to study about other faiths, we study short units across the year around Judaism and Islam as they are both monotheistic faiths like Christianity.

Ruth from Judaism for Schools has delivered her workshop with the school for over a decade and is able to bring her personal knowledge of the Jewish faith to explain Jewish traditions and customs more fully to the children.



Parent reps

If you are a parent rep for your child's class, please email the school office to inform them of your name, class, email address and whether you consent to allow the secretary to send correspondence to you.



Scooters/Bicycles

Can you please ensure your child remembers to dismount their bicycle or scooter at the gates before entering the school gates. This is a safety measure due to the volume of people on the grounds. At the end of the day, they are to walk their scooter or bicycle and only mount them once they've exited the gates. Thank you for your cooperation.

Labels

We are still finding a lot of uniform items unlabelled; thus making it impossible to locate its owner. As the days get colder, a lot more coats and jumpers will grace the playground. Finding the owner is made easier when they are clearly labelled. Please bear in mind that items bought from the uniform stall may have the previous owner's name on the label. Please ensure you update it with your child's name.



Nursery Vacancies:

We are currently accepting applications for pupils to start in the school nursery from January 2024.

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



October is Black History Month.

At St Joan of Arc we have been actively working on making our curriculum and reading areas more reflective of the wonderful diversity of our community. While we strive to have a fully inclusive curriculum all year round, October and Black History Month provides an important opportunity to shine a light on stories of significant achievement by Black Britons.

Black History Month 2023 offers a significant opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of black women. The theme of 'Saluting our Sisters' highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities. This year's celebration will showcase pioneering black British women who have made remarkable contributions to literature, music, fashion, sport, business, politics, academia, social and health care, and more.

Different year groups will learn about several pioneering women including; Baroness Floella Benjamin, Yolanda Brown, Laura Henry Allain, Samantha Tross, Kanya King, Malorie Blackman, Dame Jocelyn -Anita Barrow, Joanne Marie Anderson and Anne Marie Imafidon.

As part of our Black History Month celebrations would also like to invite some of our community into our school to talk with the children about their personal experiences and heritage. You may wish to share a traditional story with your child's class or share your knowledge of an inspirational figure with whom you share a cultural link. It may be that you wish to share your family's history and why Black History Month is an occasion to remember the struggles and journeys made in the past.

If you are from an African/afro-Caribbean background and would like to take part in our Black History Month celebrations, please talk to your child's class teacher about what you would like to discuss with the children.



MerryGoRound

Merry-Go-Round donations

As the summer draws to an end, you may be going through your drawers and realising your kids have sprung up over the summer and their old winter coats/clothes and shoes no longer fit.

This is the perfect time to donate to local Islington charity Merrygoround, which collects donations from 0-13 years and distributes them to local kids.

Believe it or not, there are kids in our Islington schools who only ever own their school uniforms. Kids who were stuck at home during this last summer holidays because they were too embarrassed to go play in the park in their school uniforms, knowing it would give away the fact that's all they had to wear. Kids who will say "I don't get cold" or "I forgot my jacket at home" when they walk to school without a coat this winter.

Merry-Go-Round finds out about these kids from local schools and provides them with what they need to live a normal life.

They are desperately short of winter coats in larger sizes (4-13, boys and girls) and warm clothes.

The PA have arranged for donations to be dropped off at the school, so you can bring your bags to the office and an ex-SJOA mum and member of the PA, will pickup/wash/sort and bring to the charity.

A massive trolley of SJOA donations was delivered- it's been really heart-warming to see how generously the parent community has come together on this. The charity was blown away as this is one of the largest school donations they have received to date and they want to thank all who took the time to do this.



COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL WILL END ON FRIDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Dates for your diary:

Tues 10th Oct —Judaism workshop (KS2)

Wednesday 11th Oct— School photograph day

Friday 13th Oct—8.30am PA meeting in staffroom

6.30pm PA International Evening

Wednesday 18th Oct—Astronomy Roadshow Y R-6

3.15—5.45pm Parents' Evening

Thurs 19th Oct—3.15—5.45pm Parents' Evening

Fri 20th Oct—8.30am—9.30am Parent coffee morning in large hall

Mon 23rd Oct—27th Oct—Half term

School Uniform:

Thank you for your support in ensuring the uniform is presented in its highest quality as well as being regulation/ correct according to the policy. We have noticed a lot less trainers being used as school shoes and the children are doing their best to ensure they are tucking their shirts in and presenting themselves neatly for learning.

The main uniform infringements are trainers with the uniform, polo shirts instead of shirts and jumpers and PE t-shirts without the school logo.

In the near future Mr Fuiava will be sending correspondence to all caregivers regarding the uniform; what is correct, what the priorities are, what the new procedures will be when dealing with incorrect uniform, timeframes and support. It is all part of the holistic approach to learning and encouraging discipline, unity and the school identity. As always, your support will be greatly appreciated and needed.

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/>



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.