



## Newsletter No.17

Fri 14th May 2021

Dear parents and carers,

May is the month of Our Lady and the pandemic has very much reminded us of how Her faith supported her during times of difficulty. With the good news from the government about restrictions lifting, we are busy at SJA making small steps of progress towards normal school life.

St Joan of Arc Day is back and will take place on Friday 28th May. This will be our first opportunity to take the older children over to the Church for Mass to celebrate our Patron Saint. These days of celebration are something we have very much missed and have showed us what an important contribution they make to the all-round development of our children. The staff have planned lots of lovely activities for their year groups so we are all looking forward to a really nice day. We will be communicating in the next newsletter what our plans are for the final weeks of this term following what will hopefully be positive news regarding the restrictions being lifted on the 21st June.

In the meantime, enjoy being able to socialise inside without having to take with you what feels like your weekend bag with your winter woollies included, to meet your friends. First on my list is a cup of tea and cake inside a café next week. I cannot wait!

Sincerely,

*Clare Campbell*



### Prayer to Mary, Our Mother

**Mary, our Mother, I come to you with my needs and beg you to help me.**

**I honor you as my Mother and helper and trust in your love for me.**

**Lead me on the path of virtue, and preserve me from every evil.**

**Let me enjoy your protection and walk in your love and peace.**

**Guide me closer to Jesus, Who gave you to me to be my Mother.**

### Consultation on changing the school day:

Thank you again for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Your views are very important to us and are being carefully considered.

We have a working party of governors assimilating the results before it is presented to the full Governing Body. The Governors are aiming to inform you of their decision just before half term.



### Year 1 ducklings:

On Tuesday 4th May, Year One had a very exciting delivery of 10 duck eggs. The children have been learning all about life cycles so were very lucky to witness first-hand the hatching of an egg. They have loved watching the ducklings grow, feeding them, playing with them and of course having lots of cuddles along the way! Thank you to the PA whose funds allowed this experience to happen.



### Calling all field reporters:

The editors of the Arc newspaper are beginning to prepare their bumper final edition of the academic year. They would love to have articles and pieces of interest sent in to them for inclusion within the paper. If your child would like to write a piece but is struggling to come up with an idea, they may wish to write about their memories and achievements over the last twelve months or what they are looking forward to as things begin to open up further.

Articles do not need to be of significant length and the editorial team are eager to receive pieces from a range of age groups. As with all newspapers, deadlines are set in stone. If your child wishes to submit an article, it must be sent via e mail to [arcnewspaper@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](mailto:arcnewspaper@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk) and arrive **no later than Wednesday 9th June.**



# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Lockdown easing: What's changing in England from 17 May?



People can meet in groups of up to 30 outdoors



Six people or two households can meet indoors with overnight stays allowed



Pubs, restaurants, bars and cafes allowed to serve customers indoors



Museums, theatres and cinemas can open



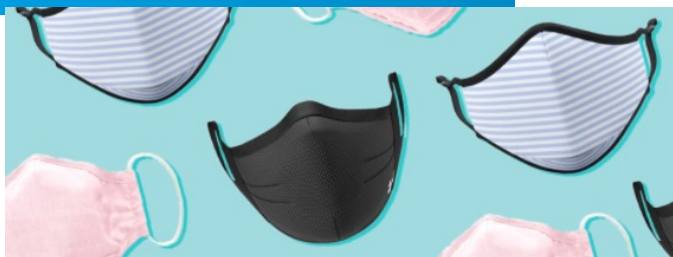
Hotels, hostels and B&Bs can reopen



Adult indoor group exercise classes can restart



People urged to be cautious about hugging close friends and family



As part of the Step 3 roadmap, it has been determined that it is no longer necessary to recommend the additional precautionary face covering measures recommended by the government.

From Mon 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for personnel in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools.

Therefore from Monday, we won't require parents/carers to wear a face covering on the school playground.

Thank you for your patience and adhering to the guidelines for the safety of our community.

We look forward to seeing your smiling faces.



## SJA Day – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021!

We will be celebrating the Feast Day of St Joan of Arc (30<sup>th</sup> May) at school on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. KS2 classes will attend Mass and KS1 classes will have classroom visits from Father Gerard and Father Carlos. There will be fun art activities throughout the day and learning about St Joan of Arc.

Children are encouraged to dress up in their house colours for the day

(listed below).

Thank you! 😊

**BENEDICT**



**DOMREMY**



**FLEUR DE LYS**



**ROUEN**



## PA Auction

I continue to be left speechless by your drive and determination to continue to raise much needed funds for the school. The Auction was a resounding success and raised a whopping **£9261.05**. Again, this has broken all previous fundraising records and is so much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who organised this event



and to those of you who contributed so generously. You will be pleased to know that we have used some of these funds immediately to expand our provision online for reading and phonics for children in reception to year 3. This is through the Oxford Owl online portal (see separate reading section for more detail). In addition, we have ordered some new 'Ditty' books for home readers. As the format and layout of these books are similar for each colour band, they are excellent in helping children to improve their recognition of speed sounds and core words. Look out for these in your child's book bags as they will be sent home in addition to their colour book band reading book.



### Penny for your thoughts:

The Big Ask – Children in England are being asked to give their views to the Children's Commissioner for England. There are age appropriate surveys as well as one for adults. You can find the links here <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>



### THURSDAY 27th MAY

The school photographer will be in school to take photographs of the children in their year groups in the school playground. ALL CHILDREN SHOULD WEAR THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORM ON THIS DAY — lets hope for good weather!



### PA MEETING –20th May 8pm

Come join us for our last PA zoom meeting of the year next Thursday May 20th at 8pm. We will celebrate our amazing community and review what has been accomplished this year. Also, very importantly, we will plan the Summer Fete, which has a provisional date of **July 10th**, and a back up date of **September 25th**. Restrictions mean that the Summer Fete may be somewhat different than in past years, but it will be an opportunity to get back together and have fun again as a school. It will require lots of volunteer participation to make it a success! Zoom details will be sent by email next week.



### Cake Stalls

**Friday 21st May** and **Friday 18th June** – these will take place within the school day.

### Sports Day—Thursday

**24th June at Finsbury Park** ; on the proviso that social distancing restrictions have been lifted on 21st June.

### Y6 Activity week

**5th –9th July—More details to fol-**



### **Moving on:**

If your child is leaving SJA at the end of the school year (and is not in Year 6), please could you inform the school office via email as soon as is possible . Email address is: [info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk)

We also need to know the school they are transferring to, so that we can complete local authority records.

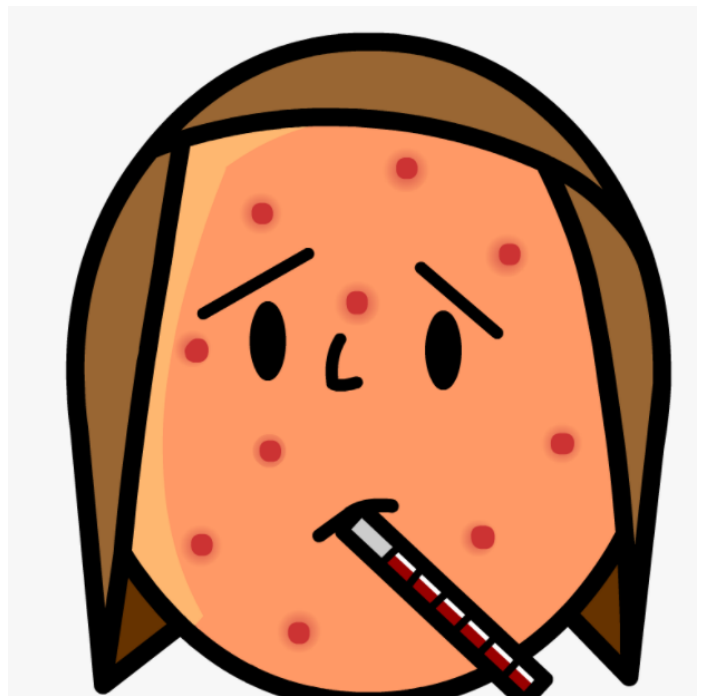
### **Chicken Pox:**

Just to alert you to the fact that we have a few children who are sadly suffering at home with the chicken pox. We hope they are feeling better soon. Due to the pandemic, we have not had children in school with chicken pox for some time now so, I have a feeling cases of this will rise.

For those of you who are waiting for your children to catch this (just like myself) here are the signs and symptoms to look out for:

The rash begins as small red bumps that look like insect bites or pimples. Within a day or two these itchy bumps develop little blisters which burst and eventually crust over leaving dry scabs.

Initial symptoms of chicken pox can include a mild fever, loss of appetite and tiredness. This is then followed by the red rash which usually appears on the chest or back later spreading to all areas of the body, including soles of feet, scalp and even inside of mouth. Children should be kept away from school for at least five days from the onset of rash and not developing new lesions.



### **HT for the day:**

As we celebrate St Joan of Arc's 101st anniversary on 28th May, we will have two new Headteachers for that day—Erika (Y4) and Oscar (Y2)

I am already looking forward to getting my deckchair out and having a nice and relaxing day at school.



**Reading / Phonics update :**

We are delighted with the children's response to the Readathon and for your continued support with promoting the lifelong skill of reading. The online phonics e-book library which was activated in March is to be updated in July with interactive activities and quizzes which children will be able to do at home in order to practise their phonics skills with parents.

In addition, the school has purchased an online Read Write Inc. Phonics teaching resource for use in school. The programme provides interactive lessons full of partner work, role-play and drama, integrating phonics with comprehension, writing, grammar, spelling, vocabulary and handwriting. There are also beautifully illustrated poems and stories for the children to enjoy. The programme complements the ditty books which children have been taking home in addition to their colour-banded book. The ditty books can also be accessed online to ensure that your child has ongoing access to the next stage of their phonics learning.

**<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>**

We have also purchased hundreds of new non-fiction titles to be used for shared reading sessions. The books have a very clear structure and empower children to succeed because of their systematic and rigorous approach.

We are confident that the children will love the new resources both at school and at home and once again we thank you for your generosity and support.

