



Newsletter No.1

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been lovely to see and speak to lots of you during the past week and particularly nice to get to know the families new to our school. We offer you a very warm welcome and look forward to getting to know you and your children as time progresses.

I am pleased to report that the children have been very settled and have adapted quickly to their school routines. We have spent this week focusing on our four Christian values of Respect, Love, Service and Courage and how this fits in with the school's Mission Statement and our new Behaviour Policy. Each class has devised their own class rules and will receive a refresher course on the behaviour policy.

You will receive a summary of the school's new Behaviour Policy, as well as a physical copy of the home school agreement via your child. It is really important that pupils, staff and parents work together on this to ensure that everyone is clear about expectations.

Over the summer holidays our class library corners have been updated with more new books which will enable children to take brand new books of their choice home to read and enjoy, alongside their reading book. This has been funded by our wonderful Parents Association, to whom we are extremely grateful.

You will be relieved to know that our school was inspected for RAAC in February 2023 and no evidence of this material in our school building was found so it's business as usual for us.

The newsletter is published every fortnight on a Friday and covers news as well as key information which you are required to know. As this is the first edition, it contains lots of important information which I ask you to please read carefully and keep for future reference.

I look forward to working with you and your family this year to ensure that your children have an enjoyable and fulfilling educational experience in the year ahead.

Kind regards,

Clare Campbell



Healthy Eating:

All children are encouraged to bring a named bottle of water to school, which they can use during class time. On hot days, the staff top the water bottles up for the children during the day to ensure that they remain hydrated.

We are part of the national free fruit scheme for infants, so children in years R to 2 receive a piece of fruit daily. Junior children are required to bring their own. **We have a number of children allergic to Kiwi fruit so please refrain from including this in your child's fruit box.**

School dinners:

A copy of the school's menu for this term is on the school's website: www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Any parents choosing to send their child in with a packed lunch should not include the following items: sweets, crisps, fizzy drinks, chocolate and foods containing nuts. Please ensure that all packed lunch boxes/bags are labelled with your child's name and class.



As healthy eating is an important issue and an increasing number of children have a range of intolerances/ allergies, children are not permitted to bring in sweets or cakes to celebrate their birthday.

Medical Needs:

For any child needing to receive medication during the school day, this can be dropped via the office in the morning to Ms Doogan. She will give you a form to fill in, giving us permission to give the medication to your child.

If you need to discuss any medical issues regarding your child's health (in particular the use of long-term medication), please ring the office to arrange for Miss Doogan to call you to discuss this matter. If your child is returning to school in plaster, please make an appointment to see Ms Doogan prior to their return, as special arrangements have to be put in place.

The school also needs to know if a child has measles/ mumps/ chicken pox or has been in contact with another child or adult who has had any of these illnesses. The wellbeing of all our pupils, particularly several who are vulnerable to infection, is paramount to us.





Pupil Attendance and Punctuality:

It is vital that children are in school everyday unless they are unwell. Excellent school attendance enables them to access every opportunity to support their global development. On the final page of the newsletter I have inserted a chart which explains the learning time lost by being late or absent from school.

If your child is unwell, please telephone the school office and press 1 on the automated message service to report the absence **before 9.00am**. Alternatively you can e-mail on: **absence@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk**



School Uniform:

The children have all returned to school looking very smart in their school uniforms. It is much appreciated that everyone follows the school uniform guidelines. A reminder to ensure that all uniform is labelled to reduce the valuable time lost in reuniting children and items of uniform! Please make sure labels are clear, legible and not faded. In regards to footwear, children should be wearing plain black/navy shoes of leather appearance, with Velcro, buckles or laces. The shoes should be free of sports labels/branding and should be able to be polished.



PE Kits:

On the day/s of your child's PE sessions, they are expected to come to school dressed in their PE kits. A reminder that the school PE kit is as follows: • White T-shirt with school logo • Navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms / school sweatshirt on colder days • Trainers (whatever trainers your child already has will be fine for PE) **if they are lace up—our child needs to be able to tie these themselves.** Reception parents: **once the children are settled into their routines, your class teachers will be in contact, via Tapestry, to alert you to the days in which the children will need to wear their PE kits.**

Year group	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1		✓			✓
2		✓		✓	
3		✓		✓	
4	✓ (Aut 2 onwards)		✓	✓ (Aut 1 only)	
5			✓	✓	
6		✓	✓		

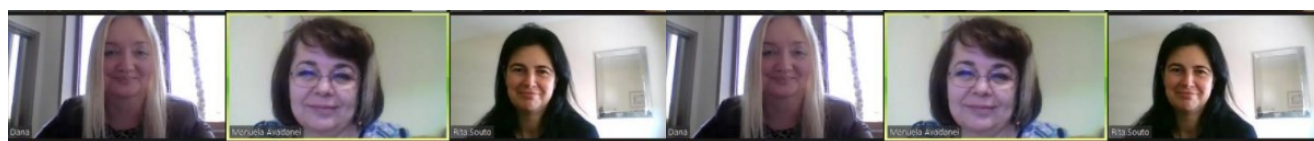
Virtual opportunity to meet your child's class teacher:

During the week beginning Monday 11th September there will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher virtually to find out what they will be learning in the year. These sessions will take place via zoom for Nursery and Year R and Google Meet for Years 1-6 (these will last approximately 30 minutes) **and we will send a link to the zoom session on Friday 8th September via email and text.**

Some of the things that will be discussed are:

- Topics that your child will be covering in class
- The class rules and routines
- The behaviour policy and how this is put in place in your child's new class
- How homework is set and marked
- The school's expectations for attendance / punctuality / uniform and PE kit
- Upcoming events for the term
- An opportunity to ask any further questions

Class	Teachers	When
Nursery	Ms. M. Kelly and Ms Decsi	Mon 11th Sept— 3.45pm
Reception	Ms Tibbs and Ms Susko	Mon 11th Sept— 4.20pm
Year 1	Ms Nicou and Ms Petch	Tues 12th Sept – 4.20PM
Year 2	Mr Shreeves and Ms. S. Kelly	Tues 12th Sept– 3.45PM
Year 3	Ms O'Connor and Ms Kling	Wed 13th Sept– 4.20 PM
Year 4	Ms Williams, Ms Thomas and Ms O'Brien	Wed 13th Sept – 3.45 PM
Year 5	Ms Vassallo and Ms Gyles	Thu 14th Sept – 3.45PM
Year 6	Mr McCormick and Ms Newman	Thu 14th Sept – 4.20 PM



Meeting your child's teacher in person:

There will be an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher face to face during parent consultations. These will take place in your child's classroom on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October from 3.15 to 5.45pm. Appointments can be booked from **Monday 2nd October**. Information on the booking procedure will be e-mailed separately.

We pride ourselves on positive home / school relationships so if you have something that you need to discuss with your child's teacher before then, please make an appointment directly with them.



Year Group assemblies / Performances :

Each year group will be hosting an assembly or a whole-year performance during the school year which you are warmly invited to attend in the school hall.

Y6 End of Year Performance	Summer Term—Date to be confirmed
Y5 Easter Passion Play	Thursday 28th March 9am
Y4 Assembly	Thursday 19th October 9am
Y3 SJA Day Assembly	Thursday 23rd May 9am
Y2 Graduation Assembly	Friday 21st June 9am
Y1 Fathers' Day Assembly	Friday 14th June 9am
Reception/Nursery Mothers' Day Assembly	Friday 8th March 9am

School Masses:

Thank you to 6M for leading the first Mass of the school today. Each junior class has an opportunity to lead a Mass which take place at St Joan of Arc Church and starts at 9am.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 1st November – All Souls' Day – Led by 6N

Thursday 21st December – Christmas Mass – Led by Class 5L

Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Term Dates:

Attached are the school dates for the year. Please keep them in a safe place for your reference. They are also available via the school's website: www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk





Extended Schools:

Our service, which runs both childcare and clubs is open after school every night from 3-5pm or 5.45pm. This is now managed by Ms Cumpstey, with Ms Long and Ms Squire as Deputy Managers. All of the staff on duty each evening are members of the school staff so there is continuity of care from the school day to after school for the children.

Children attending the club are escorted from their classroom by their TA to the small hall for registration and are then handed over to the coaches for their clubs or they can choose an activity to do if they are remaining in childcare.

As well as reviewing the clubs and activities on offer, we have revised the snack menu provided each night. Different snacks are on offer depending on the length of time the children are attending the service.

Monday to Friday 3-5pm	Water Fruit Carrot sticks Cucumber	With one of the following options: Cheese and crackers, toast with jam, cheese or ham bagels
Monday to Friday 3-5.45pm	Water Fruit Carrot sticks Cucumber	A light meal (e.g. pasta, pizza or jacket potato)

The booking service for after school is <https://stjoanofarc.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>

As a school, we are very mindful of the cost of living crisis and want to support parents with childcare as much as we can. With that in mind, The Governing Body's Finance Committee have agreed not to increase the cost of this service for this academic year.

If you have an enquiry about your booking or need to speak to the Extended Schools Manager, Ms Cumpstey is on duty from 2-5.45pm and the direct line number is: 07949 406543 or email: extendedday@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

A reminder that a prompt collection at either 5pm or 5.45pm (as per your booking) is required as the staff on duty have been here since 8am and like you all have children at home to deal with too!

Staff Welcomes:

A warm welcome is extended to Ms Petch, teacher of 1D and Ms King, teacher of 3H.

Just a reminder, that if you have a concern about your child, the first point of contact is their class teacher. They are in the best position to answer any questions about your child or investigate your concern. You can make an appointment with them by leaving a message in the school office or via email on info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

On the rare occasion, where you feel not completely satisfied with the outcome of your concern, the following senior teachers with responsibilities for specific year groups will meet with you:

Ms Tibbs – In charge of Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2

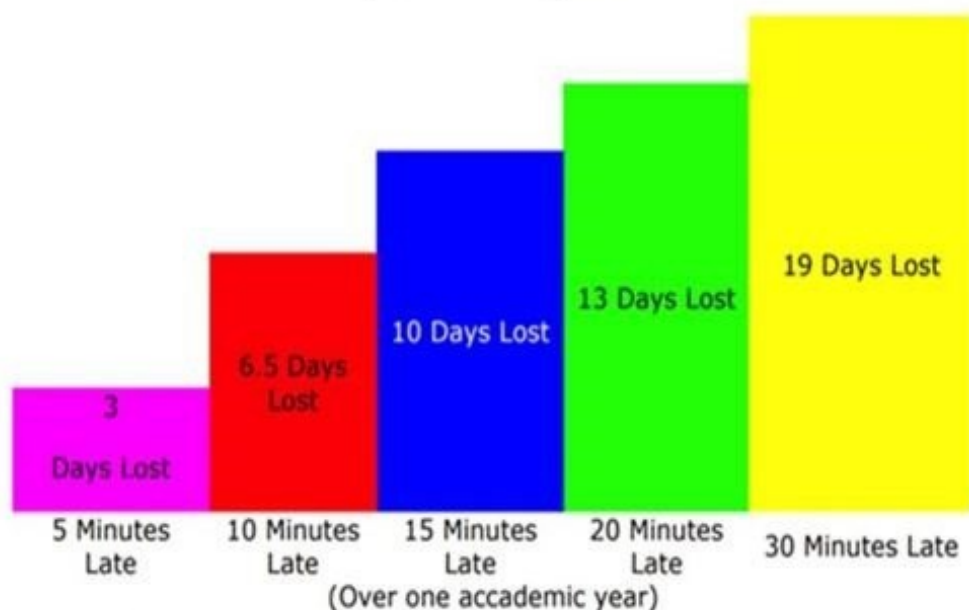
Ms Newman – In charge of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

The same procedure for contacting them applies as specified above.



Every Minute Counts

If you arrive late to school everyday your learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school everyday over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR
ATTENDANCE
FIGURES
ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!

Percentages based on 190 academic days