



Newsletter No. 1

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am sure there was a sigh of relief this morning that school was reopening and the establishment of school and bedtime routines were returning. It was lovely to see you all back at the school gates this morning. A warm welcome is extended to the new families joining our school and I look forward to getting to know you all as time progresses.

I am pleased to report that the children have had a lovely first day back in school and were delighted to be reunited with their friends. Thank you for making such a concerted effort to ensure that your child returned in the correct uniform and footwear. They all looked so smart and ready for learning.

Today in assembly, we focused on our four Christian values of Respect, Love, Service and Courage and how this fits in with the school's Mission Statement. Each class this week will be devising their own class rules and will remind themselves also about the school rules.

I am sending the newsletter today as there are a number of important dates for your diary coming up imminently—mainly the class meet the teacher meetings, which are next week. More details are enclosed.

I have also attached a statutory attendance letter regarding pupil attendance at school and the removal of authorising holidays during term time. This letter has come directly from the Department of Education and was issued in August.

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,

Claire Campbell

Headteacher





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.

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—your 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	X				X
2		X			X
3			X		X
4		X		X	
5			X	X	
6		X	X		

Virtual opportunity to meet your child’s class teacher:

During the week beginning Monday 9th 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 Thursday 5th 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 reviewed
- 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, Ms Decsi & Ms Kollia	Mon 9th Sept— 3.45pm
Reception	Ms Petch and Ms Susko	Mon 9th Sept— 4.20pm
Year 1	Ms Nicou and Ms Thomas	Tues 10th Sept – 4.20PM
Year 2	Ms Rowley and Ms. S. Kelly	Tues 10th Sept– 3.45PM
Year 3	Ms O’Connor and Ms King	Wed 11th Sept– 4.20 PM
Year 4	Ms Williams and Ms Newson	Wed 11th Sept – 3.45 PM
Year 5	Ms Vassallo and Ms Gyles	Thu 12th Sept – 3.45PM
Year 6	Mr McCormick and Mr Shreeves	Thu 12th 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 23rd and Thursday 24th October from 3.15 to 5.45pm**. Appointments can be booked from Monday 7th 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.



School Mass:

Our first school Mass of this year will take place on **Friday (6th September) and will be led by 6M (Mr McCormick's class)**. This will take place at **St Joan of Arc Church at 9.15am**.

Pupils from Years 1-6 will be attending and as with all school Masses, parents are welcome to attend.

Staff Welcome:

A warm welcome is extended to Ms Rowley, teacher of 2E.

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.

On the rare occasion, where you feel not completely satisfied with the outcome of your concern, Ms Tibbs, Senior teacher will meet with you.

You can make an appointment with a class teacher or Ms Tibbs by leaving a message in the school office or via email on info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk



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 SCHOOL



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 Squire as Deputy Manager. 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 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 between 5 and 5.45pm is required as the staff on duty have been here since 8am and like you all have children at home to deal with too!