

#### Dear Parents/ Carers,

We had a wonderful week last week with lots of excitement around World Book Day which really showcased the children's love of reading.

The children's costumes were amazing and I could see that lots of effort was taken to try and meet our sustainable theme. World Book Day was also marked with a special whole-school assembly. Each class had their turn on the catwalk and the Eco-team, selected one winner per class.

We had new school children for the day with staff dressed in our school uniform. Ms Trunchbull enjoyed giving out uniform reminder notices to those who did not comply with the policy! We all had so much fun and have hopefully created school day memories for your child. A big thank you is extended to Mr Shreeves, who



### Newsletter No.13

Fri 15th March 2024

is in charge of English and organised all of the activities for the week.

Below are some pictures of the event so you can see how wonderful the costumes were.

As usual the newsletter has lots of news and reminders for events that are taking place over the next two weeks.

The final newsletter will be published on Thursday 28th March.











#### **Book stall**

Thank you for the many donations of books we received which enabled us to hold a book market in school. Every class had the opportunity to browse and take at least one book. A whopping £285 was raised! Thank you all!



#### **Reception Mothers' Day Tea Party**

On Friday we held our very first Mothers' Day tea party for our reception mums. This was a lovely opportunity for the mums to gather and hear how much they are

loved by their precious children! Thanks to all the Reception staff for their organisation which made this a lovely celebration.



# MOTHER'S DAY Tea Party

























## **Celebrating Neurodiversity during**

Autism Acceptance Week, running from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, coincides with our school holiday. However, we're excited to celebrate neurodiversity in the last week of term!

This week, Junior classes have each been assigned a neurodiverse celebrity to research:



3G: Billie Eilish

3H: Greta Thunberg

4I: Will.i.am

4J: Octavia Lewis

5K: Lewis Capaldi

5L: Emma LB

6M: Simone Biles



6N: Michael Phelps



Ashleigh Johnson, Head of Outreach from the Bridge, will deliver a special assembly on the same day to raise awareness and acceptance of neurodiversity among the junior classes.

**Ashleigh Johnson** [MA in Inclusive and Special Education, BA in Elementary Education] is a SEND teacher and Head of The Bridge Outreach.



To further raise awareness and in line with World Autism Acceptance Week 2024, Tuesday 26th will be a non-uniform day. Children will be encouraged to get as colourful as

possible, and we'll invite everyone to participate in our SJA Spectrum Colour Walk in the playground.

Link to the World Autism Acceptance Week website (https://waaw.autism.org.uk/)





If you're neurodiverse and would like to share your experiences with the children, please reach out, and I'd be happy to support and arrange it.

#### **Extended Schools Questionnaire**

Please find attached a copy of the results of the Extended Schools Questionnaire. This was an agenda item at the Governing Body's Staffing and Finance Committee in February. The survey indicated 80% of parents were able book childcare for the nights they required. To improve on this, we have increased our capacity to 90 places per night for the summer term. Ms Squire who worked as both a TA during the school day and some nights as the deputy manager in Extended schools, now works full time in this area. This has enabled us to increase capacity.



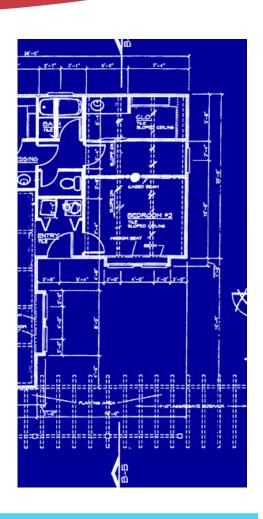
I know at the Parents/Caregivers Forum meeting yesterday, the reps had Extended Schools as an agenda item—particularly around the booking system and flexibilities in booking, more information on this will be captured in the minutes of that meeting.

This is an area of school life that we will continue to re-evaluate as the needs of parents change as well as ensuring the children's interest levels are catered for via the clubs on offer.

#### **Extended Schools Building**

The PA have a subcommittee working behind the scenes on longer term projects for the school. Some of you who have been at the school for a number of years will know that we have been trying to improve the facilities which the children can use at Extended Schools. This resulted in the school receiving some funding to build the entrance area and new children's toilets, which was built in 2020. Phase two of this project is still very much on our wish list. We still have planning permission in place to complete this phase to include a teaching kitchen, art room and a wild garden leading to the existing football pitch. All of these facilities would be used in the day as well as after school. The PA launched a gofund me initiative in 2023 to raise some much-needed funds to go towards this project. I know that this is not a good time to be drawing your attention to this due to the current financial climate but, you may know of companies that are doing sponsorship/match funding that you are able to alert us to who could help.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-joan-of-arc-school-fund-raiser? utm\_campaign=p\_cp+sharesheet&utm\_medium=chat&utm\_sourc e=whatsApp



#### **Parent Consultations**

These are taking place after school next Wednesday and Thursday with your child's class teacher. Please ensure you have booked your appointment as the booking system will close on Monday. Booking slots are 10 minutes per child so to help them to run to time, please knock on the classroom door when your time slot is due. Entry and exit for all appointments is via the main entrance on Northolme Road.





#### **Uniform**

Thank you for your support of our efforts to raise the uniform standards to the levels we are used to. We really appreciate how you understand the principles and benefits behind high uniform standards. Thank you to those who responded to the requests for uniform to be corrected. Please sign the Uniform Reminder Notice so we know that you are aware of the situation if you receive one.

If there are extenuating circumstances (temporary injuries etc.) please contact your child's teacher. Anything more permanent (medical requirements, financial hardships) please contact Mr Fuiava. We are here to help in any way.

#### THIS TERM—SPRING 2—WE ARE FOCUSING ON PE KITS—TODAY IS THE 4 WEEK CUT-OFF DATE (15/3)

Mr Fuiava will be contacting those who still do not have the correct uniforms on.

	Uniform review	Cut-off date	Focus
Spring term 1	Week 1 – week 4	Week 5 Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<ul> <li>Sport brand free, black/navy blue leather footwear</li> <li>Logo jumper/fleece</li> <li>Button up shirt</li> </ul>
Spring term 2	Week 1 – week 4	Week 5 Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<ul> <li>Logo White t-shirt</li> <li>Navy/black shorts or tracksuit bottoms (plain)</li> <li>Navy/black/grey/white leggings/tights</li> </ul>
Summer term 1	Week 1 – week 4	Week 5 Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> May	All of the above plus  • general uniform (jewellery, hair accessories, make-up etc)

#### **Easter Raffle**

This year the school's House Captains will be organising the traditional Easter Raffle. This is a time of the year that the children really look forward to. We would be very grateful for donations of Easter eggs – the ones that cost approx. £1.50 in major supermarkets. Please send them in with your child at school drop off time.

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 they are given that egg on the raffle day.

Ms. Doogan will be selling the tickets during the school day (week beginning Monday 25th March) and the maximum purchase is £1 per child. The raffle will take place on the last day of term, Thursday 29th March. Money raised goes towards the PA's fundraising initiative.





#### **Holy Week**

During Lent, pupils in years 4—6 will have the opportunity to attend confession with a priest and EYFS and KS1 will visit the church to see the stations of the Cross which depict Christ's final hours.

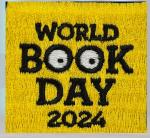
During Holy Week, KS2 will be at the church everyday to say the Angelus prayer and to reflect on the Stations of the Cross. Each year group will take it in turns to reflect on certain stations.

Year 5 will perform their Passion play on Thursday 28th at 9am.

#### **Bikes and scooters**

It is great to see so many of our children using bikes and scooters to travel to school. With us now being in Spring, I'm sure there will be more scooters coming to school in the weeks ahead. If your child is bringing a scooter or bike to school, please remember to collect it that evening rather than leaving it on the school site. When Arsenal play at home, the playground is used for car parking and Mr Campana is having to store away up to 15 scooters on these evenings (this is why parents often report scooters missing when they have been left behind and then stored away). It would be of great help if all scooters and bikes could be collected every night. Please also remember that any bikes or scooters left on site are left at the owner's risk.





Inspiring a love of reading is one of the most important things we can do as a school. Thursday was World Book Day and we have filled this week with activities to support the children's passion for books.

On Monday we launched the 2024 Readathon. This is a great way to encourage our children to read and you can sponsor your child in their booklets or on the Readathon website.

https://sja.rallyup.com/884e82/Campaign/Details

Each day last week the teachers swapped classes to read their favourite poems with different children from across the school. In class, all the children had written poems, applying what they have heard in their own writing.

On Wednesday, we held our preloved book sale which was a great success. We had a huge number of beautiful books donated and we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who gave to the book sale so generously. We believe that all children should have access to books that they love reading and this week, every child got to take home at least two high-quality books which they chose. A special thank you should go to the parent helpers who gave up their time to help sort the books and run the book sale.

On Thursday we had our traditional World Book Day celebration with the children dressing up as their favourite book characters. The Eco Team had been working with the children to encourage them to make, reuse or upcycle their costumes as part of our efforts to make our school life more sustainable. All the children looked fantastic and we had such a fun day.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who helped make it a memorable event.











#### March

15th - 8.15-8.45 - Uniform stall

- -8.30 Parent Support network meeting
- Cake stall 3pm

19th - 8.30am -PA meeting

9.00am - School Mass led by 4I- Parents invited

20th and 21st - 3.15-5.45pm - Parents evening

22nd Reconciliation service for Years 4-6

26th – Neurodiversity Awareness Day – non-uniform day

27th - 9am - Mass led by Class 3G - parents invited

28th – 8.45am – Easter Passion Play led by Year 5 – Parents invited

- Easter Egg raffle
- 1.30pm school closes for the Easter holidays





#### Last day of term

Last day of spring term is March 28th and the school will close at 1.30pm. Please ensure you collect your child at this time.

#### Sad news

It is with great sadness that I need to let you know that one of our long serving members of staff, Ms. Turner, has sadly passed away after a short Illness.

Ms Turner worked as a midday meals supervisor and as our school librarian, touching the lives of many children over her many years of service.

She will be missed by the children and her colleagues. Condolences are extended to all of her family members.

