



Newsletter No.3

Friday 3rd October

Dear Parents & Carers,

Now we have reached the end of week five, we continue to be blessed with our amazing children in school. I have been to see the children now a couple of times in class and continue to be impressed with their work ethic and hunger for learning.

We had our first open day for prospective parents last Wednesday and the feedback was around how calm and quiet the school is but also the shock of what children are expected to learn by the time they are eleven. They also felt that schools had changed immensely since their experience as a child, which I can agree with too.

We also had our first coffee morning for the EYFS parents last Friday. It was great to meet you all in person and a big thank you to our wonderful PA who provided such a positive welcoming committee.

A reminder that our International Evening is on Friday 17th October from 6.30pm in the school hall.

If you are new to the school, it is a good opportunity to meet new families. More information was sent out yesterday in the Parents Association newsletter.

Enjoy your family filled weekend.

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.

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. She will be visiting 23rd October.



Pupil Photographs

The photographer will be returning to duty on Thursday 9th 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.



Healthy Packed Lunches

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.



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.



Sports Captains / House Captains

In assembly on Monday the new sports and house captains were presented with their badges.
Many congratulations are extended to:

	House Captains	Sports Captains
BENEDICT—Respect	Amelia and John	Leo
DOMREMY—Love	Aiyanna and Max	Samuel
FLEUR-de-LYS—Service	Maia and Cecilia	Blanche
ROUEN—Courage	Isabella-Rudi and Valentina	Azara

I am sure that they will have lots of new ideas and initiatives to lead on this year and so I will keep you updated of these in future newsletters.

Parent Governor Elections

You should have received a separate e-mail this week informing you that we have two vacancies for parent governors on our governing body. If you have a general interest in education or a specific skill that could be used to strengthen our strategic leadership of the school, please consider putting yourself forward.

I am very happy to meet any of you considering this role so I can explain what the position entails as well as the time commitment. Please e-mail the school office and I will make an appointment to meet with you.



Well-Being Ambassadors

A special assembly will be held on Monday 13th October at 8.45am to present pupils with their badges. Parents of these pupils are warmly invited to attend.



After school provision

We still have some spaces for childcare / clubs available for this term.

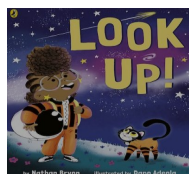
Please contact the extended school's office if you would like to avail of this.

extendedday@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk



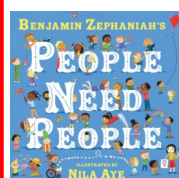
This October, our school will be celebrating Black History Month. This is a special time dedicated to celebrating the achievements, contributions and rich cultures of Black people throughout history and in our world today. It also provides us with an opportunity to learn about the struggles that Black people have encountered and learn about some inspirational figures who have demonstrated great courage, kindness and perseverance when faced with adversity.

In Nursery and Reception: The children will explore the picture books: *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin and the *My First Heroes; Black History* book, which introduces the children to Maya Angelou, Stormzy, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks. Linked to Floella Benjamin's *Coming to England* they will also explore the episode of Jo Jo and Gran Gran 'We're Going on a Voyage'. These resources open up conversations about immigration, the Windrush generation and family history.



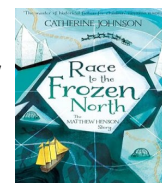
Year 1 Will explore the life of astronaut Mae Jemison (the first black woman to go to space). Linked to the book *Look Up* by Nathan Bryon, the children will explore her life and how she worked hard to become a pioneering figure who inspired others to follow their dreams.

Year 2 Will learn about the life of Walter Tull. Walter Tull was both a talented footballer and a brave soldier during the First World War. His story teaches powerful lessons about how he overcame challenges and worked hard to achieve great things in his life, both on the football pitch and in the army. He also demonstrated incredible bravery by fighting for his country and being one of the first Black men to become an officer in the British Army, even when rules said he couldn't.



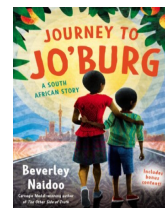
Year 3 Children will learn about the life of Benjamin Zephaniah. A son of parents of the Windrush generation, Benjamin overcame prejudice and a challenging upbringing to become one of the most loved British poets. The children will explore his life story, his poetry and learn how he was able to highlight injustices and social issues in an accessible and child-friendly way.

Year 4: Linked to their study of America in geography, the children will learn about the story of Matthew Henson; a man of significant achievement largely ignored in his lifetime due to the colour of his skin. Their learning will centre around the book *Race to the Frozen North* by Catherine Johnson.



Year 5: Across the month, the children in Year 5 will read the novel form of Floella Benjamin's *Coming to England*. Her childhood memoir recalls her family's journey from Trinidad in the 1960s and the challenges and triumphs she and her family encountered. The story is one of courage overcoming adversity.

Year 6: Across October, the children will read and explore the story *Journey to Jo'burg* by Beverly Naidoo. The story is one of bravery during the dangerous landscape of apartheid South Africa. Alongside the fictional story, the children will learn about the history of apartheid and the inspiration for the book.



LUNCHTIME CLUBS

THIS WEEK, OUR SCHOOL LAUNCHED TWO FANTASTIC NEW LUNCHTIME CLUBS AND THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN A MASSIVE SUCCESS! CHILDREN IN BEAD CLUB CREATED BEAUTIFUL JEWELLERY WHILE OTHERS GOT THEIR HANDS DIRTY IN THE ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB, IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE SO MUCH ENTHUSIASM, SO MANY HAPPY FACES AND SUCH CREATIVITY.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING PARENT VOLUNTEERS. YOUR TIME, EFFORT, AND DEDICATION IS REALLY APPRICATED AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

WE'D ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE PARENT ASSOCIATION FOR HELPING TO FUND THESE CLUBS. YOUR CONTRIBUTION ENSURES OUR STUDENTS HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES.



"THIS IS BETTER THAN FOOTBALL."
- YEAR 2 CHILD



"I LOVE IT. I WOULD DO IT EVERYDAY"
- YEAR 4 CHILD

Thank you again to all those parents who have been giving up their lunchtimes to come in and run a club or to read with individual children.

I had the pleasure of attending bead club this week and I was blown away about how engaged the children were. I have to say that their finished products were much more creative than mine!

Our New Class Librarians Are Ready to Go!

We're thrilled to announce that our new Class Librarians have officially started their important roles this week! The children were presented with their librarian badges in assembly and they are now ready to begin helping their classmates and teachers with all things literary.

Why They Were Chosen

The selection process was a tough one, as we have so many keen readers, but our new librarians stood out for some fantastic qualities:

- Reliable and Organised:
- A Love for Reading:
- Brave and Confident:
- Embodying School Values: love, service, courage and respect.

What's Next?

Our new librarians will be busy in the coming weeks helping to keep our classroom book corners tidy, recommending new books to their friends, and assisting with book swaps. Please congratulate them when you see them—we know they'll do a brilliant job!



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.



We are currently accepting applications for
full or part time nursery places

To apply or arrange a visit

Email: admissions@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Call: 020 7226-3920

Nursery Hours 8.15am – 3.00pm Childcare Available - 3:00-5:45pm

www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

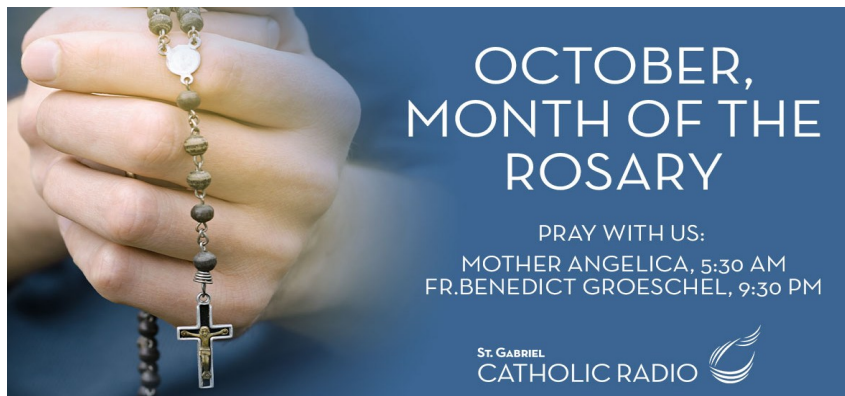


Nursery Vacancies:

We are currently accepting applications for pupils to start in the school nursery from January 2026.

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 – 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.

October

Week Beginning Monday 6th

Thursday 9th – School Photographer – individual and sibling group photographs

Week beginning Monday 13th

Tuesday 14th Parent Support Network Meeting

Friday 17th – 6pm International Evening

Week Beginning Monday 20th

Wednesday 22nd – Flu Vaccinations Reception – Year 6
ism workshop (KS2)

Week Beginning 27th October – Half Term

NOVEMBER

Week Beginning 3rd November

Monday 3rd – INSET DAY

Tuesday 4th – 8.15 – 8.30pm Children return to school

Thursday 6th - Year 3 Trip to The Hive

Week Beginning Monday 10th

Friday 14th - Flu Vaccination – catch up session

Friday 14th - Reception Parent's Bingo Night 6.30pm

Week Beginning Monday 17th

Wednesday 19th – 3.30 – 6.30pm Parent Consultation

Thursday 20th – 3.30 – 6.30pm Parent Consultation

DECEMBER

Week Beginning Monday 1st

Friday 5th – 3.30pm Christmas Fair in Playground

Week Beginning Monday 8th

Wednesday 10th - 8.45am [Infant Nativity Show \(Nurs to Year 2\)](#)

Thursday 11th – 8.45am Infant Nativity Show (Nurs to Year 2)

Week Beginning Monday 15th

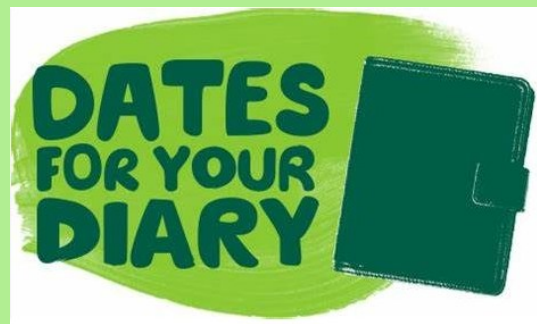
Monday 15th – Whole School to see Christmas Pantomime

Tuesday 16th – Children's Christmas Jumpers, Disco and Christmas lunch

Thursday 18th – 2pm Key Stage 2 Carol Service in St Joan of Arc Church

Friday 19th – 9am School Mass led by Class 6N

School Closes for Christmas Holidays at 1.30pm



Thursday 23rd Oct— Juda-



PA INTERNATIONAL
EVENING

Friday 17th
October

6.00 – 9.00pm

