



Friday 20th October

Dear Parents & Carers,

The news this week has been very upsetting. We try to create a safe haven at school for the children to protect them from the most traumatic news, while sensitively praying for any countries in conflict. Praying for peace is all we can do.

Last week, we spoke in assembly about Black History Month, but that as St Joan of Arc this is not relegated to one month a year, we celebrate all year round. This year's theme of 'Saluting Sisters' highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities. Yesterday the focus of our assembly was on Floella Benjamin, the Trinidadian-British actress, singer, presenter, author and politician. We discussed how Floella and her family moved to England when she was a young girl and how she was the first presenter on TV to wear beads in her hair. I read Floella's children's book 'Coming to England', where the children heard that it took a while for Floella to feel welcomed to the country. We also talked about how we welcome all new children to St Joan of Arc and what we do to ensure they quickly become part of our school community. You can see some more information about British Black History and listen to the catchy song [here](https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/black-history-month)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/black-history-month>

If you'd like a useful video which explains discrimination in a way children can understand, watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uXgJA-VfjI>

It is only through education that racism in all its forms can be eradicated.

It was wonderful to see lots of you at our parents evening on Wednesday and Thursday. The vast majority of parents attended meetings with their child's class teacher which really shows your continued commitment to their education. The teachers all commented on how valuable it was to meet you in person too. I am hoping that you all left the evening feeling more informed of how your child is getting on at school and how we can both continue to work together to support them in their learning journey.

Today, you had a chance to come and see the school in action, visit your child(ren)'s classroom(s) and meet fellow parents for a coffee and chat. These sessions are always very busy but I feel are beneficial to all. I am hoping that you left feeling that your child does do something at school and not the usual 'nothing' when asked what they have done today.

We are in the process of updating the calendar on the school's website so all important dates will be listed for easy access on there soon. I hope you manage to get some rest over the half term and look forward to seeing you when the school reopens on Monday 30th October.

Kind regards,





International Evening

This was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all of the parents and staff who helped to organise the evening.



Cake stall:

Thank you to the Year 6 parents for running the first cake stall of the term. It certainly brightened up a Friday afternoon. The next stall is being held on Friday 8th December and it is being led by the parents of pupils in Year 5.



Secondary School Applications:

A reminder regarding applications for admission into Secondary School – September 2024

The closing date for applications into Year 7 is 31st October. You must also complete an application form from the borough in which you reside.

Reception Applications:

If you have a child born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, your child will be eligible to apply for a Reception place in September. Please remember that transfer from Nursery to Reception is not automatic - a new application needs to be made via the council online platform, and a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) needs to be submitted to the school. Supplementary Information Forms are available on the school website or at the school office. Please see the Reception Admissions Policy on the school website for details of documents to be submitted with the SIF. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2024.

Nursery Applications:

We also have spaces in our nursery, so if your child is three years of age before 31st December (or you know of anyone with a three-year-old not in nursery), please visit our website for an application form.



National and local schemes available to help with childcare costs:

Some parents have been asking how they can get support with the cost of childcare. A summary is below, with more detailed information attached.

Parents can get support with the costs of childcare through the following government schemes:

- Tax-free childcare
- Universal Credit for Childcare
- Care to Learn (Under 20)
- Discretionary Learner Support
- Childcare Grant

Information about these schemes is available at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Islington Council offers a Childcare Bursary which supports parents living in Islington with the costs of childcare as they move into work or training.

Contact the Family Information Service (FIS) for information about what support is available with the costs of childcare and how to apply. You can contact them on 020 7527 5959; fis@islington.gov.uk



Parent reps

If you are a parent rep for your child's class, please email the school office to inform them of your name, class, email address and whether you consent to allow the secretary to send correspondence to you.



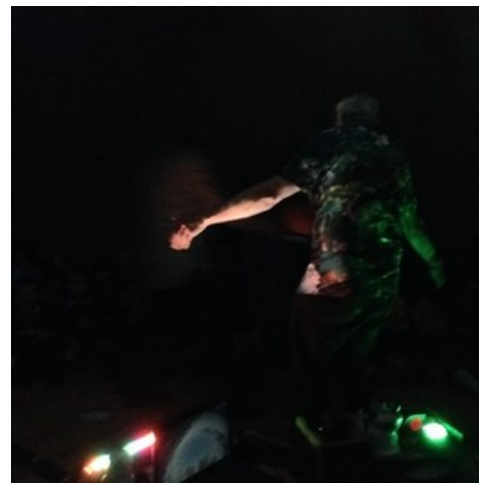
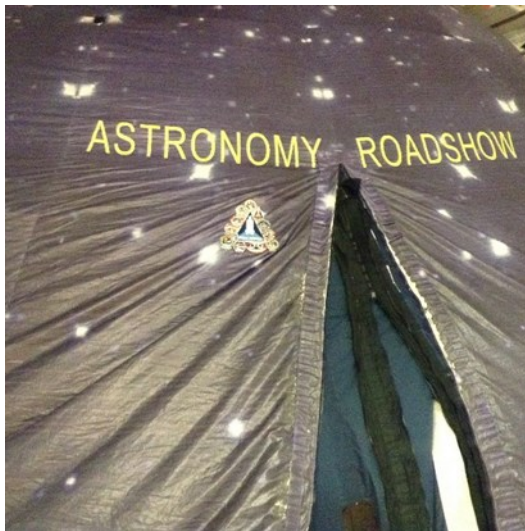
St Joan of Arc staff baby boom:

Many congratulations are extended to the following members of staff on the new additions to their families: Ms Ward – a girl named Imogen, Ms Gallagher – a girl named Isla, Ms Newson – a boy named Felix and Ms Farrell, a boy named Patrick.



Astronomy Roadshow

This week our school enjoyed an amazing visit from the astronomy roadshow and we can truly say it was a wonderful event for children and adults. Our hall was filled with a huge inflatable dome. We were allowed to go inside where each class had a light show and an in depth talk about space. During the workshops the children were able to experience planets of the solar system and a virtual tour of space. The presenter was also happy to answer lots of questions that children had linked with the topics being taught in school.



School Uniform:

Thank you for your support in ensuring the uniform is presented in its highest quality as well as being regulation/ correct according to the policy. We have noticed a lot less trainers being used as school shoes and the children are doing their best to ensure they are tucking their shirts in and presenting themselves neatly for learning.

The main uniform infringements are trainers with the uniform, polo shirts instead of shirts and jumpers and PE t-shirts without the school logo.

Mr Fuiava will be sending correspondence to all caregivers regarding the uniform; what is correct, what the priorities are, what the new procedures will be when dealing with incorrect uniform, timeframes and support. It is all part of the holistic approach to learning and encouraging discipline, unity and the school identity. As always, your support will be greatly appreciated and needed.

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/>



LSRC Legend Award:

The LSRC Legend Award is awarded to pupils who exemplify St Joan of Arc's way of life —with love, service, respect and courage. These children are selected by staff who feel strongly they should be acknowledged for their conduct. To date, only 11 pupils have won this award and this term, 2 winners have been announced. Congratulations Elizabeth and Caden.



Click here for a report on the Judaism Workshops attended by Year 6.

<https://www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk/news/year-6/year-6-judaism-workshop/>

OCTOBER, MONTH OF THE ROSARY

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.