



Newsletter No. 6

Fri 24th November

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had a very busy but productive start to our second half of the Autumn Term.

The reception and nursery classes are very settled and never cease to amaze me about how quickly they have become part of our school community. They have grown in confidence and independence in a short amount of time. As parents of these children, you should feel very proud of what they have achieved in a very short amount of time.

Other year groups have been busy out on trips, participating in sporting events as well as working very hard in class. We now start the preparation for Christmas, which is always a busy time both in school and at home! This year, we will host our first ever Christmas Fair.

This is going to be more of a 'let's get together as a community' rather than a focus on making purchases! If you can come and support this event, it would be lovely to see you. More details are in the newsletter below.

A little reminder, that in this cold weather, every child needs to wear a coat to school.

Even if it is drizzly weather, we try and ensure that the children have an opportunity to play outside and having a coat helps with this.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fair.

Kind regards,

Clare Campbell



St Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School – Reception Admissions for 2024

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, you will be looking for a school place for September 2024. If you (or a friend) have missed our open mornings and would like a tour of the school please telephone the school office on 020 7226-3920. Our final open morning takes place on Wednesday 6th December at 9.00am.



LSRC Legendary Award

Congratulations to Yunus and Aaron who recently received the LSRC award. Staff can nominate any pupil to receive this prestigious award for personifying the 4 Christian Values of the school: Love Service Respect and Courage.



Anti-Bullying Week 2023

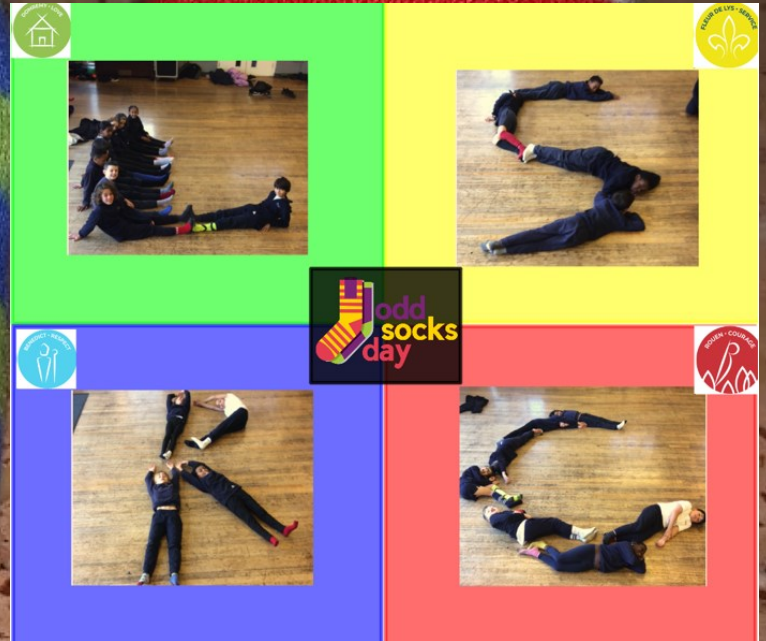
Odd socks – There was an array of odd socks being worn in school on Wednesday to mark “anti-bullying” week. The message around the socks is to celebrate difference and each of us being unique – and that this is



a cause for celebration and not harm. The term “bullying” can be easily mis-used. Bullying is when there is an action by an individual or group against another individual Several Times On Purpose (think of STOP). Children may not get on or like each other and there may be one-off incidents of unkindness, but this mustn’t be confused with bullying. It is hard to prove that actions are intending to inflict harm with the youngest of children and so that is why

education is so important, so children learn quickly the impact their actions may have. Children with autism, ADHD or other neurodiversities may act impulsively at times and not through deliberate unkindness and again, education plays a vital role here.





Tag rugby success

On Wednesday 15th November we took out a tag rugby team to go and compete in a tournament at market road. The team consisted of Maddox, Bruno, Aidan, Myles, Billy, Joseph, Eloise, Abigail, Bianca and Aldana. These people did fantastically as they were able to win the entire tournament! The matches were not as they normally are as there was no final it was just groups and if you came 1st in your group then your team would get to go to the final group and compete against other teams that won their group.

In our first match we won 3-0 against Prior Weston; in the second match we won 4-2 against Grafton and our third and final match of our first group was against Ambler which were a very good team—however we beat them 2-0. After that, we qualified for the final group where we would face Canonbury, William Tyndale and St Johns Highbury Vale. In the first match of this group we were up against Canonbury, our rivals, and we drew to them 0-0 with a very good tag from Maddox on their last attempt. In the second game of that group we played William Tyndale and beat them 3-0. In the very final match against St John we were able to beat them 3-0. Our top tagger from our school was Abigail and our top try scorer was Maddox.



PA AGM



It was a privilege to attend the annual general meeting of the Parents' Association on Friday. It was wonderful to hear a summary of all of the events held last year which resulted in an amazing **£50,000** being donated to the school. This surpasses any expectation from the school and is really to be celebrated, particularly in the current financial climate. The money raised has gone towards ensuring every child has access to music being taught by a specialist teacher and all classrooms have had their book stock topped up to ensure that reading remains high on our agenda.

I am enormously grateful to the committee and to the many parents who have given up their time and talents to ensure that the Parents Association, which is a vital part of our school community continues. This year's committee still have some roles to fill so if you can help in any way, please either contact your class rep or email the school office on info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk

Just a reminder that as a parent at SJA you are automatically a member of the PA and so you can attend any meeting held and if everyone helped with one event in the year, this would share the load.

Christmas Fair

Our first ever Christmas Fair is taking place on Friday 1st December from 3-5pm in the school halls. We are starting off small this year and focusing this on being an opportunity for us to get together as a community prior to Christmas. The school Choir will be performing their Christmas carols in the large hall at 3.45pm to help to get us all into the festive spirit. Refreshments will also be available, as well as some stalls in the small hall.



There will be some elves in the nursery helping children to wrap a secret present for an adult at home. So, if you have any unused gifts (e.g. hand creams, bubble bath, candles etc), please send them in for this stall. Donations of Christmas wrapping paper are also required.

The Extended School service will be open as normal on this day but will be operating from a different part of the school. Parents who access this service on Fridays will receive a separate e-mail with information about the temporary collection procedures for this day.





St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Christmas Appeal 20th Nov – 8th Dec:

Each year we aim to make the children aware of people in the world less fortunate than themselves. This year we are donating to The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). The SVP at St Joan of Arc Church does an enormous amount of work to support families and individuals within the local community.

The Mini Vinnies are asking the children to donate in any capacity they can to these causes.

Each house has been allocated specific items for donation. Items must be new and if they are food items, they must be in-date please. (products below are suggestions)

End date: **Monday 8th December.**

Donations can be left at the office, dropped off to the display area (outside school office) or brought into class to be collected. Many thanks for your anticipated support with this charity appeal.

Benedict	Domremy	Fleur de Lys	Rouen
Christmas cakes and puddings/ Christmas decorations	Sweet or savoury biscuits/ Christmas decorations	Mince pies/ Christmas decorations	Toiletries/ Christmas decorations
  	  	  	  





School Christmas Dinner

This is taking place on Tuesday 19th December and will be provided by the kitchen as normal. If your child has a packed lunch, you may want to treat them to a festive packed lunch – no nuts. We will combine this event with Christmas Jumper Day. If your child has a festive jumper, they can wear that in replacement of their school jumper but the rest of the uniform needs to be worn. Please do not purchase a jumper especially for this, alternatively children can wear any jumper with festive colours – red, green etc.



Uniform stall – 8th December

If you have an Xmas jumper to donate, please drop them off in advance to the school office. The Eco Team will be hoping to sell these as part of their 'sustainability' drive.



Dates for your diary:

Thursday 23rd November—Parent/Caregiver Forum—8.45am (Year group reps.)

Friday 1st December—Christmas Fair

Friday 8th December—Cake sale (Y5)

Thursday 14th December—EYFS/KS1 Christmas concert—9am and 2pm showings

Tuesday 19th December—Christmas Jumper Day—Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 20th December—KS2 Christmas Concert 2pm

Thursday 21st December – Christmas Mass – Led by Class 5L—9am

Thursday 21st September—**SCHOOL CLOSING 1.30PM**

Uniform

Mr Fuiava will be sending communications regarding a strategy in improving uniform standards.

A reminder that the uniform policy states that branded trainers are not school uniform and that only sweatshirts and fleeces with the school logo are school uniform.



EYFS / KS1 Christmas Performance

This will take place on Thursday 14th December at 9am and repeated again at 2pm in the large hall.

In order for every family to be able to see their child, we kindly ask parents from the Nursery, Classes A, C and E to attend the **morning** performance.

The **afternoon** performance will be for parents of pupils in Classes B, D and F. It would be really helpful if each family could limit attendance to two per family.

Junior Carol Concert

As the capacity in the church is much larger than the school, parents from all junior year groups are welcome to attend.



Thursday 14th December

**EYFS & KS1 (Nur Rec Y1 Y2)—9am and 2pm showings—
Large hall**

Wednesday 20th December

KS2 (Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6) Christmas Concert 2pm—Church

Extended Schools Service

I understand that at today's parents' forum meeting, Extended Schools was an agenda item. The discussion was around a capacity issue and parents not always being able to get the nights/ clubs that they require. So, here is a little summary of where we are up to and what we are going to do next. In September we increased capacity to 85 pupils per night, as well as increasing the number of nursery places available. This number is based on ensuring we meet the adult/ child ratio required, whilst maintaining a high standard of care for the pupils. Those of you who access this service, will know that as a school we are incredibly fortunate that it is run by the teaching assistants, who mirror and maintain the high standards of care and behaviour of the school day. We have tried to ensure that all parents who require essential childcare get access to booking first, which is why the booking service is released for this part of the service a few days in advance of clubs. What we would like to do going forward is ascertain need so, we can try and meet demand. We will be sending out a questionnaire via email to all parents. If you access or plan to access this service in the future, it would be helpful if you could complete the questionnaire so we can get a more up to date picture of parental demand.



Buggy storage

Thank you for raising the need for more pushchair parking during the school day through the parent forum meeting.

From Monday 27th November, there will be one dedicated storage area that is covered over for pushchair storage in the nursery playground. It would be very helpful if you could fold your pushchair to help to keep it dry during this wet weather, as well as enabling maximum use of this facility.



Prayer for Peace

Peace go with you.
God's quiet within the noise.
God's hope within uncertainty.
God's rest within the toil.
God's presence within your soul.
Peace go with you.

