

# Newsletter No. 16

Fri 10th May 2024



Dear parents and caregivers.

This year seems to be flying by and it's May already. In the Catholic tradition, May is a month when we particularly honour Mary Jesus' mother by saying special prayers in our weekly assembly and also at our school Masses which are taking place before half term. Like you all, we are hoping to see a more sustained improvement in the weather so that the children can fully enjoy all of the events/ learning opportunities that have been planned for them. I have reinserted the important dates for you in this newsletter just to ensure you have captured everything on your calendar. Have a good weekend.

Warm regards,

*Clare Campbell*



## First Holy Communion

Over the next few weeks, the children in Year 3 and 4 who attend various parishes connected to our school will be making their First Holy Communion.

This is always a wonderful family occasion and I hope that all the children and their families have a lovely day. I look forward to an update in our assemblies after half term.

### School Masses

All at **St Joan of Arc Church** – starting at 9.00am-non uniform (children to wear house colours)

Friday 24th May – St Joan of Arc Feast Day led by Year 2

Friday 28th June – St Peter & St Paul Feast Day – led by Mini Vinnies

Friday 19th July – Year 6 Leavers' Mass



### Year Group Assemblies

All in the **large hall** – starting at 9.00am

Thursday 23rd May – Year 3

Friday 14th June – Year 1—Fathers' Day



### Cake stalls

All on the **top playground** 3pm, led by parents/caregivers in allocated year groups

Friday 24th May -Year 1 \*\*\*\*\*ICE LOLLY STALL\*\*\*\*\*

*Cake Stall on 24th May will now be an ice cream / ice lolly stall to celebrate SJA Day. Donations are not required but we would be extremely grateful if the parents from Year 1 who are on the rota, could help run this stall at the end of the day. All ice lollies will be £1 and money raised goes towards our PA fund which this year is paying for all of the specialist music teaching by Mr Owen which every pupil is benefiting.*

Friday 21st June – Year R

### Uniform Stalls

At the main entrance 8.15 and 3pm

Friday 17th May

Friday 21st June



### PA events

Week beginning 13th May – Online auction

Friday 17th May – Elvis Night – Four-ticket package includes a free bottle of wine. Don't miss out, book now here: <https://sja.rallyup.com/elvis/Campaign/Details>

Saturday 6th July 12-3pm – Summer Fete



### Uniform Strategy

Thank you for your support regarding our uniform standards.

We have noticed there are still a handful of polo shirts being worn as well as non logo PE t-shirts. Can you please work on improving these features.

**Summer term will focus on all aspects of the uniform as well as hair, jewellery, makeup etc.**

Mr Fuiava will be contacting those who still do not have the correct uniforms. If your child receives a Uniform Reminder Notice, please sign it to acknowledge receipt.

Please take no offence but let us know how we can help your child adhere to the uniform policy of our school.



	Uniform review	Cut-off date	Focus
Spring term 1	Week 1 – week 4	Week 5 Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><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 style="list-style-type: none"><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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• general uniform (jewellery, hair accessories, make-up etc)</li></ul>



### Year 5 Swimmers

Class 5L have just completed their two-week swimming programme at Highbury Leisure Centre. The staff who accompanied the children were so impressed with the children's enthusiasm and commitment. The swimming teachers were very complimentary about our children- well done to the children and thank you parents and carers for making sure all of the children had the correct equipment every day. Pupils from 5K begin their swimming programme on Monday.





### **Other dates for your diary**

Week beginning 13th May – Year 6 SATs

Wednesday 22nd May—National Numeracy Day

Friday 24th May—St. Joan of Arc Day

Monday 3rd June – Year group photographs

Thursday 20th June – Sports Day – Finsbury Park

Thursday 4th July – Parent/Caregiver Forum

Saturday 6th July—Summer Fete

Friday 12th July – Reports out to parents

Wednesday 17th July – 9am -Year 6 production

Wednesday 17th July—6pm to 8pm—Year 6 Disco

Friday 19th July – 1.30pm – school closes for the summer

### **SATS and other national tests**

In the summer term the Department for Education requires the school to complete statutory testing across four year groups.

Next week, the children in Year 6 will be sitting their Standard Assessment Tests at the same time as all other Year 6 children across the country. While we always stress that these tests are not all-important, we do try and support the children to do as well as they can. Ahead of sitting the tests, we ask that all children in Year 6 make a special effort to have a good breakfast every morning and to be in school on time through the week. We are proud of all of the children and emphasise to them that the tests should not be something they are worrying about but just a chance to show how far they have progressed with their learning.

Year 2 will be completing their end of key stage assessments the week beginning 20th May. Their assessments are part of an overall teacher assessment rather than an externally marked one. As with year 6, children should not feel any pressure while completing the tests and we try to make them feel as informal as possible.

After the half term break, Year 1 children will complete the National Phonics check and Year 4 children will complete the National Times Tables check.



# Standards & Testing Agency



## Readathon

This year's readathon finished at the end of last month and, yet again, the children's efforts were incredible. Currently, over £6,900 has been raised! We are in the process of counting the cash donations and so will announce the final total in the next newsletter. These vital funds continue to help provide new books, as well as ensure specialist music teaching can continue at our school. Well done to every child who read a little more during the readathon and thank you for every penny or pound raised.



On Monday, these children were presented with an Outstanding Reader award to acknowledge the wonderful contribution they have made to reading both for the school and personally.




**ONE WAY SYSTEM**

### Safeguarding

Thank you to all the caregivers/parents who follow the one way systems in the morning and the afternoon. Having the crowd flow in one direction makes it easier for staff to see exactly who is coming into the school grounds and ensure your child leaves the school safely.

If you are late for pick up, it is still advisable for you to go the Northolme Rd. entrance. Please do not go against the flow of traffic via the church gate.

If you have a child in the nursery, may we suggest you drop them off first before entering the school gates in the morning.





## Future Wimbledon Stars

On Monday 29th April, twelve children from Year 4 represented St Joan of Arc at a local tennis competition. The competition was fierce but the children displayed great resilience and sportsmanship. Although we did not make it through to the final stages, the children enjoyed the experience of competing against other Islington schools. Well done to Max, Leo, Harry, Milan, Sebastian F, Sebastian R, Azara, Cecilia, Blanche, Maia, Lila and Mae.





### Children leaving at the end of the Year – not in Year 6

It's that time of year again when we are thinking about preparing for September. Some of you may be moving house and sadly looking for alternative schools. If your child is leaving us at the end of this academic year and they are not in year 6, please inform the school office via email as soon as is possible: [info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk)

We also need to know the school they are transferring to so that we can complete the necessary transfer of records.



### Auction

We are currently looking for more lots to be auctioned off. If you can donate to the cause, please get in touch.

The auction will be live between Friday 12th of May and ends Thursday 18th of May at 10pm. Proceeds will go to support the school so please bid generously. Please send any questions to [auctionsja@gmail.com](mailto:auctionsja@gmail.com)



£ 10 0 NOT STARTED

1 hour English, Maths or Science tutoring for primary school or GCSE



£ 15 0 NOT STARTED

60 minutes Holistic Sleep easy Face and Head massage

### Salut!



Salut! - Modern European restaurant in Islington, London

£ 10 0 NOT STARTED

£20 Salut Restaurant Voucher (lot 2 of 2)



### Extended Schools

I have met with the Extended Schools Managers to look at the results of the last parent questionnaire and have also discussed this as an agenda item on the Governing Body's most recent Finance meeting.

Whilst parental responses to the questionnaire were mainly positive there were two overarching areas that parents felt needed to be improved / further consideration:

1. The Magic Booking system – difficulty in navigating the site which is not particularly user friendly
2. Parents requesting to pick children up at a time suitable to them – not set pick up times

Here are our responses:

1. We have looked into alternative payment systems that other schools are using and have come to the conclusion that none are perfect. Some cost twice the price of Magic Booking and others that are cheaper, also cause parental stress. Whilst we appreciate that Magic Booking isn't ideal, we have decided to continue with this system. To ease stress levels when booking, we will ensure that the step-by-step guide is sent out with the booking details. We will continue to research alternative platforms and if we find a better alternative, we will make the necessary transitions. It is worth noting, that during the last booking session, twenty parents had emailed in to say they had encountered problems. These had all been dealt with by Mrs Cumpstey within 48 hours.
2. The Extended Schools Managers have been to visit two schools who provide adhoc pick up times for parents during their provision. In order to have this in place, they have employed an additional member of staff whose responsibility is to collect children and hand them over to parents at any time during the session. This member of staff cannot be included in the child / adult ratio for childcare but the cost is added to the daily charge made to all parents.

Again, we have considered how we would implement this request both on a practical level (taking into account the scheduling of clubs) as well as a cost level and don't feel that this can be implemented for the next academic year. Again, the Extended Staff are very accommodating and if you need to collect early for an appointment / emergency they will do their best to help you out.

### **We have some good news:**

The Governors Finance Committee have looked at the pricing structure in detail and are pleased to announce that the fees will remain unchanged for the next academic year. Governors are very keen to keep this area of school life as affordable as possible, so this is some really good news.

Extended School pricing structure for September 2024-July 2025 is as follows:

Childcare Rec-Y6: 3-5pm £12

Late Provision 5-5:45pm: £4

Childcare Nursery: 3-5pm £16

Late Provision 5-5:45pm £4

Clubs between: £3-£5

The Finance Committee will be reviewing the pricing structure for the following academic year, 25-26 next February for implementation in the following September.



## After School Clubs

In addition to child care, a number of clubs are offered for extended schools services. Here a few photos from the Chess Club where pupils of all levels can enjoy the 'royal game'.

