



Newsletter No.3

Friday 4th 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.

I am sure that you are looking forward to meeting your child's class teacher to find out how they are getting on in class at parents evening (Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October). The focus of discussion will be on how your child has settled into their new class and progress in English and maths. The booking system opens on **Wednesday 9th October at 10am**. You will receive a separate e-mail about how to book from the school office.

(Please note change of date due to updates with the booking system over the weekend).

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.

Tonight, is our first family event and one children really enjoy as it involves coming to school in the dark. International evening starts at 6pm and entry is via the school car park. A reminder that all children must be accompanied by an adult. I look forward to seeing those of you who can make it later and let's hope that it is at least dry.

Enjoy your 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 16th October



Pupil Photographs

The photographer will be returning to duty on Thursday 10th 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.

SAY CHEESE!



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.

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.



Nursery Vacancies:

We are currently accepting applications for pupils to start in the school nursery from January 2025.

The nursery is open to children the term after their third birthday and is led by a fully qualified Early Years teacher. 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



Black History Month

Every year in October we teach the children about the stories and significant achievements of Black people who too often have been forgotten in the teaching of history. Though this should not be restricted to one month, during October we take the opportunity to learn and share the stories of Black achievement that many of the children may not know.

All of the children will learn about why Black History Month takes place and explore some of the excellent videos on BBC's online platforms.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zjwf8xs#zjxxfdm>

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

Across the school, children will study significant Black individuals and some of their extraordinary achievements through high-quality literature.

EYFS: 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. They will also share the 'We're going on a Voyage' episode of *Jo Jo and Gran Gran* on the BBC i-player. The episode shares Gran Gran's journey from Sat Lucia and beautifully shares her tale as one of the pioneering Windrush generation.

Year 1: The children will explore the life of Sarah Forbes Bonetta and why her life was significant historically.

Years 2 and 3: Will learn about the life of Walter Tull and why he should be remembered as a person of significant achievement.

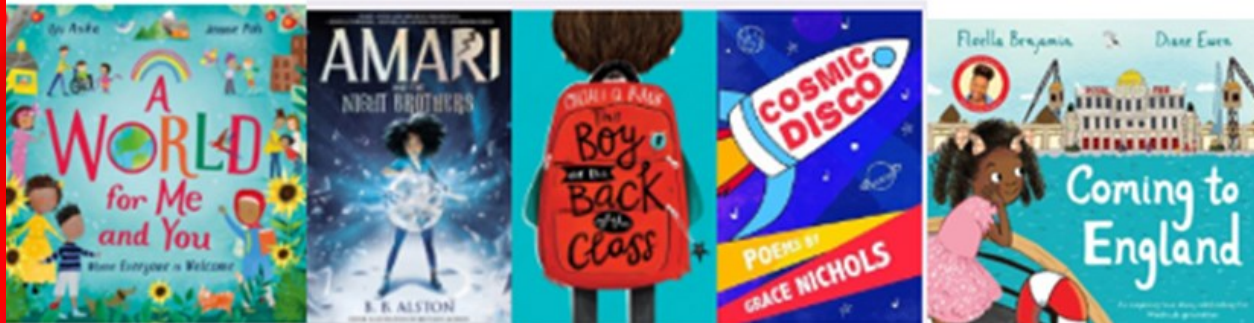
Years 4 and 5 will learn about the story of Matthew Henson; an explorer of significant achievement largely ignored in his lifetime due to the colour of his skin. Their learning will centre around the book *Race to the Frozen North* by Catherine Johnson.

Year 5 will also have a special Black History Month workshop hosted by Arsenal on Tuesday 15th October.

Years 6: Will learn about Olaudah Equiano's life from being kidnapped from his village in Africa as a child and sold into slavery to earning his freedom and settling in London. Their learning will centre around the story *Journey Back to Freedom* by Catherine Johnson

As part of our ongoing commitment to making our curriculum and learning environments more reflective of our school community and wider society, we have been working to make sure that more diverse stories are threaded through our school curriculum. We are now in our third year using the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education's (CLPE) units of work. Where possible, linked to other areas of the curriculum, we have been careful to ensure that the choice of books is truly diverse. We want all children to feel represented in the stories they share and see themselves within the choices of books they can read from their class library.

To find out more about why the representation of different ethnicities and cultures in children's books is so important you may wish to read the [Reflecting Realities report](#) published by the CLPE annually.



Dates for your diary:

Thu 10th Oct —School photograph day

Fri 11th Oct - PA meeting

Wednesday 16th Oct— Judaism workshop (KS2)

Wed 23rd & Thu 24th —3.15—5.45pm Parents' Evening

Mon 28th Oct—1st Nov—Half term



Safer Schools Visit

On Monday morning, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will each have a special assembly hosted by the Metropolitan Police's local Safer Schools team. The theme of the assemblies is 'Staying Safe'. Planned to supplement our Relationships and Health curriculum, the children will learn about how they can keep themselves safe when in the local area, when travelling to and from school and when online.

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.

Uniform reminder notices will be sent home to inform you of any infractions. Thank you in advance.

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



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.