



St John's Angell Town News

22nd September 2017

Website: www.st-johns.lambeth.sch.uk

We are a Christian School committed to working together to be a welcoming, caring community where everyone reaches high levels of achievement feels valued, has confidence in their abilities and acts responsibly towards others.

Head Teacher's Address

Dear Parents/Carers:

I would like to thank all Year6 parents for attending the secondary school transfer evening on Wednesday 13th September 2017. There was vital information disseminated as well as a number of important questions asked by parents. We hope that you found the evening beneficial and I trust that you will get your applications in on time, deadline being the 31st October 2017. If there are any parents/carers who need help filling out the form, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for attending the 'Meet & Greet the Teacher Evening' on Thursday 21st September 2017. The evening was very successful in that all the Parents / Carers were given information regarding your children's learning, safety and emotional wellbeing at school.

Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure that all clothing is labelled with your child's name. Also check labels when washing school uniform to ensure your child has brought their own clothing home and not someone else's.

The lost property box will be at the playground after school. Please check for missing items. Thank you.

SCHOOL STARTS at 8:55am

Good attendance and punctuality underpin good education: if children are not at school or miss parts of lessons they cannot successfully access the curriculum offered. Establishing good time-keeping habits early in life is also good preparation for secondary school and for adult life when individuals are increasingly responsible for their own timekeeping.

We will continue to focus on punctuality this term from Nursery to Year 6, as there are a number of children who are arriving to school after 8:55am. In order for our children to reach their full potential, it is important that they attend school every day and are punctual no matter their age.

School procedures will support the borough's policy on attendance and we will continue to work closely with families and the Education Welfare Officer to promote good attendance and punctuality.

Thank you for your support in these matters. Trust you will help ensure we all continue to provide a safe environment for your child's education by acting upon the guidelines detailed above

Important Dates for your Diary

- Year 6 School Journey - 25th - 29th September
- After School Clubs - 11th Sept - 20th Oct 2017
- End of term 1 - 20th October 2017
- Black History Month - 1st Oct - 7th Oct. 2017
- Deadline for Secondary School Application - 31st October 2017.
- Deadline for Primary School Application - 15th January 2018

UNIFORMS

We say thank you to all for your continued support, and it is delightful to see most of our pupils are dressed in their full school uniform! Please be mindful that school shoes are very much part of the school uniform and that **BLACK TRAINERS** do not qualify as school shoes. If for any reason your child is not able to wear a full school uniform on a day, please inform the school office in advance.

School Meals

As of 20th October, school office will no longer be accepting cash payments. All transaction must be done online via WWW.SIMSAGORA.COM. Please see office if you have not as yet registered for your child's unique code.

Also note that, if you were previously eligible for free school meals for your child, please check with the office that your free school meal entitlement has not expired to avoid being charged for meals.

Attendance for this week.

The Best attendance Award goes to Nursery Full Time for achieving 100%.

Well done our little Stars!!!

What Are Some Ways To Encourage Young Readers?

The most important thing to remember is that reading should be an enjoyable experience. The following activities can help you stimulate your child's interest in reading.

- **Talk with your infant or young child before he learns to read.** Talking with your child before he even speaks will help him learn important language skills. Most children need strong oral language skills if they are to develop as readers and writers. Using short, simple sentences, you can talk about your daily activities, what he is seeing and doing, his environment, sizes of objects, the shapes of signs, and so forth.
- **Read to and with your child at least 30 minutes each day.** Your child will gain awareness of the conventions of reading (left to right, top to bottom), and even the very young will gain vocabulary. Running your index finger under the print as you read will help your child notice that printed words have meaning. Gradually you can ask her to identify letters and sounds.
- **Sing songs and recite poems and rhymes that have repetitive sounds.** Repetition makes it easier for your child to pick up on the patterns in the sounds you make.
- **Make sure your child's day care provider, nursery school teacher, or preschool teacher reads aloud daily and offers books for your child to look at.**
- **Model good reading habits.** Help your child understand that reading is important by letting him see you reading maps, books, recipes, and directions. Suggest reading as a free-time activity. Keep books that are of interest to your child in an easy place for him to reach.
- **Visit your local library.** While you're there you can sign your child up for preschool story time and let her choose some books to take home.

What Are Some Ways To Encourage School-Age Readers?

Once your child begins nursery school, preschool, or elementary school, you should work with her teacher to improve her reading skills. Many teachers are now sending home practical ideas for parents to use with their school-age children to help them develop skills and to encourage good reading habits. Ask your child's teacher for these practice activities. By reinforcing the skills your child's teacher emphasizes, you will be supplementing what he has learned about reading throughout the school day. Additional ways to encourage your school-age child to read are listed below.

- **Continue being a good role model.** Let your child see you read.
- **Encourage your child to read on her own at home.** Reading at home can help your child do better in school.
- **Keep a variety of reading materials in the house.** Make sure to have reading materials for enjoyment as well as for reference.
- **Encourage your child to practice reading aloud.** Frequently listen to your child read out loud and praise her often as she does so. Offer to read every other page or even every other chapter to your child. Have conversations and discussions about the book with your child.
- **Write short notes for your child to read.** Write down his weekly household responsibilities for him to keep track of or put a note in his lunch bag.
- **Encourage activities that require reading.** Cooking (reading a recipe), constructing a kite (reading directions), or identifying a bird's nest or a shell at the beach (reading a reference book) are some examples.

- **Establish a reading time, even if it's only 10 minutes each day.** Make sure there is a good reading light in your child's room and stock her bookshelves with books and magazines that are easy to both read and reach.
- **Talk with your child.** Talking makes children think about their experiences more and helps them expand their vocabularies. Ask your child to give detailed descriptions of events and to tell complete stories.
- **Give your child writing materials.** Reading and writing go hand in hand. Children want to learn to write and to practice writing. If you make pencils, crayons, and paper available at all times, your child will be more inclined to initiate writing activities on his own.
- **Restrict television time.** The less time your child spends watching television, the more time he will have for reading-related activities.
- **Visit the library once a week.** Have your child apply for her own library card so she can check out books on her own for schoolwork and for pleasure reading. Ask your child to bring home a library book to read to a younger sibling and encourage her to check out books on tape that she can listen to on long car trips.
- **Work in partnership with your child's school.** The more you know about the type of reading program his school follows, the more you can help by supplementing the program at home. Offer to volunteer in the classroom or school library as often as your schedule allows. Ask the school for parent participation materials.

To help your child succeed in school, you should do your part to ensure that he or she starts school with a strong foundation in language and literacy-related skills and a desire to learn to read. In the early elementary years--from first through third grades--your child will continue learning how to read, which is a complex process that is difficult for some and easy for others. Take care during these years not to overemphasize the process of learning to read while encouraging your child to practice reading often. Reading for pleasure and interest will help your child to develop reading skills and will give your child the opportunity to practice these skills in meaningful ways.