

JBuzz Newsletter

Friday 6th September 2019

“Achievement, ambition and progress for all....”



News from across the school...

I would like to welcome all our children and their families to the new school year at John Ball School. I hope that you have had an enjoyable holiday with equal amounts of adventure and relaxation! I have heard about some wonderful holiday experiences and look forward to hearing more as I spend time listening to your children in and around the school.

It has been great to see the children back in school over the last four days. The children and staff all look very settled in their new classrooms. The children have settled back into school life very quickly which is very positive!

Although we have only been back a short time, we are really pleased with the positive effect of staggering our key stage 2 play and lunchtimes. The children have so much more space to play and are able to engage in their favourite activities for more of the time. We will be starting to collect unwanted items for our playground, starting with unwanted kitchen items for our messy kitchen. Old cooking equipment, grown out of plastic plates, bowls, cups, utensils, mixing bowls will all be greatly received. We will have green wheelie bins by the KS1 and KS2 gates at pick up and collection times every day next week.

I am looking forward to another successful, busy and rewarding year, working with you to ensure the best for our children.

There is a **lot** of information in this JBuzz so it might be one to save for future reference.

Have a good weekend.

Jacqui Noakes

headteacher@johnballlewisham.sch.uk



Nuts/Allergies

May we remind you there are some children in our school and nursery who suffer severe allergic reactions when they come into contact with nuts.

It is imperative to keep our school "Nut free".

Please help keep these children safe and healthy by checking the labels of the food products your child brings to school for playtime and in packed lunch boxes, e.g. chocolate spread, certain chocolate bars, and other mixed snacks.



De-Fibrillator

John Ball has got a De-Fibrillator on site. This is not only for staff use but also for anyone closest to this area that may require it.

We are on the database for anyone that may call the ambulance service so if you are ever in the unfortunate position to need this or can assist someone else, please call the office to ask for it.

We have some staff members who have been trained.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD NIGHT

Friday 20th September 2019

We need your help! Please email friendsofjohnball@hotmail.com to volunteer for:

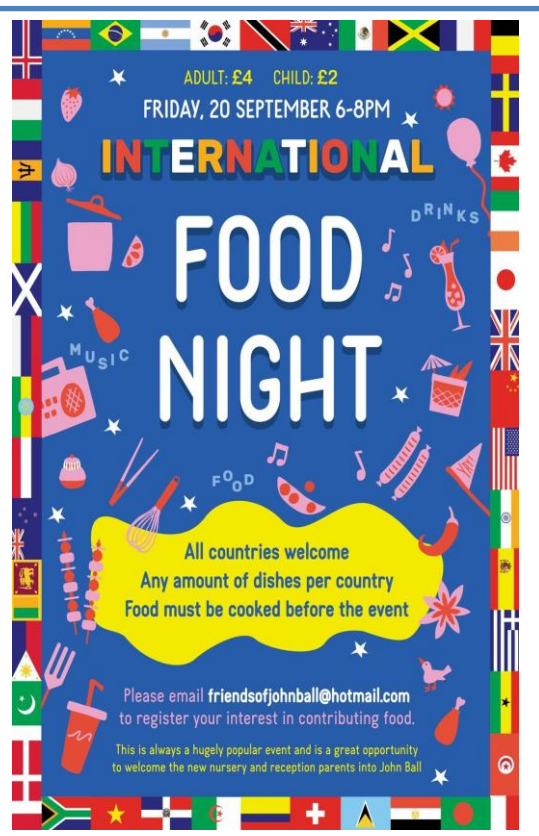
- Providing international dishes and tending the stall
- Help setting up tables, decorations and bar from 5pm
- Help tidying up after the event

We can only run these events with enough volunteers so we would be grateful for any help.

Many thanks, Friends of John Ball

For more information, please see the Friends'

website: <https://friendsofjohnballschoo.co.uk/international-food-night-2019/>



September

Thursday 12 th	School photos individual and siblings
Monday 16 th	E-Safety competition launched
Friday 20 th	Friends International Food Night - time tbc
Monday 23 rd	INSET day – staff only
Tuesday 24 th	Meet the teacher 6.00 – 7.00pm
Tuesday 24 th	Secondary transfer meeting 7.00 – 8.00pm (YRs 4&5)
Wednesday 25 th	SEND/PP PTIs 3.30 – 7.00pm
Monday 30 th	E-Safety week

October

Monday 14 th	Black History month YRs 1 & 2
Monday 14 th	NHS Flu vaccinations for Rec to YR6
Tuesday 15 th	Open morning 9.30am
Tuesday 15 th	Black History month YRs 3 & 4
Wednesday 16 th	Black History month YRs EYFS
Thursday 17 th	Black History month YRs 5 & 6

Monday 21st to 27th Half Term

Monday 28 th	Green Gumption Pollution Assembly
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Letters

After school club booklet

LAMDA lessons

Please be advised that Kelly is going to be off on maternity leave as she is expecting twins. We hope she will be back with us in January and we will go back to running sessions then.

How do I ensure I get a copy of JBuzz every week?

The parent survey last year showed that JBuzz is a valued way of communicating with our parent community. Therefore JBuzz continues to be the most important route of communication from our school to you at home. A great deal of information and news is communicated via JBuzz and it is critical that parents receive this. That is why the first edition of the year is being sent as a paper copy to all parents and carers to ensure you all have one.

How do I get my copy in future?

JBuzz is e-mailed out on a Friday afternoon. If you do not receive your digital copy then please inform the school office who will check your e-mail address on our system. New reception and nursery parents will receive the first JBuzz as a paper copy as well.

Vikki Amner manages JBuzz. If you wish to have an advert placed on the website with the information directed to that advert via JBuzz you can do so by contacting Vikki by e-mail vamner.209@lgflmail.org

We do ask for a donation of £10 for a one-week advert and run these once a half term or term. Please note that adverts will be agreed by the school leadership team prior to being published and we reserve the right to decline an advert.

Each Friday your child's teacher will send you an e-mail outlining home learning, any news and celebrations from the class.

Communication with your child's teacher

If you have any concern about your child, their progress in class or anything relating to how the class works, speak to your child's teacher. Our staff are all very happy to communicate with parents and carers and this can be done in a variety of ways.

1. Email the teacher. Work email addresses will be shared at Meet the teacher later this term.
2. Speak to the teacher. It is usually best to catch a teacher at the end of the school day and not at drop off when their focus and responsibility is to get the children into class.
3. Call the school office or email admin@johnball.lewisham.sch.uk and your concern will be forwarded onto the class teacher.

When contacting your child's teacher, please be mindful of our staff's work life balance. We do not expect staff to respond to messages and emails through the school day, between the hours of 6pm and 8am, or at weekends.

N.B Please do not send a text message from your phone or via Arbor to the school as we do not receive these to be able to action.

Contacting the Senior Leadership team (SLT)

If you feel that you cannot speak with the class teacher then please approach the Phase leader as below:

- ❖ Pupils in Reception and Nursery: Cassey Kiely (ckiely2.209@lgflmail.org)
- ❖ Pupils in year 1 and year 2: Rebecca Suffield (rsuffield.209@lgflmail.org)
- ❖ Pupils in Year 3 and Year 4: Beth Budden (bbudden.209@lgflmail.org)
- ❖ Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6: Sophi Cole (scole52.209@lgflmail.org)

If your concern or issue is not resolved, having spoken to the class teacher and phase leader then please contact: Mrs Jacqui Noakes, Headteacher (headteacher@johnball.lewisham.sch.uk) or Mr Mitchell, Deputy Headteacher (deputy@johnball.lewisham.sch.uk)

Equally we always welcome positive feedback about your experience of the school! We all like to read good news!

Contacting the Inclusion Team

Ms Parry is Assistant Head teacher of Inclusion. If you have concerns about the additional support needs of your child please get in touch (aparry5.209@lgflmail.org). Additionally you can contact: Mrs Debbie Parish, Pastoral Care Manager (dparish4.209@lgflmail.org) and Mr Anthony White, Learning Mentor (awhite112.209@lgflmail.org)

Parent termly planner 2019

You will find along with JBuzz a copy of the school calendar for the autumn term. This contains information appropriate for the whole school. There will be other events that are year group specific that you will be informed of throughout the term.

How can I keep up with the school calendar?

- ❖ There are two sections on the website which have dates for the terms. Under the News tab then School Events page and also under the Calendar tab, from there you can be linked via google app to your hand held device.
- ❖ JBuzz has a reminder of both the next week's events and upcoming dates for that month.

Definitions used in the school:

PTIs: Guardian Consultations via Arbor

Learning Ladder: a list of child / parent friendly learning targets for reading, writing and maths.

Learning afternoon: a chance for you to look through your child's learning and informally chat to staff.

CIS: Curriculum Information Sheet; an overview of the learning in your child's class for the term.

Meet the teacher for KS1 and KS2 – Tuesday 24th September, 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Our Meet the teacher event allows parents, carers and teachers to meet one another and chat informally as well as give you the opportunity to look around the classroom. Information about the year ahead will be available on this evening. You will also be able to book the optional Guardian Consultation if required.

Secondary Transfer meeting for parents of YR4 and YR5 pupils - Tuesday 24th September, 7.00 – 8.00pm

To support you through this process the school provides a briefing event during the autumn term. A booklet has been sent round in July to YR5 children to bring home which details the process and includes information on Lewisham Schools. This evening is designed to give parents more information if they require it and also for our YR4 parents if they wish to get ahead of the whole process ready for the year after.

Punctuality procedures

We are keen to start the year with good habits and request that all children are in the playground by 9am. Being late is a stressful experience and having to regularly walk into a classroom late can have an emotional impact for a child. Much information and many introductions are missed if children are regularly late and this can negatively affect a child's learning.

We still have a number of pupils and parents who are arriving just after 9am every day. If this relates to you then we suggest leaving just 5 minutes earlier to give your child the most positive start to the school day as possible as well as instilling good work ethics for later life.

- ❖ Pupils will be marked late for school after 9.00am. Late coming of pupils will be closely monitored and parents contacted where there are concerns.

Our revised attendance and late coming policy states that children will be marked late at any time after 9am and any child arriving after 9.20am will be recorded with a "U" code on the register, which will mean that they will be shown as absent on the register for the morning session of that day (but present in the building in case of evacuation).

Attendance procedures

As part of our policy for safeguarding pupils we would like to ensure that our procedures for informing the school of a child's absence are quite clear to everyone. We would appreciate if all parents and carers could ensure they follow the points below when alerting the school of their child being absent:

- ❖ Please call the school on each day of your child's absence, even if you have contacted the teacher, the office must be informed as well by either a phone call or email to Sharon Windham (swindham.209@lgflmail.org)
- ❖ If a pupil has an appointment, please also e-mail Sharon as above prior to the appointment taking place.
- ❖ N.B. Proof of any appointment will be requested.

On day one of an un-notified absence the school will:

- 1) Call parents to find out where the pupil is.
- 2) If parents are not contactable, we will pursue the reason for absence via emergency contacts.
- 3) If no contact can be made with the parents or emergency contacts, we will send a text and e-mail the parents. If we still do not get a reply, the school will attend the child's home to understand the reason for the absence.

Attendance Monitoring

- ❖ Attendance is reviewed on a monthly basis.
- ❖ We look into attendance that drops below 95% and begin to monitor this on a more regular basis.
- ❖ We are obliged to refer children and families to the Attendance Officer when attendance drops to 85%. The Attendance Officer will make contact with you to discuss the way forward.
- ❖ Parents should remember that in an extreme case the Attendance Service will take parents to court and enforce a Parenting Order.

A full copy of our Attendance Policy is available on the school website for your reference - see school info section called Attendance which is under the Parents tab.

Requesting leave during term time

This is something that as a school we actively discourage. We will not authorise any term time holiday. In exceptional circumstances and with evidence provided, requests for time off will be considered alongside a pupil's current attendance figure as well as their academic progress in school.

Please do not book a holiday / flights and then request authorisation; in these circumstances we will not authorise the absence. Please continue to complete an "request for absence" form for time off. This can be collected from the main school office and is also available on the school website under the parent/attendance tab.

Pupil information

Anytime you login to "Arbor" please update any information about your address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, medical or dietary conditions etc. The school office checks these pending amendments on a regular basis so we can update our records accordingly. If your child has a **medical condition** that you have not informed us about, please also let the office know so that the school is fully informed. This information is really important to the school so that we can notify you immediately if there is an emergency and/or share important information with you about John Ball. If at any time of the year any aspect of your family's data changes, please do inform the school office ASAP or use Arbor to update.

After School Activities & KS2 Music Lessons

All clubs will start back during **week beginning September 16th** and music lessons for KS2 will start in due course; letter to follow. All parents from YR1 to YR6 will have received an e-mail regarding After School Clubs and how to sign up for them. All KS2 parents will shortly receive a letter about music lessons for the year as well.

Volunteers / Parent Helpers

We would be delighted to hear from any parent or carer who feels they would like to help, volunteer or contribute to the life of the school/nursery in some way. Currently we have people volunteering in the following ways:

- Supporting school trips
- Supporting in class
- Hearing reading
- Helping at Forest school
- School productions
- Administration support

We will also be inviting parents and carers to become part of focus groups or working parties to further develop the school. Look out for further information about these exciting opportunities.

Parking

Every school in the land has issues with parking and John Ball is no different! As adults within the school community of John Ball, everyone's focus should be on the safety of our children.

The school/nursery drop off season ticket option was removed from sale by Apcoa Parking on 13th February 2019 in view of the impending sale of the site. Consequently, parents have not been able to purchase this season ticket option for four months already, and we know a lot of parents have been in contact with the APCOA customer service team in respect of it.

The reasoning behind this decision was that any new buyer would not potentially honour these, so it was viewed rather than putting car park users in a situation whereby these are cancelled and people have to deal with obtaining refunds, Network Rail made the decision to stop all season ticket options previously purchasable, with the exception of standard monthly season tickets.

Monthly season tickets were left available for purchase, due to the timescale nature of these, and the fact that once a sale date is confirmed these could be switched off with less of an impact than quarterly, six monthly and annual season ticket options.

Please note you will need to pay at the machine or by phone for any parking time you require and that John Ball are not affiliated with the car park company so please direct any enquiries to www.apcoa.co.uk

Primary School Applications 2020

- Applications open (apply online): Sunday 1 September 2019 <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>
- Closing date for applications: Thursday 31 October 2019 (we recommend that you submit your online application by Friday 19 October 2019)
- Closing date for supplementary forms (if required) to be returned to the school directly: Thursday 31 October 2019

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school>

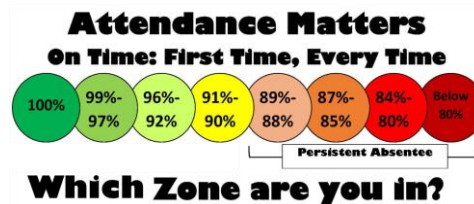
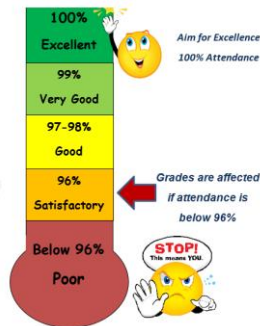
Secondary School Applications 2020

- Applications open (apply online): Sunday 1st September 2019 <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>
- Closing date for applications: Thursday 31 October 2019 (we recommend that you submit your online application by Friday 19 October 2019)
- Closing date for supplementary forms (if required) to be returned to the school directly: Thursday 31 October

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-secondary-school>



ATTENDANCE



How to improve your child's attendance

You can support your child's regular attendance at school by making sure:

- medical and dental appointments are outside school hours, such as during school holidays
- your child is organised for school the night before by having their bag packed, PE kit ready, homework completed and lunch packed
- your alarm clocks are set in good time.

Children who miss school because of family holidays can miss essential lessons. You must get holiday requests authorised before you book a holiday, otherwise you risk your child being marked as having an unauthorised absence.

We can prosecute you if:

- your child attends less than 90% of sessions over a set period of time
- your child is regularly late for school.

Why attendance matters

We are ambitious for all children and our aim is for them to:

- enjoy their experience at school
- succeed
- have the best possible start to their adult life.

By attending school regularly, children can:

- reach their full academic potential
- develop and sustain relationships
- demonstrate to future employers they are reliable
- reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime or abuse
- reduce their risk of becoming involved in antisocial or criminal behaviour.

The link between irregular school attendance and poor academic achievement and limited life outcomes have been well researched. Children may suffer anxiety, tummy aches and headaches if they are worried they will be late for school.