

Newsletter 4 – Friday 3rd October, 2014

Chers parents et ami(e)s de La Fontaine Academy,

What a wonderful team of children, teachers, parents, and friends we have at La Fontaine.

Every week, children concentrate on one of our key values and this week they have been focusing on the notion of **Collaboration**.

In class, children have been working in groups and across year groups, particularly focusing on the importance of speaking and listening. 'What makes good talking partners?' is a question children have been working on. Speaking clearly, listening carefully, making eye contact, nodding to show understanding: these are some of the skills they are learning to master.

In the playground, the children – supported by our Learning Support Assistants – have been practising games they can play in teams, while also practising their French skills.

At lunchtime, it is amazing to see how children are becoming really good at helping each other: our family dining approach is proving very popular with the children. They pass the plates, cups, cutlery to each other. They hand out key items such as bread to their friends. They tidy things away and learn to make sure their tables (and the floor) remains spotless by ensuring the food stays on their plate! They're doing an amazing job.

Parents have also been wonderful collaborators and helped our school think about ways to design our garden and playground spaces. Thanks to the 30 or so parents who came to our coffee morning today. Amazing turnout! Thanks, also, to the parents who email suggestions on a regular basis.

Another week, some more successes. Congratulations to the La Fontaine Team!

Cordialement,

Dr Sebastien Chapleau, Headteacher

Cake Sale Bonanza!



Amazing success thanks to Classe George Sand. Our young entrepreneurs organised our first cake sale and managed to raise a wonderful £170. It is evident that Year 2 are leaders in the making. Their organisational skills are great and it was really nice to see them organise the whole event from beginning to finish. Teachers supervised, but children planned and executed



EVERYTHING! Thank you to all parents for helping out with the baking.



emmaüs

Helping those in need during Harvest

On Wednesday 15th October, children will be celebrating Harvest. As part of our commitment to enable our children to become thoughtful citizens, we will be collecting food, clothes, and essential items for Emmaüs UK (www.emmaus.org.uk), a wonderful charity which was initially set up in France after World War 2. Letters will be going out next week to explain things in more details. We thank you in advance for your generosity and for supporting children become more aware of their place in society.

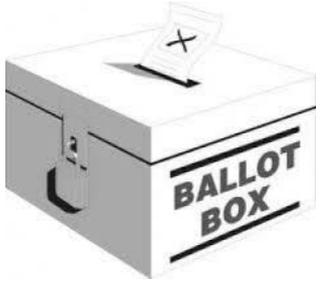


As we are trying to make more people aware of who we are and how wonderful our children and parent community is, we are developing our presence on social media.

One of our parents, Kate, has kindly designed our official La Fontaine Academy Facebook page. Make sure you like it and share it with your friends and contacts.

See www.facebook.com/lafontaineacademy. You can also find us on Twitter @LaFontaine.

Important Notice: we need to use Social Media in line with our Social Media Policy. You can find our Social Media Policy here: www.lafontaineacademy.org/policies.



Parent Governor Election: you should have received a letter inviting you join our Local Governing Body. We currently have one vacancy for a Parent Governor.

If interested, you have until Friday 10th October to put yourself forward, using an official nomination form.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact to contact Dr Sebastien Chapleau or Isabelle Dennigan (Chair of Governors) via our Academy office (office@lafontaineacademy.org).

Staffing Updates: Very sadly, one of our Learning Support Assistants has informed us that, for personal reasons, she has decided to move on from La Fontaine. Madame Roberston will be sadly missed by all of us and we wish her all the very best in her new ventures. Mademoiselle Cockell – our wonderful STEP Zone playworker, whom many of who have already met – is joining our team to ensure continuity.

STEP ZONE – Holiday Club: due to low attendance at STEP Zone, we will not be able to provide a holiday service. If you wish us to promote the services of local playgroups/activity groups, please let us know and we'll put a list on the website for information purposes.



Texting Service: we will be using a Texting Service from next week, to send parents key notifications such as:

- If your child is missing a uniform item
- Payment reminders
- Club cancellations
- Weather (snow/ice) notifications
- Class trips and class notifications (e.g. children needing to bring in pictures, raincoats, etc.)
- Minor 1st aid incidents (e.g. scraped knee, etc.)

Note that we will always call you in case of emergency.

We can only use one number per family, so make sure you tell Mesdames Watmore or Eardley which number we need to use. We understand that some people might be abroad at times, etc., but the service provider would only allow one number per child.

Notices from our Academy Office



Mesdames Watmore and Eardley would like to share this with you:

Thank you to all parents for helping out in the morning by only coming to the office once the children are in class.

The office hours are: 08:35-12:00 and 13:00-16:30 (or 16:15 on Fridays)

Parents collecting children from After-School clubs should collect them from the Playground.



It's STILL a bit dark and dirty, don't you think?

I have been speaking to quite a few families about the fact that the pathway families have to use at the beginning and end of the day is not well lit and also quite dirty at times (dog mess, etc.).

Please, let Bromley Council know by logging your concerns here: <https://fix.bromley.gov.uk>



Morning and Afternoon Routine

Thank you for ensuring that children stay by your side in the morning as they get ready to line up. And thank you that it is the same in the afternoon as they get ready to go home.

As we haven't got a member of staff supervising the playground at the beginning and end of the school day, we need to be able to rely on you to ensure that children are safe.

Collaboration between you and us is key so that children don't get mixed messages from school and from their parents.



We have received some amazing feedback from children, parents, and visitors. Our success is partly due to our sponsor, The STEP Academy Trust. Over the next few months, you'll be able to find more about STEP.

Vision Statement

The vision of The STEP Academy Trust is to achieve educational transformation by establishing a growing family of Academies that share core values, principles and aims.

Mission Statement

At The STEP Academy Trust, we are committed to improving the life chances of all children. Where we have the capacity to make a difference, we are morally bound to do so.

Members of the Trust strive together for excellence in partnership, so that our children, staff and Academy communities benefit from excellent teaching, learning and leadership.



Share in Learning

Next Friday, Reception parents are invited again to join their children from 08:30-09:00 as part of our Share in Learning sessions. After a very successful first session, we look forward to welcoming you again for our second one.

Madame Crittenden and Madame Leroy will be preparing activities which Reception parents will be able to do with your child!

It should be good fun.

Heads Up – Christmas Pantomime



We will be sending out letters next week to let you know about a whole-school Christmas outing! Watch this space!



French Club for parents: some parents have got together and are organising a French club for families keen to learn or improve their French! The club will be on a weekday, from 08:45 and will last about 45-60 minutes. You should be able to see some parents in the playground, asking you if you're interested and, if so, which day would work best.



School Photographs

Next Tuesday morning, we will take professional school photographs of the children. We will also take photographs of siblings.

A big MERCI to Kate and Malin (two of our mums) who, as professional photographers, have offered to help.

IMPORTANT

If you think your child needs a haircut, etc. try to do it this weekend!

Also, please make sure that your child wears the right school uniform (especially regarding hair bands, which need to be blue or white). Also, regarding earrings: they have to be single and standard ear studs – multi-coloured ones are not allowed. More details here: www.lafontaineacademy.org/uniform

