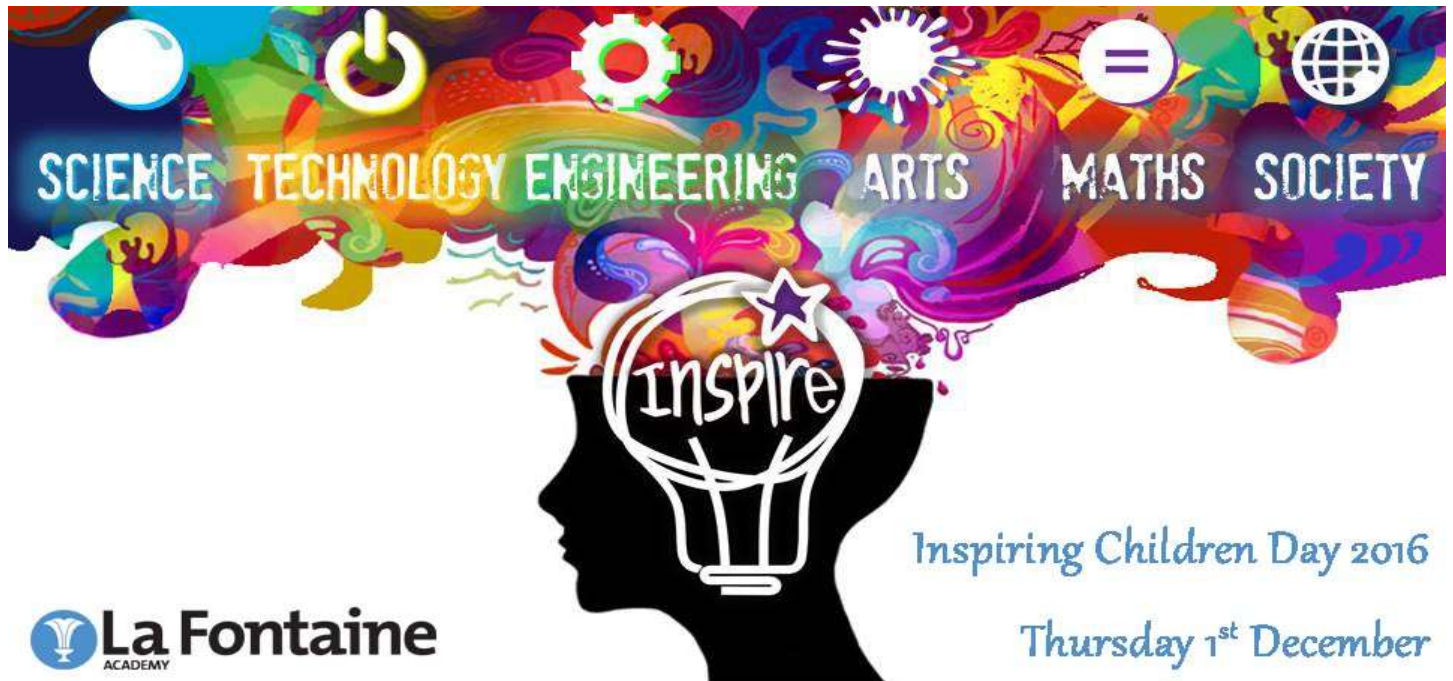


ALWAYS AIMING HIGHER, TOGETHER

Newsletter 3.8 – Monday 7th November, 2016

 **La Fontaine**
ACADEMY

Inspiring Children Day 2016

Thursday 1st December

We are organising a day where parents/carers/friends could come to La Fontaine and tell our children about their jobs. This will take place on Thursday 1st December, in the afternoon.

We are particularly interested in professions which are aligned to our school values and which children would be inspired by! Our key areas of focus, as you know, are:

- Impact (e.g. people who work for charities, as public servants, hospitals, etc.);
- Creativity (e.g. people who design things, use technology, play music professionally, etc.);
- Challenging of stereotypes (e.g. women firefighters, etc.).

The aim is to inspire children and further enable them to focus on their dreams.

So, if going to work feels like 'living a dream', and if you know you can talk about your work/dreams to a young audience (you need to be fun!), please come and inspire us! You can sign up at www.lafontaineacademy.org/dreams.

NATIVITY PERFORMANCES



This year, we will have six performances: 2 performances for Reception, 2 performances for Years 1 & 2, and 2 performances for Years 3 & 4. Tickets will be available soon.

- ❖ Reception performances: Thursday 15th and Friday 16th December, 09:15-10:00
- ❖ Years 1 & 2 performances: Thursday 15th and Friday 16th December, 13:30-14:15
- ❖ Years 3 & 4 performances: Thursday 15th and Friday 16th December, 14:45-15:30



INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLINGS PHOTOGRAPHS – HEADS UP!

A school photographer will be coming to school this week, on Friday 11th November, to take individual and siblings photographs. Organise visits to the hairdresser (if needed) a few days before. Remember that stylised haircuts are not allowed.

AIMING FOR 97.5% FOR ATTENDANCE AND 100% FOR PUNCTUALITY

Every minute counts!		MARIE CURIE (RECEPTION)	YANNICK NOAH (RECEPTION)	SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR (YEAR 1)	MARIE JOSE PEREC (YEAR 1)	HAROUN TAZIEFF (YEAR 2)	GEORGE SAND (YEAR 2)	JACQUES-YVES COUSTEAU (YEAR 3)	LUCIE AUBRAC (YEAR 4)	TOTAL
ATTENDANCE	LAST WEEK	98% 🏆	97.2%	97%	99.3% 🏆	98.3% 🏆	96.9%	97.5% 🏆	95.4%	97.4%
	SINCE SEPTEMBER	98.4% 🏆	98% 🏆	96.3%	98.2% 🏆	96.8%	97.5% 🏆	96.2%	98.1% 🏆	97.5% 🏆
PUNCTUALITY	LAST WEEK	99.7%	99.7%	100% 🏆	99.7%	99.6%	99.6%	98.5%	99%	99.5%

This week, we will be looking at attendance figures for all children and will be contacting families whose child's attendance is below 95%. It is really important that routine appointments are booked outside of school hours and we will not be authorising them during the school day anymore. This includes early collections before the end of the day.



PLASTIC LIDS

We will soon create an art piece using flat plastic lids. Please, keep hold of the lids from milk bottles, water bottles, soft drinks, etc.. Please, carry on sending plastic lids to school. We need 100s more!



READING WORKSHOP: DECODING SKILLS VS. COMPREHENSION SKILLS

In response to a few queries from parents/carers (particularly in Year 1), we will be organising a workshop to discuss how reading is taught at La Fontaine.

When: **THURSDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 08:45-09:30**

Reading is a complex process which requires two key skills: **decoding** (i.e. the ability to sound words out) and **comprehending** (i.e. the ability to understand, explain, and justify what words means in specific contexts; the ability to understand metaphors and authorial intent, etc.).

Whilst it is easier to decode words (and our Phonics results demonstrate the impact of our teaching in that area), we focus a lot on ensuring that children, at all stages of their primary education, **master key/essential comprehension skills**.

Our workshop will help parents/carers ask Higher Order Questions to support their children's comprehension skills.



SPELLINGS AND SPELLINGS 'RESULTS'

Note that we do not share spelling results with parents/carers. This is because spellings checked in class do not count as spelling 'tests'.

England is one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to supporting children's emotional well-being in educational settings: there's too big an emphasis on 'testing'. See a report produced by the Children's Society called **The Good Childhood Report 2015** (see [here](#)).

At La Fontaine, for instance, and as many of you already know, when it comes to 'testing' children for their official Phonics Screening Check or their End-of-Key Stage SATs, they won't know much about it. They won't know it's happening. We won't tell them. And we want you to do the same.

Unnecessary pressure due to the formal tests children have to take, as part of their primary education, is something we resist. Children, at La Fontaine, will learn because they want to grow and not because they're aiming to get 10/10 in a test: this is part of what we mean by intrinsic motivation.

If anyone would like to discuss and offer some feedback, please let me know and find me in the playground.

Dr Sebastien Chapleau



31 OCT 2016

Nick Gibb MP

Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Dr Sebastien Chapleau
La Fontaine Academy
Princes Plain
Bromley
BR2 8LD

26 October 2016

Dear Dr Chapleau,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils for your school's outstanding achievement in the 2016 phonics screening check.

We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 100 per cent of pupils at La Fontaine Academy reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 3 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 89 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

I am pleased to hear that you have ensured all Year One children at La Fontaine Academy have a firm foundation in reading, from which they can develop further and become increasingly fluent readers. This will help them develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gibb MP

SAVE THE DATES

Please make sure you attend the many events contributing to build La Fontaine Village.

- **School's Scholastic Book Fair** From 23 to 30 November
- **Mum's night out** Friday 25th November
- **Dad's night out** Friday 2nd December
- **School's Christmas Decoration** Monday 5th December after 7pm
- **Christmas Night Market** Saturday 10th December

More info on our website at www.ptalafontaine.org.uk/coming-events-2



CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET

We had a great participation for Christmas Planning Coffee Morning on Friday 4th November. Minutes can be found at www.ptalafontaine.org.uk/pta-minutes.

Thank you all for coming, sharing your ideas and volunteering to make the **Christmas Night Market** an unforgettable event with traditional Christmas fare, a range of delightful market stalls to help fill up your stockings, and of course great fun for the kids with exciting festive games and Santa's Grotto.

However, we still **need more helpers, mums, dads (and dads again), siblings**, etc. Please contact the PTA at contact@ptalafontaine.org.uk.

More info on our website at <http://www.ptalafontaine.org.uk/christmas/#market>.



CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

We will be asking for donations during the course of the weeks leading up to the event. So please do keep them in mind as you are shopping or tidying up around your home! This week please bring **one or more jam jars or similar filled with sweets** for the Sweet Tombola.

Coming wanted donations are listed at www.ptalafontaine.org.uk/christmas/#donations.

- Monday 14th – Friday 18th November – one or more bottles (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) for the Bottle Tombola.
- Monday 21st – Friday 25th November – one or more presents suitable for a mum or dad for the Secret Present.
- Monday 28th – Friday 2nd December – please send in good quality second hand toys.
- Monday 5th – Friday 9th December – please send in second-hand books.
- Friday 9th December – please send in home-made cakes, cookies etc.

LA FONTAINE'S CHRISTMAS DECORATION

Please parents and carers donate your Christmas decoration and come with us on Monday 5th December after 7pm in the school to help us put them on. Don't tell the children!



CHRISTMAS TREES

The PTA are delighted to announce that we have secured a great discount from a local farm who have agreed to provide us with top quality Nordic Non-Drop Christmas Trees. This is a wonderful opportunity for the PTA to raise some funds as we will be able to retain a percentage of the sales - and you will have to look no further for the best Christmas trees! More info will soon be posted at <http://www.ptalafontaine.org.uk/christmas/#tree>.

If you are interested or for further information please contact Fiona@businessjunction.co.uk.



CHRISTMAS LUXURY PUDDING

The Ultimate Plum Pudding Company make their fabulous puddings for Fortnum and Mason, Harvey Nichols and for us. These delicious treats will raise your Christmas and La Fontaine PTA's funds to new heights. Spread the word to your family, friends or even work.

For more information and to place an order go to <http://www.ptalafontaine.org.uk/christmas/#pudding> and click on the Christmas Pudding order form link.

RAISE MONEY WHEN CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Please remember to use **EasyFundraising** while online shopping. This cost you nothing whereas money is raised for La Fontaine Academy! There are over [2,700+ online retailers](#) taking part in **EasyFundraising**, click [here](#) to start now.

There are other ways you can raise money for La Fontaine beyond PTA fundraising events. Full details and links to join the various schemes are available on our website: www.ptalafontaine.org.uk/donate.

SCHOOL'S BOOK FAIR

The school requires some parents and carers to help out running a Scholastic Book Fair between the 23 and 30 November. If you would like to volunteer please contact Amell ml.amatino@gmail.com.

2ND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The PTA is now running a second-hand uniform shop. Donations are welcome. Please contact Lauren **07914 423 650** if you want to purchase outfits. All proceeds will go to the PTA.



BILINGUAL BOOKS

You can purchase some bilingual books through the PTA which receive 20% commission. These books are not just to help translation, but switch from English to French. All of them have an audio version (mp3 to download from the publisher website).

To order email Amell ml.amatino@gmail.com.

More info on our website at www.ptalafontaine.org.uk/bilingual-books.

Email us at contact@ptalafontaine.org.uk with any comments, ideas and suggestions.

We may not be able to action them all but we will do our best!