

SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 19th June 2020

A voluntary aided Church of England primary school in the heart of the City of London



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week you received a letter from our chair of governors regarding the revelation that Sir John Cass was linked to the slave trade. Since then, things have moved on slightly and in this newsletter I include an update letter from the chair of governors:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week the Governing Board established a working group to review the school's links with Sir John Cass and his involvement with the slave trade. That group met for the first time on Monday and made two immediate recommendations:

1. That the bust and statue of Sir John Cass on the first floor of the school building should be removed.
2. That the school should be renamed, removing any reference to Sir John Cass.

The Board held an emergency meeting yesterday and unanimously approved both resolutions. The bust and statue have been removed from view and placed into storage. A consultation on a new name for the school will begin next week and we are aiming to have completed the renaming process in time for the beginning of the 2020/21 school year in September. The Cass Child and Family Centre will also be renamed to align with the new name for the school.

Governors have been horrified to learn that much of Sir John Cass's wealth was derived from human exploitation. To retain these links with our founder would have been incompatible with our school's vision and with the outstanding education it offers every child in our multicultural community. While we appreciate these measures are largely symbolic, we believe they are important first steps. Our working group will now turn its attention to how the school can make a positive contribution towards the eradication of racism and discrimination, raising awareness of the problems still faced by many people today.

We understand that a change of school name may be unsettling for some of our community. We are confident that Miss Allan and her team will help the children to understand better the school's historic links with these abhorrent practices, while retaining the pride they rightly feel for the school and for their own hard work and achievements. Miss Allan will also keep you up to date on some of the practical issues of the change of name, for example advice on school uniform requirements this term, and information about uniforms for the next school year.

I hope you are all well in these difficult times and look forward to seeing many of you back at school next week.

Yours,

Matt Piper
Chair of Governors
chair@sirjohncassprimary.org

The children who are in school at the moment and are returning next week have been asked to wear our school uniform with trainers for PE. Until we have a new name for the school we will retain our current name and therefore the uniform will remain in place. I do understand that some parents may not feel comfortable with their child wearing a uniform with the school name and logo on it. For those families, I ask that your child wears school trousers / dress / plain white polo shirt etc but as the weather is currently quite warm it won't be necessary to wear the school jumper. Children may use a bag other than the school bag at the moment if they wish.

Once we have a new name for the school we will be contacting the uniform manufacturer to begin immediate production. We will be keeping the blue uniform (with a different logo and name) but will not be using the red uniform from September. Children who are in the choir or strings group will be allowed to wear a red jumper / cardigan, which will be used for performances. More information on this will follow. For now however we are asking that you don't buy any more of the Sir John Cass uniform with a logo on it. Do not worry if you have recently bought an SJC uniform, we are looking into having the new logo created on a patch that can be placed over the current logo on the existing uniform.

Return next week reminders and clarification

Home learning:

If your child is not returning to school next week, they should continue with the home learning as they have been up to this point.

If your child is returning to school on Monday and Tuesday, they will do the first 2 days of home learning in school and then complete the week from home.

If your child is returning on Thursday and Friday they should spend Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week finishing off and catching up with any work that they have left to do. On Thursday and Friday they will do the day 1 and 2 home learning and then finish the week's home learning over the coming days.

Drop off in the morning:

Children in the EYFS continue to be dropped off at their classrooms between 8.40am and 9.10am.

Children in Years 1 to 6, including keyworker children, will be dropped off at the main gate between 8.40am and 9.10am. They will go straight to their classrooms to avoid any congestion.

Pick up at the end of the day:

Children in the EYFS continue to be collected from their classrooms between 3.00 and 3.15pm

Year 1: 3.20pm from the classroom door that leads into the playground

Year 2: 3.20pm from the main gate

Year 3C and 3I: 3.20pm from the vehicle gate

Year 4: 3.30pm from the main gate

Year 5: 3.30pm from the side entrance on Mitre Street

Year 6: 3.30pm from the side entrance on Mitre Street (this is the new pick up point from Monday)

The water fountains will not be in use so please send your child to school with a water bottle to drink from throughout the day.

This will be quite a different experience for your children but we will do all we can to make it a safe and enjoyable end to the school year.

Best wishes for a good weekend and I look forward to seeing many more of you next week!

Miss Allan