



Jerounds Journal

Dear Parents/Carers

'Creativity is intelligence having fun'

Albert Einstein

As this is the first newsletter of the academic year 2019/20, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a warm welcome back to our Jerounds' community. We are just one week into a very busy term and I am glad to report that the children have settled back into the routine and that they are working hard whilst enjoying all aspects of school life; especially many of the new enrichment opportunities.

Firstly, sincerest thanks to those parents who were able to grace our corridors this week, in order to attend our 'Class Welcome Meetings'. Many of our new teachers have been quite overwhelmed by the sheer level of support and encouragement exemplified by our special community – so thank YOU! We will continue to support this great community relationship with further educational and creative workshops throughout the course of the academic year.

However, for those parents who were unable to attend, I thought I would detail a few highlights for the coming year; although, please note that our website is updated weekly and will also pay host to many of these new enrichment opportunities for your children.

Notably, this year Jerounds will extend its student leadership team further; introducing an increased variety of different councils; all of which are available for children in Years 2-6. Our plan is for each class to put forward a representative, who will in turn champion and steer many innovative projects under the direction of a teaching member of staff.

School Council (Mr Smith)

Eco Council (Miss Howland/Miss Balci/Miss Townsend)

Music Council (Mrs Wiltshire/Miss Woodwright)

Art Council (Mrs Ford)

Sports Council (Mrs Bull)

Digital Leaders (Mr Oh)

Healthy Schools Council (Mrs Ciftci)

Examples of each councils' projects and trips will be shared across our website, social media and during whole school assemblies. Such examples include a trip to Parliament for our School Council this autumn term (already confirmed) and our Digital Leaders are off to the Excel Exhibition Hall in London's Docklands, for this year's BETT Show. Our Arts Council will work on a community project with the Gibberd Gardens' Artist in residence and Mrs Ford. Likewise, the Healthy Schools Council will visit Ashlyn's farm and help to promote healthy living within our Harlow community. The list of possibilities for each council is growing weekly and we are all immensely excited to discover and thus announce our council members over the coming weeks.

Subsequently, please do encourage your child to put themselves forward for these new opportunities, as this will raise self-esteem, confidence and develop our children's 'character'.

Other news: our specialist teaching team has further developed along with their curriculum offer. Subsequently, our new Art Studio is finally complete and will afford our Art Lead, Mrs Ford, the opportunity to expose our children to a more sophisticated range of artistic skills and techniques. This deepening knowledge will also assist the children's work with our artist in residence from the Gibberd Gardens: textiles, printing, model-making to name but a few.

Healthy eating resumes at Jerounds with a fabulous afternoon 'food tasting' next Thursday 19th September – in our KS2 Hall, from 3:45pm. Ashlyn's will be sharing with our community, both the outstanding quality and quantity of free food available to our Key Stage 1 children. This facility is also available to our Key Stage 2 parents at a cost of £2.25 per meal. Interestingly, during our most recent 'voice of the student', more than 85% of our children stated that they 'adored' our dinners in KS2 and their only suggestion was, that the portion sizes should be made larger for the older children – praise indeed! During food tasting, our resident Ashlyn's chef, Kelly, will present an array of tasty nibbles, salads, cakes, and healthy, wholesome meals for sampling. We hope this will tempt our parents to select a free school meal for their children. Likewise, school dinners will support our community economically; especially since the cost of one dinner (although FREE in KS1) is often cheaper than the onerous task of preparing packed-lunches daily with packed food.

With this healthy motif in mind, I would like to mention that I have once again asked for Sports for Schools to visit Jerounds and prepare our children for healthy living. On Monday 23rd September, all of our children will be asked to come to school wearing their PE kits ready for exercise! Jerounds will host Gianni Frankis (our 'sportivator'), an international 110 metre hurdler. Gianni grew up in Basildon, Essex with an absolute love for sport – although his first passion was football. At the age of 18, however, he turned to Athletics, where he soon discovered that he had a real talent. Gianni has competed at both the European and World Championships, representing both GB and Italy at International Level. Gianni has planned a fun-filled day for our children on Monday 23rd September. More than 350,000 children across the UK will have taken part in an exciting fitness circuit with another athlete and enjoyed an inspirational assembly, during this month. The outcome is a great sense of achievement, and being part of a scheme that has helped to raise over £2.6m for schools and sports equipment. Notably, all children will have already come home on Tuesday evening with a sponsor form for you to sign and support. Last time we did this event – some two years ago – we raised so much money for our playground equipment and extra-curricular clubs. The event was fantastic, with all our children inspired to do their best, encouraging each other not to stop. It was great to see staff also participating!

Please do take a look at the website: <https://www.sportsforschools.org>

To complement this scheme, we have registered with Aldi Stores and their exciting 'Get Set to Eat Fresh' scheme. From 6th September to 3rd November, families who shop in Aldi stores, spending a minimum £30, will receive a Team GB sticker. Jerounds children will be asked to collect these stickers and bring them into school. Teachers will collect and collate the stickers during registration. Alternatively, we have an Aldi's 'Kit for School Sticker' bucket in our school reception for teachers, staff and children to deposit their stickers. Once we collect 300 stickers we will complete our Kit for Schools poster; posters are displayed in KS1 and KS2 halls.

A completed poster automatically qualifies Jerounds for an exclusive school sports kit and the chance of winning one of £20,000 prizes. The posters are also a great stimulus containing 150 healthy challenges, and some ideas to inspire children to eat fresh foods, discover new healthy foods and get active during our assembly discussions. Please do share this with your class parents and WhatsApp groups to ensure that all our parents are fully informed of how important this initiative is.

Further exciting news for our community: I am delighted to announce that we have now elected Co-Chairs for the Friends of Jerounds, Michelle Brown and Claire Colledge. This is indeed wonderful news and indicative of the great support that our community extends annually to our daily, school life. Both Michelle and Claire are looking forward to adding further enrichment to our children's lives.

School Playground/Car Park

Likewise, this week saw many parents allowing both Jerounds' children and their younger siblings to remain behind at the end of the school day to use the play equipment in the Key Stage 1 playground. This equipment is purely for the physical use of Jerounds children during school time, under the direct supervision of trained adults. Parents are therefore, expected to collect their children from the class teacher then depart the school grounds safely with their child.

Similarly, the staff car park should not have any pedestrian traffic between or around the staff cars. On the contrary, parents are asked to use the footpath provided. This ruling also applies to bicycles, scooters and any other

‘wheel’ operated piece of equipment that could easily hurt a small ‘toddler’ accompanying their parents. Please remember to request that your child alights from their scooter/bicycle prior to entering the school grounds.

Extra-curricular clubs commence next week. We have a few spare places available for Saracens tag rugby, yoga and MMA. Please do support these new professional clubs as without support we will no longer be able to facilitate them.

Mobile Phones

A polite reminder to all parents that children should only bring their phones into school if they either travel without a parent or walk to school. There are no exceptions to this rule as the children do not need to have them in school. Those who do bring them to school are required to hand them in at the school office in the morning and collect them at the end of the school day.

Finally... Monday 9th saw the arrival of our first Reception children, who will be more than delighted with the new environment that is emerging in EYFS under the expert supervision of our dynamic EYFS team. A great start reception – well done!

Best wishes,

Mrs Laura Ciftci BA (Hons) MEd
Head of School



Dates for your Diary

16th September—After school clubs begin

16th—19th September—Year 6 to Kingswood

19th September—Alice in Wonderland performance (in School)

19th September—Ashlyns food tasting—3.45pm, KS2 hall

20th September—Jeans for Genes day, £1 donation—non-uniform day, children to wear jeans

23rd September—Gianni Frankis— International hurdler—visit

27th September—Individual photos

30th September—Year 6 Bikeability