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# SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## Upper School

Dear Parent/Guardian or Student,

We hope you had a lovely Easter break and you are looking forward to the summer term. Please read the information below regarding your / your child's classes for this term.

### Spring term second hand uniform sale - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April

The next sale will be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10.30am-1.30pm** in the waiting room and we hope many parents / guardians will attend. If you wish to sell items, please refer to the link below, or use the forms available in the waiting room:

<http://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Secondhand-uniform-sale-document-271117.pdf>

If you have items to sell, please place them in a bag labelled for the school uniform sale (with selling tickets attached if you wish to take some of the profit) in the boys changing room **before Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April**.

100% of the profit from any donated items will be given to Demelza House alternatively you can choose to split the profit 50/50 between yourself and the charity. Please email Ros at [sldsuniformsale@yahoo.com](mailto:sldsuniformsale@yahoo.com) if you have any queries.

### Reminder of term dates

#### THIS TERM - SUMMER TERM 2018 DATES (12 weeks)

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

*Half term - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June*

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

*NOTE - classes ARE taking place on bank holiday Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May*

Second hand school uniform sale - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10.30am-1.30pm

Parents watching week - Week 5 - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May inc. EXCEPT \*\*\* (see 'Invitation to Watch Classes' section below)

Summer term feedback day - TBC

Tap Workshop with Avalon Rathgeb - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Acting classes - 29<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July

Acting classes play performances - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 6pm at the Streatham Space Project

## AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK - AUTUMN TERM 2018 DATES (12 weeks)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October

*Half term - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November (2 weeks but 3 Sunday's)*

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Autumn term feedback day - TBC

Acting class dates - TBC

Sunday examination practises - 30<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Provisional examination dates - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December

## Invitation to watch classes next term

The teachers very much look forward to seeing all the parents / guardians of children in Nursery 1 Dance and levels above when they are invited to watch classes from **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May**, EXCEPT the date for watching the Saturday Grade 1 Modern (II) class (4.45-5.30pm) and Saturday Primary Ballet & National classes (5.30-6.45pm) will instead be on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June**. We hope many parents / guardians can attend in order to see the progress their child has made over the past few terms.

Regarding watching classes, please note:

- We invite parents / guardians to view their child's class(es) once a year so that they can see how their child is progressing.
- Please bear in mind that the open classes are not performances; we invite you to watch a normal class to observe development and progress.
- Parents, guardians, grandparents, siblings, friends & nanny's etc are welcome to attend but please be mindful that the children need some space in which to dance!
- Please consider that some children in the class may be shy or nervous of dancing in front of an audience.
- Due to above two points please try to bring a maximum of 3-4 audience members per child to watch.
- **No children under the age of 4 will be allowed into the studio to watch and no exceptions will be made to this policy which is in the best interests of the children in the classes. This includes tiny babies as it cannot be guaranteed that they will stay asleep for the duration of the class!**
- **Please only bring other children with you to watch the class if they are capable of sitting still for the duration, without an electronic game, book, food etc, i.e. they would have to actually watch the class without distracting the children dancing!**
- You will be permitted to film the class and show it to siblings, friends and other family members who are not able / eligible to attend. Photograph's may also be taken.
- We do not invite an audience to any of our Melody Movement classes.

Unfortunately, if you are not able to watch during the dates offered, we are unable to offer an alternative date. We realise this might be disappointing for some parents / guardians but it is necessary for us to restrict viewings to one week each academic year.

## School sweaters

Our fantastic school sweaters come in a choice of TWO colours - pink/white and black/grey. If you would like to order one, please download the [Sweater Order Form](#) from our website:

<http://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SLDS-SWEATER-ORDER-FORM.pdf>

Please place your completed form in an envelope marked 'sweater order' and enclose payment (exact cash only please as we cannot give change). Please put your envelope through the secure office letterbox.

We have to receive a minimum of 50 forms before we can place a new order with the supplier, so please bear in mind that there may be a significant wait before the sweaters arrive. However, the sooner you order, the sooner we can reach 50 and get the ball rolling.

## Diary reminder - Presentation of Class Work - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019

We will be sending out detailed information by email about this exciting event in the next few weeks.

All children who have reached examination standard by December 2018 will be eligible to take part i.e.

- children in Saturday Primary Modern (III), or weekday Primary modern and who are taking their examination in December 2018, and all modern levels upwards
- children in Saturday Pre-Primary 2 ballet (II) or weekday Pre-Primary 2 ballet, and all ballet levels upwards
- children in Saturday or weekday Primary tap, and all tap levels upwards
- children in all National, Commercial / street and Contemporary classes

If you think your child would like to participate in this event then please make sure you keep the relevant dates free. Please bear in mind that Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February is likely to be the first weekend of half term for the majority of students, so be aware of this when booking a ski break for example!

## Exciting one-off tap dancing workshop for students - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July

We are very excited to announce that we will be holding a morning of American tap style workshops on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July**, brought to you by two young independent choreographers who are pushing the boundaries in the world of tap dance - Avalon Rathgeb and Dre Torres. And now for even better news . . . the cost to participate is at the VERY special rate of only £5.00 per person!!!

The workshops are intended to push children to discover a new perspective of dance and music in an upbeat and positive class atmosphere. Children will need to move their whole bodies and develop their own unique style. Each class will start with a thorough warm-up, engaging the brain and body while focusing on coordination, rhythm, weight shift, and articulation. Next, technical exercises in the centre and across the floor will challenge students both physically and mentally, and cover a wide range of tap vocabulary to develop technique, clarity of beating and agility. Finally, a short and fun combination focusing on technique that has been worked on throughout the class will be taught.

Avalon has been teaching higher level tap at SLDS since 2013 and, as many of you already know, she founded 'Old Kent Road' which has had great success over the past few years. To find out more about Avalon and Old Kent Road, please go to [www.avalonrathgeb.com](http://www.avalonrathgeb.com) and [www.oldkentroadtap.com](http://www.oldkentroadtap.com) Avalon will be joined by Dre Torres who is delighted to be working alongside Avalon's Old Kent Road this summer to co-choreograph 'OSCILLATE' which will premiere at Saddler's Wells Lilian Baylis Theatre 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 16<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August. Both Avalon and Dre dance with the Worlds ONLY full time, paid, tap dance Company 'Tapestry Dance Company' in Austin, Texas.

Workshops will be at the following times:

- 9.00-10.00 am for children in Grades 1 and 2 tap**
- 10.00-11.00am for children in Grades 3 and 4 tap**
- 11.00-12.00pm for students in Grades 5 + tap**

If your child would like to participate, please put cash in an envelope with your child's name and 'Tap workshop' and through the office letter box to secure your place. Places will be limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please email [katie@southlondondanceschool.co.uk](mailto:katie@southlondondanceschool.co.uk) if you have any questions.

We hope lots of you can join in to learn from some of the best tap dancers in the world!

## Reminders for while at the Studios

### ENTERING AND EXITING THE BUILDING

In the interests of security, it is of the utmost importance that parents and students are vigilant when it comes to who is following them into the SLDS premises. Please **DO NOT** let anyone come in who does not have a child participating in dance classes and if you see anyone in the building who is acting suspiciously to let a teacher or the office staff know immediately.

When you leave the building, please remember that you must exit through the back door of the studios onto Milkwood Road.

Exiting out of the front door creates congestion and can be dangerous for young children who are going in and out of classes in studio 1. The only situation that we will allow students to exit out of the front door is late in the evening when it is dark and students leave the premises by themselves and in the interests of personal safety, they feel exiting through the front is preferable.

### ROAD SAFETY

We can't stress enough how important it is that you / your child safely cross the busy roads outside the studios, and that ALL adults set a good example for children. Therefore, please always use the crossings on both Herne Hill and Milkwood Road.

### NO NUTS PLEASE

We have a number of students who have SEVERE nut allergies so make sure you / your child does not bring any nuts / nut products into the building.

### CHANGING YOUR CHILD

Please don't change your child or stop to put on their shoes anywhere other than the designated changing rooms - EVEN IF YOU ARE LATE. It is extremely dangerous for your own child and others. This includes the downstairs disabled toilet as teachers constantly need access to the props and boiler cupboard for heating control which is inside. On a Saturday, if you bring your child already in his / her dance uniform then it is acceptable to remove coat & outdoor shoes and slip ballet shoes on when they are lining up for their class as long as they stay close to the corridor walls so that they are safe from people passing by. This may save the need for some parents and children to use the changing room upstairs and thus ease people flow around the building.

### BUGGIES / SCOOTERS ETC

Please leave buggies and scooters at the side of the studios where the buggy / bike hoops are located (bring your own lock if necessary) as it's really dangerous to carry them with you or leave them unattended around the building.

### COMMUNAL AREAS

Please continue to help us by keeping the communal areas clean and tidy. If you see rubbish left on the floor, then please kindly put it in the bin; this is for health and safety reasons as well as to keep a pleasant environment for everyone. Please remind your children of the same and also to wash up and put away any crockery / cutlery they may use.

## Starting the term smoothly

Before term starts, please take the time to check your invoice(s) for this term which was emailed to you on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** so that you know which day, time and studio your classes are in. This will save you time and stress when you arrive at the studios next week.

Please make sure your child has the correct uniform for his / her classes for the start of term (or from the second week of term if you are waiting to attend the school uniform sale), please go to <http://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/general-information/uniform-for-dance-classes/> to see our uniform lists. Please also read below:

**LAVENDER LEOTARD** - If your daughter is wearing the lavender leotard, make sure the label is on her left when she puts it on (i.e. the front 'scoop' is higher than the back which is the opposite way to a normal vest). Also, ensure you buy Roch Valley, not Katz.

**VESTS & PANTS** - please, no vests or pants underneath pink ballet dresses and any leotard, biketard or catsuit - they look unsightly and spoil the line of the body.

#### **GENERAL UNIFORM NOTES**

- Please do not wear any dance shoes outside
- Children should not wear socks and tights at the same time.
- We have noticed that some children in Modern lessons are struggling with some movements due to having sticky feet. As a solution we are allowing children in Grade 3 Modern and above the option of wearing foot thongs. The style of foot thong allowed is the Bloch Foot Thong III (code: S0675).

**EARRINGS / BODY LOTION** - please do not wear any large items of jewellery which can be dangerous, and body or hair oil should not be worn (it makes the floor slippery and dangerous)

**TAP SHOES:** for Pre-Primary classes, please make sure your child has heel taps on their tap shoes.

#### **HAIR:**

- **Hair in a bun for all girls in PP1 Ballet (I) plus** - all girls attending PP1 Ballet (I) plus with hair long enough to tie back will need their hair in a bun. Having a neat bun for their classes stops hair styles from falling out and from having wispy ends hanging in front of faces which can be distracting to the dancer. If you are still struggling with how to do a correct bun then the teachers and teaching assistants can help you.
- **Hair styling for all girls in Grade 2 modern plus** - please ensure long hair is tied back in a style suitable for modern dance so that it doesn't hinder your child's progress in dance. Hairstyle needs to be suitable for turning as well as lying down on the back of the head. A pony tail or classical bun are NOT suitable. French plaits tucked under, a side bun, or 2 small buns on sides of head are all acceptable.

## **Lateness policy reminder**

It is essential that we minimise interruptions from latecomers. Our 'lateness policy' is therefore crucial as it ensures that the lessons are focused and productive. Our 'lateness policy' is as follows;

#### **FOR UPPER SCHOOL CHILDREN:**

In Pre-Primary 2 Ballet, Primary Modern (examination class), Primary Tap, Level 1 Commercial/Street, Boys Street (I), Primary National and grades above or Gymnastics skills classes and you are late, please knock the door and wait for an answer. The teacher will decide whether they can participate or watch the class; the teacher's decision will depend on

- How late the child is
- How often the child has been late before
- The stage of the class and exercises planned for the remainder of the lesson

The teacher's decision should be respected for the child's safety and in consideration of the other class members (each case will be considered on an individual basis).

*If your child is late and is preparing for an examination the teacher **will** allow them to join in whatever the stage of the class as long as they are able to properly warm themselves up in preparation to dance - so on arrival, no matter how late you are, please knock on the door in order to avoid missing more work.*

## Absences and keeping in touch

If you/your child is NOT preparing from an examination or show, we do not need to be informed if only one or two lessons will be missed. However, please notify the office if you/your child will miss three or more lessons in succession.

Please ensure that you call or e-mail the office or post a note through the office letterbox if you change address, telephone number or e-mail address. Also, if during term time you will not be checking your e-mail account for a period of two weeks or more, please let us know as then we can post to you hard copies of any relevant information.

## Summer School - Monday 30th July - Friday 3rd August

### Disney Course for children 3-5 years

Daily 10.00am-11.15am

£50 for the week

Due to the success of our **Disney Workshop** the last few years we are pleased to inform you that we will be having another one this year, with different songs and dances from popular Disney movies such as "Frozen", "The Lion King", "Tangled", and more!!

The sessions will start with a warm up for voice and body, then we will venture into a fun and fantastic world of storytelling, through song and dance. As we learn the songs and dances by some of their favourite characters the children will explore music and dance from the perspective of the performer.

### Musical Theatre Courses for children 5 years + (children will be split into age appropriate groups)

Daily 11.30-4.00pm (including a lunch break in Brockwell Park, weather permitting)

£150 for the week

The younger group will learn songs, dances and acting extracts from musicals such as "Matilda", "Billy Elliot" and "Bugsy Malone".

The older group will work on extracts from up to date musicals, "Newsies", "The Young Frankenstein" and "The Greatest Showman". Both groups will work together on the opening and closing numbers from "Hairspray" and "Seussical".

**The afternoon of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August** will be "Show Day" where we will invite parents/guardians, friends and family to come and watch a little performance of some of the things the children have learnt during the week.

Please contact: [summerschoolslds@gmail.com](mailto:summerschoolslds@gmail.com) asap for more information or to sign up. Please **do not** contact the school office, thank you.

## Staff Update

Akinna has taken over from Carla as our school examinations administrator. We would like to welcome her and wish her the best of luck in her new role. She will be in the office on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, including until 8pm on a Tuesday evening during term time. Her email address is [sldsexaminations@gmail.com](mailto:sldsexaminations@gmail.com).

Thank you for reading and we hope you have an enjoyable summer term!

With best wishes,

Katie

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