

NEWSLETTER FOR SPRING TERM INVOICES - 21st NOVEMBER 2018

LOWER SCHOOL

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Firstly, I am very pleased to announce that the SLDS festival team have had some great results during October with lots of our students gaining qualifying marks to perform in the prestigious All England Dance South East Regional Finals to be held in May next year. Well done! Also, we would like to congratulate South London Dance School alumni Natasha Chu on her role in Sir Matthew Bourne's world premiere tour of Romeo and Juliet. Tasha was at SLDS from the age of six and at sixteen she went on to train at Central School of Ballet. What a fantastic first professional job it will be for her, being a part of New Adventures contemporary dance company.

Secondly, have you checked out our Instagram @south_london_dance_school or Facebook www.facebook.com/southlondondanceschool lately as we have wonderful videos on there with some of our students interviewing the famous ballerina Misty Copeland who stars in 'The Nutcracker and The Four Realms'! They will certainly make you smile 😊

We would also like to take this opportunity to officially welcome Henry St Clair to our administration team as Upper School Administrator. Henry has extensive dance performance and administration experience having trained at the Royal Ballet School and danced in the company, he then went on to found Crystal ballet and also owns a production company with Will Tuckett.

We would also like to introduce our fantastic new acro / gym skills teacher! Please welcome Adrià Juárez into the SLDS teaching staff. He has extensive experience in practicing and teaching dance and acrobatics in Barcelona and also competing in many European competitions. He is already bringing into the studio his passion and enthusiasm for progressing technique and skills.

Invoices for spring term 2019

You will find attached your invoice for dance classes at SLDS next term (spring term 2019).

Your invoice is your first notification of the appropriate class(es) for you for next term (spring term 2019 starting in January), so please read it carefully as the class time and / or day might be different to current, also ensure you check the invoice notes section for any further information.

Please ensure payment is made on or before the last day of this term which is **Saturday 15th December**. If payment is not made on time, you may lose your space and / or an administration fee will be added to your account. Payment can be made via BACS,

cheque or cash. Cash payments must be in a sealed envelope with student's name written on the front for the exact amount invoiced as no change will be given.

If you have a query about your invoice, please contact me immediately but please be patient in waiting for me to get back to your telephone call or email as I am extremely busy at this point in the term. However, if you do not hear back from me after 5 days or before the end of term (whichever is sooner), please do contact me again to make sure I have received your email.

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide confirmation of having received your payment, so we suggest you check your bank statement if you have paid by BACS to ensure the payment has successfully reached our account, and likewise, if you have paid by cheque, check your bank statement a few weeks after the payment deadline to ensure it has been cashed by us.

Please note; it is now too late to give notice of leaving the school at the end of this term or to request to change classes next term as notice was required on or before **Saturday 20th October**. Therefore, the full fees as detailed on your invoice are payable for next term as per SLDS Terms and Conditions, clauses 11-14, "Cancellation and Amendment". **If you would like a copy of the school brochure with our Terms and Conditions included as well as further useful information, please contact us.**

Please retain a copy of attached invoice so that when next term starts, you know which class(es) you have signed up for. At the start of each term we usually receive unmanageable numbers of telephone calls and emails asking which class(es) a student has signed up for and it is simply not possible for us to get back to everyone.

ANSWERS TO SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS RE: NURSERY CHILDREN MOVING UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL:

Children moving up from Nursery 1 dance to Nursery 2 dance:

Please note that this is a move up to the next level and children develop their dance skills as well as their strength, flexibility, ability to follow instructions and focus. The uniform remains the same.

Children moving up from Nursery 2 dance to Preparatory Dance & Tap:

Children who have progressed from the Nursery 2 dance will now be starting Preparatory Dance & Tap class (if you are unsure if this applies to your child then please refer to the class listed on your invoice). Preparatory dance and tap builds on the ballet-based dance skills learnt in Nursery dance and also includes an introduction to tap dancing. This means the class is now 60 minutes, rather than 45 minutes. Please refer to this link for more information about Preparatory Dance & Tap:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/classes/preparatory-dance-tap-classes/>

Your child will wear the same uniform but will require the following tap shoes:

GIRLS - Tappers and Pointers black leather tap shoes or Roch Valley black leather tap shoes with elastic replacing the laces and with standard ball taps

BOYS - Boys Roch Valley Oxford style black canvas tap shoes with laces and standard ball taps

Heel taps are not required but can be left on if already attached to shoes when bought.

Children who have breaks between classes

The 15 min supervised breaks taking place in the dance studios on a Saturday will be supervised by a teaching assistant. We are also able to supervise the 15 min break on a Saturday from 5.45-6.00pm for those children doing Pre-Primary 2 ballet (IIa) and Grade 1 modern (II). **Any other breaks on a weekday or Saturday will not be supervised so if your child does not have a consent slip then you will need to collect and look after them in their break.**

Future performance opportunities for your child

We have some exciting news regarding future performance opportunities for your child which we hope you will be pleased about! Please look for an email during the next week from Ros, slidsperformances@gmail.com and please use this email address for any future communications about shows.

Diary dates

AUTUMN TERM 2018 ends on Saturday 15th December

Autumn term feedback day - Sunday 16th December - 12.30-2.30pm

Children's party - Sunday 16th December - 3.00-5.00pm

SPRING TERM 2019 DATES (12 weeks)

Monday 7th January - Saturday 16th February

Half term - Sunday 17th February to Sunday 24th February

Monday 25th February - Saturday 6th April

Second hand uniform sale - Saturday 12th January 9.30am-1.30pm

Spring term feedback day - Sunday 24th March 10am - 1pm

Acting class dates - Sundays 20th & 27th January, 3rd February, 17th, 24th & 31st March

Class observation week for Nursery, Preparatory and Pre-Primary 1 (I) classes only - w/c 25th March

SUMMER TERM 2019 DATES (12 weeks)

Tuesday 23rd April - Friday 24th May (*classes will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May*)

Half term - Saturday 25th to Friday 31st May

Saturday 1st June - Monday 22nd July

Summer term feedback day - TBC

Acting class dates - TBC

Class observation week for Pre-Primary 1 ballet (II), Pre-Primary tap (II) & Primary modern (II) plus - 21st-24th May, Sat 1st June & Mon 3rd June

Class observation week for Nursery, Preparatory and Pre-Primary 1 (I) classes only - w/c 1st July

Examination dates - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 7th July - TBC

Children's Christmas party

The children's Christmas Party sign-up sheet is now pinned to the notice board in the waiting room. All SLDS students who are in Nursery 1 and above are invited to attend and children will be split into age appropriate groups for games etc. Father Christmas will be visiting the youngest group!

Please write your child's name on the sign-up sheet and note what food / drink you would like to bring to share (all food will need to be nut free please).

Parents / guardians will not come into the party with their child but we do need parent helpers before, during and after the party, so please add your name to the parent helper sheet on the notice board.

New electric gate

To enhance security at the studios we have recently installed an electric gate at the rear of the dance school. If you usually enter through the back door please do ask the teachers for the gate code. Please make sure you do not touch the gate as you are walking through as it will stop working.

Date to watch your child's class(es) this term

This section is for parents / guardians of children in Junior Funky Moves, Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Preparatory dance & tap and Pre-Primary 1 (I) levels only.

As we have advised in previous newsletters, we are extending the opportunity to view your child's class(es) to termly rather than once a year. This term we look forward to welcoming parents / guardians / friends to watch their child's classes week commencing **Monday 3rd December**.

So that the classes are not disrupted and run as normally as possible, the usual guidelines for class observation week will apply, as follows:

- 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.

Feedback Day

Please see below for feedback opportunities this term:

SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER

Miss Chloe - Sunday 16th December 12.30-2.30pm

Miss Jemima - Sunday 16th December 12.30-2.30pm

Miss Emma - Sunday 16th December 1.30-2.30pm

Miss Zoe - Sunday 16th December 1.30-2.30pm (if you wish to meet Miss Zoe but she does not teach your child then please email me at least 3 days beforehand so that I can let her know the nature of your enquiry)

OTHER DATES

Miss Taylor - Wednesday 12th December 6.30-7.30pm

Miss Ellie - Friday 14th December 4.30-5.30pm

The sheet on which to sign up to see a teacher will be placed on the notice board in the waiting room on **Monday 3rd December**.

- **PLEASE PUT THE NAME OF YOUR CHILD (NOT YOUR NAME) AND PLEASE ONLY SIGN UP FOR ONE SLOT PER CHILD EVEN IF YOUR CHILD HAS MORE THAN ONE TEACHER.**
- Please make sure you make a note of the slot for which you have signed up and remember to attend otherwise it's a waste of teachers' time and may mean another parent needlessly misses out.
- Feedback day slots are not available to those children who will not be attending the school next term except in exceptional circumstances. Please contact me if you are leaving the school but wish to ask for feedback.
- As feedback places are limited and booked on a first come first served basis, if it is very important to you that you obtain a feedback slot, you should ensure that you visit the studios as soon as the signup sheet is put up in order to sign up as we cannot accept bookings for the 'in person' feedback sessions via email or telephone. This may mean that you need to come to the studios in order to sign up on a day you do not normally come to classes.
- Once all of the feedback slots are taken, we will not be in a position to supply any additional slots. We are also unable to assist with any feedback request after feedback day, nor provide feedback from the teachers in attendance on feedback day at any other time. However, rest assured that if there were any issue regarding your child that their teacher felt they needed to discuss with you, we would get in touch.
- If you require feedback from any teacher who is *not* offering a feedback session this term, then you should contact the relevant upper or lower school administrator by email before **Wednesday 5th December** to enable the office to assist with your request. However, please note that we do not provide feedback sessions with our Gymnastics and commercial / street teachers.
- To sign up, you will need to know the name(s) of your child's teacher(s); if you do not know the name of your child's teacher then please refer to the list next to the sign-up sheet in the waiting room rather than emailing the office. Please remember that you may only sign up to see one of your child's teachers each term.
- If any slots are booked and parents / guardians do not attend and do not have a good reason for this, in consideration of other parents / guardians who require feedback slots, those parents / guardians will not be offered the opportunity to attend feedback days in future. Parents / guardians who booked a slot and did not attend feedback day last term (**Sunday 1st July**) and did not contact the office to let us know in advance, should NOT sign up for this feedback day - if they wish to obtain feedback they should email me to discuss the situation.
- Please consider that teachers kindly give up their time once a term to provide this service for parents / guardians. This facility is not covered by the fees for classes and administration so it is not a 'deserved right' of parents / guardians to be able to obtain a feedback slot. We hope you support and appreciate this exceptional service which sets SLDS apart from the majority of other dance schools.

Spring Term Second Hand Uniform Sale

The next sale will be on **Saturday 12th January 9.30am-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:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Secondhand-uniform-sale.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 the end of this term (or call the office to check opening times during the holiday period).

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 if you have any queries.

Lost Property

The uniform and non-uniform lost property buckets in the waiting room will be emptied (for charity shop / second hand uniform sales) during the Christmas holiday. So, if you think you may have lost anything at the studios, please ensure you collect it before the end of term.

Thank you for reading, we wish you an enjoyable rest of autumn term and (it seems a bit early for this, but) a very Merry Christmas!

Verena