



**SOUTH  
LONDON  
DANCE  
SCHOOL**

130 Herne Hill, London SE24 9QL  
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tel. 020 7978 8624

## UPPER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing festive break and would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. Many of the children enjoyed fun and games at the Christmas party before the holiday, even Father Christmas turned up! Thank you to those parents to who helped out before during and after the party, your support was much appreciated. Our adult students also had a fantastic get together before Christmas with each group performing a dance for a huge audience and then socialising with lots of food and drink! You can find photos from the Christmas parties on our social media - Instagram [@south\\_london\\_dance\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/south_london_dance_school) and Facebook [www.facebook.com/southlondondanceschool](https://www.facebook.com/southlondondanceschool)

We also have some wonderful news that Ruben Garcia (Grade 5 ballet) has successfully auditioned for London Children's Ballet production of 'Ballet Shoes' which will be on at The Peacock Theatre 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July. Also, we'd like you congratulate ex-student Nico Pereira Da Silva who has been playing Fritz in English National Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' at the Coliseum over the Christmas period.

With term starting this Monday (7<sup>th</sup> January), we would like to take the opportunity to remind you of upcoming important dates and information for spring term 2019, so please do take the time to read the relevant sections on the next few pages . . .

### Starting the term smoothly and reminders for when at the studios

Before term starts, please take the time to check your invoice which was emailed to you on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November** from [upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk](mailto:upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk) 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 do not email this address for general communication as this is only an outgoing email address, please use [sldsupperschool@gmail.com](mailto:sldsupperschool@gmail.com))

In the interests of security it is of the upmost 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.

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. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Some polite reminders for when you are at the studios . . .

**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.

**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

**STAFF CAR PARK AT REAR OF STUDIOS** - parents may NOT park in this area. Firstly, it is permitted for use only by staff by Lambeth Council, and secondly, it would be extremely dangerous to have lots of cars manoeuvring around the tight space when children are exiting the building. Please respect this policy for the safety of all of our students and families. It will be necessary to ask the children of parents who do not respect this rule to leave the school with immediate effect. Thank you for your cooperation with this important matter.

## Information for Saturday Pre-Primary Children

- Children in Pre-Primary tap (III) starting at 2.45pm should arrive in their leotard, socks (or **convertible** tights) and tap shoes carrying a **bag** with their ballet shoes, skirt and snack (**no nuts** or anything that could create crumbs and water but no fizzy drinks or cartons). Please make sure all bags are also named.

## Children who have breaks between classes

A reminder that 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.**

## Staff news

I hope you will join me in congratulating School Principal, Miss Zoe on her very exciting news that she is expecting a baby in June! Therefore, Miss Emma will be Acting Principal with full responsibility for dance training quality, care of the students and management of the business.

We are very sorry to have to say good bye to Miss Jemima who has unexpectedly left the school due to personal reasons. She has been a fantastic teacher and will be greatly missed. Any Christmas gifts that were kindly given to her at the end of last term when she was unable to teach have been passed on to her and she is very grateful. New staff member, Tony Aiken will be taking over ballet teaching on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and so we would like to welcome him into the SLDS team.

Mr Tony trained as a professional dancer at The Royal Academy of Dancing and Bush Davies School where he won The Dancing Times Award for Choreography. Mr Tony went on to have a successful career as a professional ballet, jazz, musical theatre and commercial dancer. His credits are extensive as a dancer, dance captain and choreographer. After retiring as a performer, Mr Tony qualified as a teacher with the ISTD gaining his Licentiate in Imperial Classical Ballet with Distinction. Mr Tony has taught boys and girls of all ages and abilities and strives for his students to be the very best dancers they can. He is delighted to be joining the faculty of South London Dance School and looks forward to passing on his love for classical ballet to the students.

Additionally, I am pleased to let you know that Miss Zoe will be teaching some of the ballet classes on a Monday and Friday until her maternity leave commences, therefore Miss Ellie will be taking over Miss Zoe's Thursday modern classes. Miss Ellie will also be teaching Primary ballet on a Friday and Miss Emma will be teaching Pre-Primary 2 ballet on a Tuesday.

We are also happy to announce that Jennifer Yhip will become a permanent member of the Saturday teaching staff. Miss Jennifer trained in RAD classical ballet, Matt Mattox jazz and Graham contemporary and she completed her ISTD Diploma in Dance Education in Imperial Ballet and Modern Theatre Dance at the Dance College in Royston.

Over the last six years, Miss Jennifer has worked at several dance schools, training children for their ISTD graded and major examinations and choreographing for school shows. She has also developed a real passion for teaching dance to very young children who may have never before been in a structured class environment.

Miss Jennifer looks forward to joining the team at South London Dance school and to nurturing the students through her own skill and understanding of educating children in the art of dance.

## Diary dates

### SPRING TERM 2019 DATES (12 weeks)

#### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

*Half term - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February*

#### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Second hand uniform sale - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am-1.30pm

Spring term feedback day - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March times tbc (teachers available on each of these dates is tbc) - PLEASE

NOTE, 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH IS AN ADDITIONAL DATE TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

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

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

Workshop - Matthew Bourne - Swan Lake - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January (see below)

Workshop - Matilda and Fame - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March (see below)

### SUMMER TERM 2019 DATES (12 weeks)

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

*Half term - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May*

#### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 - 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June & Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Dulwich Fair performance - Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and boys (II) commercial / street classes to perform - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May - time tbc

Class observation week for Nursery, Preparatory and Pre-Primary 1 (I) classes only - w/c 1<sup>st</sup> July  
Provisional examination dates - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July - all dates tbc

## West End Dance Workshops

We are very pleased to announce we have secured two Sundays this term of exciting dance workshops! Both dates of workshops are suitable for our upper school students who are currently in Primary ballet and/or Grade 1 modern upwards. We really hope many of your children will take up this fantastic opportunity to be taught by West End professionals and learn exciting dances from these shows.

The workshop on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January will be based around Mathew Bourne's 'Swan Lake' lead by a dancer currently in the company focusing on story-telling and acting through contemporary dance / ballet.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March will be 'Musical Theatre day' and for the younger group, we will hold a 'Matilda' workshop which will be lead by Gemma Scholes who is currently performing in the show in the West End, and then two 'Fame' workshops for the older groups, lead by Ike Fallon who is currently performing in the European tour of the show. All groups will learn choreography from the shows which will be musical theatre / modern / jazz styles.

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January - Matthew Bourne's 'Swan Lake'**

Age 7-11 (Primary School) 10:00-11:15 - **Cost £10 per child**

Age 11 and upwards (secondary school) 11:30-13:15 - **Cost £20 per child**

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March - 'Matilda' and 'Fame'**

Matilda, Age 7-10: 10:00-12:00 - **Cost £15 per child**

Fame, Age 11-12: 12:00-14:00 - **Cost £15 per child**

Fame, Age 13 and upwards: 14:00-16:00 - **Cost £15 per child**

Please reserve your space by emailing me at [sldsupperschool@gmail.com](mailto:sldsupperschool@gmail.com), stating your child's name and which workshop(s) they would like to attend and post cash in a clearly labelled envelope, through the office door by **17<sup>th</sup> January**. Spaces are limited and this is a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn from performing professionals, so get in touch soon!

## Uniform & grooming

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 - see below for more information about this), 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 round 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.

**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)

#### **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. (See below '**Demonstration of classical buns for Pre-Primary / Primary ballet classes**' for more information)
- **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.

#### **ACTING CLASSES**

Please wear:

- Leggings / stretchy trousers
- Top you can move in
- SLDS sweater
- Trainers (and bring National shoes if you have any)
- and please have long hair tied back off face.

## **Demonstration of classical buns for Pre-Primary / Primary ballet classes**

All girls attending Pre-Primary 1 ballet (I) plus with hair long enough to tie back should always come to ballet classes with their hair in a bun. This is for practical reasons, not aesthetic; it's important that your daughters' hair is not over her face when she is dancing as it is distracting for her.

We would like to help parents / guardians learn how to do a classical bun by holding a short (5-10 minute) bun demonstration session at the start of the classes listed below on the dates given:

#### **TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

4.15pm studio 1 - Pre-Primary 2 ballet

#### **FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY**

4.30pm studio 1 - Primary ballet

#### **SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY**

2.30pm studio 2 Pre-Primary 2 ballet (IIb)

2.45pm studio 3 Pre-Primary tap (III)

4.00pm studio 3 Grade 1 tap (I)

4.45pm studio 3 Primary National

Please come into the studio at the beginning of your child's class so that you can learn how to do a secure classical bun that will last the duration of your child's dance session without pins falling out all over the studio floor. Thank you for your interest and cooperation.

## School Sweaters

If you'd like to order a school sweater then please download the order form:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SLDS-Sweater-Order-Form-27062018.pdf>

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

It would be great for us to be able to place the order with the supplier in the next couple of weeks so if you'd like to purchase one then do drop in your form and payment in asap. However, please note that there may be a delay in ordering your sweater after you have made payment since we have to meet the minimum number to place an order.

## School Uniform Sale - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am-1.30pm

The next sale will be on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sldsuniformsale@yahoo.com) if you have any queries.

## Summer term examinations

We are still eagerly awaiting the results from our autumn term examination session and will be giving them out in classes once they arrive.

Please note that the next examination session is planned for the summer term on the following dates 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July (TBC). Please do not hesitate to contact our Examinations Administrator, Ciera with any questions, [sldsexaminations@gmail.com](mailto:sldsexaminations@gmail.com).

## Future performances

You should have received an email on 29<sup>th</sup> November from [sldsperformances@gmail.com](mailto:sldsperformances@gmail.com) explaining the future plan for your child to have the opportunity to participate more regularly in dance performances with less necessity to attend additional rehearsals on a Sunday. Please make sure you have read the letter from school Principal, Miss Zoe, that was attached to the email. Thank you to those parents / guardians who have sent their feedback, all of which has been positive which is very encouraging. It's very exciting that we are now in the process of booking a theatre venue for our next show to be performed in summer term 2020!

# Class availability for this term

## ADULT CLASSES

We are looking forward to welcoming lots of new adult students to the school this term. However, if you hurry then we do still have a few spaces left in the following adult tap classes:

**Adult Beginners Tap - Thursday 8.45-9.45pm** - class for complete beginners

**Adult Tap (I) - Monday 8.30-9.30pm** - if you've done a very little bit of basic tap before

**Adult Tap (II) - Wednesday 8.45-9.45pm** - if you've done basic tap in the past for a year or so

Please contact our very busy adult students' Administrator, Verena, [sldsadultclasses@gmail.com](mailto:sldsadultclasses@gmail.com), if you would like to enrol in any of these classes.

## ACTING CLASSES

We have a few spaces left in our Sunday acting classes this term:

**3.30-4.30pm - Acting (I) for children from 4-7 years** (£59.00 for the 6 lessons this term)

**4.30-5.45pm - Acting (II) for children aged 7-9 years** (£74.00 for the 6 lessons this term)

**5.45-7.15pm - Acting (III) for children aged 10 plus** (£88.00 for the 6 lessons this term)

Class dates for this term are:

**Sundays 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March**

The fortnightly acting classes at South London Dance School focus on the requirements for children wanting to audition for and work in TV, film and theatre. Key skills are taught in a fun and confidence building environment including: listening and reacting to others (the main skill in acting!), improvisation, becoming a character, text work (monologues, duologues and group pieces), voice production and accent training.

Children who attend our acting classes can sometimes be invited by the Principal to audition for West End shows as well as for representation by one of the top London children's performing arts agencies. As most auditions require acting skills, we only consider putting forward to audition our students who attend our fortnightly acting classes. Children who are accepted into the agency will have the opportunity to audition for professional acting (including theatre, TV and film), singing, dancing and musical theatre work (including West End work). So, if your child is keen to be considered for the agency audition, he / she will need to be a part of our acting classes.

Please contact me at [sldsupperschool@gmail.com](mailto:sldsupperschool@gmail.com) if you would like to enrol your child for spring term.

## GYMNASTICS CLASSES

There are still a few spaces available in our **Friday Gym skills (I) class 6.15-7.00pm** and **Gym skills (II) 5.15-6.15pm**. These classes aim to develop flexibility, strength and master gymnastic skills which can be used in dance routines. Please contact me at [sldsupperschool@gmail.com](mailto:sldsupperschool@gmail.com) if you would like further information.

## Fire alarm drills

Over the next term, we will be holding fire drills on various dates so that as many of our students as possible will get a chance to hear the fire alarm and some will practice the full evacuation procedure. Thereafter, a fire drill will take place every six months.

Parents / Guardians of students who have consent slips, please be reminded of the wording below on the consent slip which you have signed your agreement to:

*" . . . you will need to be satisfied that your child is mature and capable enough to know what to do in case of an emergency including exiting the building by themselves in the event of a fire for example."*

This may be an appropriate time to remind your child what they should do in case of a fire alarm. Exit plans can be found in each room upstairs at the studios.

## Injuries

Following an injury we will do our best to communicate with you regarding the safest return to dance class for your child. Please make sure you keep us updated with any medical / physiotherapist appointments so that we can update the teachers. **However, it is the full responsibility of the child's parent / guardian to decide when their child is ready to return to dance classes and only when they are fully fit to dance should this happen.** If a child is only fit to attend some lower impact sections of the class and therefore must refrain from some exercises, then this must be communicated to us by email not less than 3 days before the class. Following their return to classes, your child will be responsible for opting out of exercises they are not fit to do and it will not be the teachers responsibility to guide them. Therefore, if you do not think your child is able to manage their rehabilitation in this way then you or another responsible adult may sit in on their lessons to aid their rehabilitation until they are fully fit to dance in all of the lesson. Also, whilst injured your child should attend and watch all of their classes to limit the amount they will fall behind.

## Absences, Punctuality & Keeping in touch

### ABSENCES

If a child is not preparing for an examination or performance we do not need to be informed if they will miss only one or two lessons. However, please do notify the office if your child will miss three or more lessons in succession.

If a child is preparing for an examination or performance, you must notify the office as soon as you know your child will not be able to attend the lesson or examination practise. In most cases a private lesson will need to be arranged for your child your catch up on the work he / she has missed.

### PUNCTUALITY

It is important your child arrives on time and in the correct uniform for their dance class in order to avoid causing disruption to the running of the class. Children arriving late affects not only the level of focus for the child, but also for the rest of the group, so please do adhere to our 'lateness policy' below:

- If your child is in Melody Movement, Nursery 1 dance, Nursery 2 dance, Preparatory dance and tap, Pre-Primary 1 ballet, Pre-Primary tap, Primary modern (non-examination class) or Junior 'Funky Moves' **they will not be allowed into the class if they are more than 10 minutes late.**
- If your child is 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).**

***NOTE - if your child is late and is preparing for an examination or performance in their class, 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.***



## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

Please ensure that you e-mail me 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, then please let me know.

Thank you for reading. Wishing you a very happy spring term.

**Henry St Clair**

Upper School Administrator

South London Dance School

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