



**SOUTH
LONDON
DANCE
SCHOOL**

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LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER TERM INVOICE NEWSLETTER

15th March 2019

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I am thrilled to begin with some fantastic news that Ruben Garcia, one of our Grade 5 ballet students, has been accepted into the Royal Ballet School. Ruben will begin his full-time training at White Lodge this September. This is an outstanding achievement and all the teachers and staff at SLDS are very proud of him. We will be very sorry for him leave us as he has achieved so much during the nine years he has been with SLDS. We wish him the best of luck with his training and future career. Congratulations Ruben!

Your invoice for summer term

Please find attached your invoice for your child's dance classes at SLDS next term (summer term 2019). As explained in our 7th February newsletter, next term and also the following term (autumn 2019), we will be moving up many of our Lower School children into higher levels. **Please read your invoice carefully so that you are aware of which level(s) you child has been placed.** We have taken great care to ensure each child will be placed in the correct level for their age by this September, and so that they will have the opportunity to take their first dance examination (Primary modern) with their peers. Changes you may notice are:

- Your child may be missing out a whole level in one or more genre(s) e.g. moving from Nursery 1 to Preparatory (therefore missing out Nursery 2), or going straight into Primary modern (II) (therefore missing out Primary modern (I))
- Your child has remained in the same colour set as the current term but the levels of one of more of the genre(s) within that set have changed

Please be assured that the classes listed for your child on the attached invoice are correct, even if they seem to be different to what you were expecting! However, do contact me if you feel anything on your invoice is incorrect. 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.

Please also check the class time and / or day carefully as well as 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 6th April**. 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. 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 16th February**. 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.

Our 2020 Show

I am very pleased to announce that we have confirmed the date and venue for our next full-scale dance show. The performances will take place on **Sunday 5th July 2020** at the Bromley Churchill Theatre. This is an absolutely fantastic venue and we are sure your child will enjoy this wonderful opportunity to perform in a professional theatre! We hope as many of our students in Preparatory and above will want to participate.

In response to recent feedback from you, the parents / guardians, about reducing the level of commitment needed in order to be able to perform in our school shows, we will be keeping Sunday practises during summer term 2020 to an absolute minimum and the only two rehearsals dates for the whole company will be **Sunday 21st June and Sunday 28th June 2020**. We will also have rehearsals all day at the theatre on **Saturday 4th July 2020**. Additionally, those students with main parts in the ballet, will be required to attend some additional Sunday rehearsals during summer term 2020 in order to learn their roles.

Aside from above, as previously explained, all rehearsals will take place in normal dance classes throughout the summer term 2020 and excellent attendance will be required.

Please put these dates in your diary and then further information about the show will be sent to you early next term. We will require a firm commitment from those who want to take part before the end of next term.

Feedback Day

Please see below for feedback opportunities this term with your child's teacher, as outlined in the last newsletter sent 7th February:

THIS SUNDAY 17th MARCH

Miss Chloe - Sunday 17th March 10.00am - 12.00pm

Miss Ellie - Sunday 17th March 10.00am - 12.00pm

Miss Emma - Sunday 17th March 12.30pm - 1.30pm

SUNDAY 24th MARCH

Miss Pippa - Sunday 24th March 10.00am - 11.00am

Miss Taylor - Sunday 24th March 10.00am - 12.00pm

Miss Jennifer - Sunday 24th March 10.30am - 12.00pm

Mr Tony - Sunday 24th March 10.00am - 12.00pm

Miss Zoe - Sunday 24th March 2.00pm - 3.30pm (if you wish to meet Miss Zoe but she does not teach your child then please email me at least 3 days before this date so that I can let her know the nature of your enquiry)

The sheet on which to sign up to see a teacher has already been placed on the main notice board in the waiting room.

- **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.
- 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 16th December**) 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.

Opportunity 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.

Please be reminded that parents / guardians / friends are invited to watch their child's classes **week commencing 25th March** and the teachers look forward to welcoming you into their classes.

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.

Lastly, you may also have noticed that we have put up notices on the studios doors this term to let you know what your child will be learning in their classes this term and, in some cases, the story they are following. We hope you find this useful in talking about dance classes with your child and helping them practise at home. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like any further information.

Mother's Day Weekend Cake Sale - Saturday 30th March 9.30am-2.00pm

To celebrate Mother's Day, as mentioned in our last newsletter, we'd like to encourage all of our families to get baking in order to be a part of our cake sale on **Saturday 30th March!** The sale will be kindly organised by our Festival Team parents and we will again be raising money for Demelza hospice care for children. As many of you know, we already raise money for this great cause via our regular second-hand uniform sales.

Please support this worthy cause by dropping off some NUT FREE tasty treats in the waiting room on Friday 29th March between 10.00am and 8.30pm, or from 8.30am on the Saturday morning. We would very much appreciate your help in providing stock to sell as we anticipate there will be quite a lot of interest in our stall and this a great way to raise money for charity. Additionally, if you are able to volunteer your time to help man the cake stall, please email me, sldslowerschool@gmail.com to make arrangements for a helper's rota. Thank you very much for your support with this event.

The cake sale will be held in the waiting room on **Saturday 30th March 9.30am-2.00pm**. We do hope you will support this event and enjoy eating some yummy cakes as a lovely start to Mother's Day weekend!

English National Ballet: My First Ballet - Sleeping Beauty

We thought you might like to know that ENB are putting on an adapted version of Sleeping Beauty at The Peacock Theatre 16th - 27th April. This is a wonderful opportunity to give children from age 3 upwards a first taste of the magical world of ballet. With a narrator to help the young audience follow the story, and a shortened version of Tchaikovsky's gorgeous music, this is the perfect introduction to the beauty of ballet, and a fantastic family day out. Please follow this link to find out more <https://www.ballet.org.uk/production/my-first-ballet-sleeping-beauty/>

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.

Diary Dates

This term ends on Saturday 6th April.

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

Second hand school uniform sale - Saturday 27th April 9.30-1.30pm

Summer term feedback day - TBC

Acting class dates - 12th May, 19th May, 9th June, 23rd June, 30th June, 7th July

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

Dulwich Fair performance - Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and boys (II) commercial / street classes to perform - Sunday 19th May - 2.00pm

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

Examination dates - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 7th July

Summer School - 5th - 9th August

AUTUMN TERM 2019 DATES (12 weeks)

Saturday 7th September - Friday 18th October

Half term - Saturday 19th October to Friday 2nd November (2 weeks off but 3 Saturdays off)

Monday 4th November - Saturday 14th December

Class observation week for Nursery, Preparatory, Pre-Primary 1 (I) and Junior Funky Moves classes only - w/c Monday 2nd Dec

Autumn term feedback day - TBC

Acting class dates - TBC

SPRING TERM 2020 DATES (12 weeks)

Monday 6th January - Saturday 15th February

Half term - Sunday 16th February to Sunday 23rd February

Monday 24th February - Saturday 4th April

Class observation week for Pre-Primary 1 ballet (II), Pre-Primary tap (II) & Primary modern (II) plus (*please note: from 2020, this week will be in spring term, not summer term as it has been previously*) - w/c Monday 3rd February

Class observation week for Nursery, Preparatory, Pre-Primary 1 (I) and Junior Funky Moves classes only - w/c Monday 23rd March

Spring term feedback day - TBC

Acting class dates - TBC

Proposed examination dates - Sunday 22nd - Friday 27th March (all dates TBC)

SUMMER TERM 2020 DATES (12 weeks)

Saturday 18th April - Friday 22nd May (5 weeks)

Half term Saturday 23rd - Friday 29th May

Saturday 30th May - Friday 17th July (7 weeks)

Class observation week for children in Nursery only (*parents / guardians of children in Preparatory, Pre-Primary 1 (I) and Junior Funky Moves classes will NOT be invited to watch classes during this term as the children will have the opportunity to perform in the school show in July*) - w/c Saturday 4th July

Summer term feedback day - TBC

Acting class dates - TBC

Show rehearsals - Sunday 21st June, Sunday 28th June & Saturday 4th July

Show performances at Bromley Churchill Theatre - Sunday 5th July (performance times TBC)

Summer School - TBC

Thank you for reading, enjoy the rest of the spring term.

Best wishes

Verena Leonardini

Lower School Administrator - South London Dance School

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