



**SOUTH
LONDON
DANCE
SCHOOL**

130 Herne Hill, London SE24 9QL
www.southlondondanceschool.co.uk
tel. 020 7978 8624

Lower School Newsletter (Spring term invoices) 20th November 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to start with the wonderful news that one of our senior students, Jasmin Gillott, has won the ISTD Senior Tap Bursary Awards! This means the Tap Faculty have chosen Jasmin to represent them in the Bursary awards 2020, how exciting! Our festival team has also had a great start to the season with some fantastic results and lots of medals! Check out our Instagram @south_london_dance_school and Facebook www.facebook.com/southlondondanceschool to enjoy them in action!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of upcoming important dates and information for the remainder of the autumn term, so please do take the time to read the relevant sections on the next few pages. . .

Invoices for spring term 2020

You will find attached your invoice for dance classes at SLDS next term (spring term 2020).

Your invoice is your first notification of the appropriate class(es) for your child for next term (spring term 2020 starting after Christmas), so please read it carefully. Please 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 **Sunday 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 **Friday 18th 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 the 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.

Studio and uniform reminders

If your child attends a modern lesson and chooses to wear tights, they must be **convertible** so that they can have bare feet to dance.

Please be reminded that the boys changing room is only to be used for our male students and for male carers helping younger girls to get changed. We have received feedback from parents that the boys changing room is becoming overcrowded due to female carers changing girls in there, resulting in there being no space for male carers to change their child. If you are female carer changing a girl then please use the girls changing room so that male carers have this designated space to use. Thank you for your co-operation.

SLDS big dance show in July 2020 - Final chance to take part

As most of you are aware, we will be presenting a big, exciting show at The Churchill Theatre, Bromley on Sunday 5th July next year. ALL of our students in Preparatory level and above are eligible to perform if they wish. If you have not yet applied for your child to take part in this fabulous opportunity and they would like to, then please do not hesitate to contact our kind parent helper, Ros, on sldsperformances@gmail.com. The final chance to apply to be in our school show is **Monday 2nd December**. Some of you will have already received the show letter earlier this week and some will be sent it later this week; please read it carefully as it contains important detail about the level of commitment required for your family.

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) (Saturday children starting classes at 11.20 dark blue, yellow and green sets and Monday 4-5.30 Miss Tilly's classes) levels only.

Please be reminded that parents / guardians / friends are invited to watch their child's classes **week commencing Monday 2nd December** 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.

Autumn term feedback opportunities

Please see below for this term's opportunity to receive feedback from your child's teacher:

Friday 6th December

Miss Tilly 5.00-6.00pm (this date has been altered since the previous newsletter - please let me know if this change causes a problem for anyone)

Sunday 8th December

Miss Marina 10.30-11.30am

Miss Natasha 10.30-12.00pm

Miss Lucy 10.30-12.00pm

Miss Emma 11.00-1.00pm (if you wish to meet Miss Emma as Acting Principal 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)

Miss Grace 11.30-12.30pm

Miss Ellie 12.00 -2.00pm

Mr. Tony 12.00-2.00pm

Miss Jenny 12.30-2.30pm

Miss Helen 1.30-3.00pm

Miss Michelle 1.30-2.30pm

Monday 9th December

Miss Ciera 6.30-7.30pm

The sheet to sign up to see your child's teacher is going on the notice board on **Monday 25th Nov** on the notice board in the waiting room. When you come to sign up for feedback day, you will see a list of all lower school classes including teacher's names on the 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). 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 (**July 2019**) 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.

School Sweaters

We have recently had several parents ask when the next sweater order will be, as they were hoping to purchase one as a Christmas present. As we have only just received an order and a minimum order is required, unfortunately we cannot guarantee that we will receive enough orders to be able to place another order to arrive before Christmas. However, if you would like to order a school sweater, please hand your forms in by **Thursday 28th November**, and we will do our best to get them for you before Christmas (but please note that this is not guaranteed and you may have to wait a while until we reach the minimum number of orders).

These fashionable sweaters come in a choice of TWO colours - pink/white and black/grey.

If you'd like to order a sweater then please download the order form - <https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SLDS-Sweater-Order-Form-27062018.pdf> and 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. Thank you.

Wi-Fi Password

Please feel free to help yourselves to our guest Wi-Fi:

Name: Guest South London Dance Studios

Password: SLDSguest

There are also signs in the waiting room with the password on, enjoy!

Class availability for spring term

We have some spaces in our fun Junior Funky Moves class which gives boys rising 5 to 7 years the chance to learn current commercial dance styles to up to date music in a lively and fun environment. Boys improve their ability to learn new routines quickly and also develop their strength and flexibility.

Junior Funky Moves - Thursday 4.15-4.45pm - £70 for the 12 week term

Please contact me on sldslowerschool@gmail.com to book your place.

ACTING CLASSES

We have a few spaces left in our Sunday acting class next term:

4.30-5.30pm - Acting (I) for children from 4-7 years (£59.00 for the 6 lessons next term)

Class dates for spring term are:

Acting (I) class - dates - 5th , 12th , 19th Jan and 8, 22, 29th March

This class is taught by Lorraine Spenceley who has many years teaching and directing experience. In this class 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, voice techniques and short dialogue work. Children in this class embark on adventures to faraway lands with the teacher which encourages them to be creative and use their imagination. This class also helps to develop students' social interactions and emotional skills in a fun and explorative way.

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 sldslowerschool@gmail.com if you would like to enrol your child for autumn term

ADULT CLASSES

We would like to let you know that we have a few spaces left in the following adult tap classes:

Adult Tap (I) - Thursday 8.45-9.45pm - if you've done a very little bit of basic tap before

Adult Tap (III) - Thursday 9.00-10.00pm - if you've done basic tap in the past for a year or so

Please contact our adult students' Administrator, Verena, sldsadultclasses@gmail.com, if you would like to enrol in any of these classes.

Diary Dates

Last day of Autumn Term is Sunday 15th December

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

SPRING TERM 2020 DATES (12 weeks)

Monday 6th January - Sunday 16th February

Half term - Mon 17th to Sun 23rd Feb

Monday 24th February - Sunday 5th April

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

Acting dates 5th, 12th, 19th January and 8th, 22nd, 29th March

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

SUMMER TERM 2020 DATES (12 weeks)

Saturday 18th April - Friday 22nd May

Half term - Sat 23rd to Fri 29th May

Saturday 30th May - Sunday 19th July

THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES ON SATURDAY 4TH JULY DUE TO SHOW REHEARSALS IN THEATRE

Class observation week for children in Nursery only - w/c Saturday 11th July

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

Show performances at Bromley Churchill Theatre - Sunday 5th July (performance times 2pm and 6.30pm)

Acting dates TBC

Summer School - TBC

Keep warm everyone and enjoy the remainder of the autumn term!

Best Wishes,

Verena Leonardini

Lower School Administrator - South London Dance School

South London Dance School

[130 Herne Hill, London, SE24 9QL](https://www.southlondondanceschool.co.uk)

020 7978 8624

www.southlondondanceschool.co.uk