

Dear Parent or Guardian,

All of the staff at SLDS are very pleased that we have finally reached the point at which we can welcome everybody back to our wonderful dance school and we can't wait to see all of you next week. This term is going to be different, but our teachers have some fantastic ideas to help your child to re-discover the joy of dance, not to mention how lovely it will be for our students to once again see their dance friends.

Thank you to those who have already paid their invoice for next term. For those of you who have not yet got around to it, I would like to politely request that you ensure payment is made today (the due date) so that we can be as efficient as possible with our time next week when there will be many other factors on which to focus.

We are doing everything we can to keep your child safe and so now I ask that you take the time to read the information in this letter fully and carefully, as every aspect requires your understanding and cooperation. Additionally, below I will be asking you to look back over previous information which has been sent to you to remind yourself of the details before attending the studios next week.

H&S reminders

- ***'New Day to Day Procedures Document September 2020'*** was sent to you with your invoice for this term. As well as information about social distancing and reduction in spread of the virus, it details drop off / collection arrangements for children and arrival / departure arrangements for senior and adult students. I attach this document again for ease of reference as it is important that everyone re-reads this document before attending the studios next week. Remember you must arrive at the rear gate 15 minutes before the lesson start time unless your group is an exception as detailed on the document.
- Please remember that all students must arrive at the studios in their dance uniform (with outdoor clothes over the top) and their hair in appropriate style for their class(es). Students should carry with them the smallest possible bag but which can fit ALL of their belongings (including outdoor clothes and shoes), containing:
 - hand sanitiser to be used before entering and exiting the building and before and after barre and floor work
 - named bottle of water
 - dance shoes for ALL classes (no bare feet will be permitted)
- As you are aware, we have introduced four new clauses into our ***Terms and Conditions*** and in particular, I would like to remind you about the two clauses below:

3. South London Dance School accepts no liability in the event that someone who has attended the studio premises contracts Covid-19 (or any other infectious disease). If your child or anyone else in your household has an underlying health condition which means they / you would be at higher risk of being severely ill if they / you were to contract Covid-19, or has to shield for any other reason, then at this stage, we do not recommend your child attends dance classes as although we are mitigating risk as much as possible including implementing rigorous cleaning and social distancing, obviously your child will be inside with a number of people and there is still limited research about spread in indoor exercise environments.

4a. If your child has symptoms / suspected / confirmed of Covid-19 (or any other infectious disease) then you agree to inform us immediately so that we can inform the rest of your 'bubble'. This also applies if a member of your child's family or someone with whom they have been in close contact has symptoms.

4b. Your child must not attend classes if they have Covid-19 symptoms:

- high temperature - 38 degrees C and above
- persistent dry cough
- loss of / change to sense of taste / smell
- shortness of breath

This also applies if a member of the family or someone with whom they have been in close contact has symptoms, or if they have been advised by NHS Test & Trace as 'a close contact' to isolate at home.

4c. If your child develops any or all of the above Covid-19 symptoms while in the school, then they must notify the teacher and make arrangements to return home immediately.

- We also have in place a new *Infection Control Policy* (copies available upon request), but would like to share with you the section below:

It is the responsibility of parents / guardians to report as follows:

- Inform SLDS administration team if their child has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 or any other infectious disease. This also applies if a member of your child's family or someone with whom they have been in close contact has symptoms.

It is the responsibility of children in lessons to report as follows:

- If you develop any Covid-19 symptoms while in the school, then you must notify your teacher immediately.

- Our most recent newsletter requested you to do below and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of these general but highly important points now, before the start of term:

- Take time to remind your child about effective Hand Washing (*Hand Washing Instructions* were attached with your invoice and copies have been placed at handwashing locations inside the building)

- Remind your child to cough / sneeze into their elbow and to try not to touch their face.
- Students' dance clothes must be washed after each wear and then not worn elsewhere before the class

Show update

Unfortunately, we have recently heard that Bromley Churchill Theatre is remaining closed until at least February. This is extremely sad news as it means our show date will have to be postponed again. As the Churchill is already fully booked for the rest of next year, we have started looking at other venues for later in 2021 and already have some fantastic possibilities to explore.

We realise this will be very disappointing news for many of our students who were so looking forward to performing and hoping the show would go ahead in January. If it's any consolation, our teachers feel the same.

Rest assured this show WILL go on, but in the meantime, the teachers are busy adjusting their lesson content for next term to make sure their classes are both enjoyable and beneficial.

In view of this, once we have a date for our show to take place, then we may find it necessary to adjust timings of examinations next year. We will update you as soon as possible.

Autumn term examinations update

I am very pleased to confirm examination dates for this term which is for those students who chose to reschedule their examination from our March session. The confirmed dates are:

Sunday 27th September - Ballet examinations

Monday 28th September, Thursday 1st October, Friday 2nd October, Sunday 4th October - Tap and Modern examinations

On the subject of examinations, I am sure you will join me in congratulating our Examinations Administrator, Ciera, on her pregnancy! Her baby is due in January so she will continue in her role until the end of this term. We are very happy to hear her wonderful news and wish her well during her pregnancy.

Purple catsuit ordering deadline

The uniform for girls in Grade 4-6 and Inter Foundation modern is a purple catsuit. If your daughter is in these grades and needs a new catsuit, please use the information attached to order. It is important that your daughter's purple catsuit fits properly, is not faded and does not have any holes in it, so please check this now so that you can order one if necessary.

If your daughter is taking her Grade 3 modern examination in the upcoming session, or is moving up to Grade 4 modern this term, you will need to order a purple catsuit for her examination and / or for her to wear in her modern classes going forwards.

The deadline to place your order is **Monday 31st August**.

Medical updates

Please contact us if you need to inform us about any new physical (including injuries) or mental health conditions your child may be experiencing since they last attended classes with us, or provide an update about any situation of which we are already aware.

In particular with regard to injuries, we need very clear information to be provided (ideally from a dance physiotherapist) about what your child can / cannot do in their classes.

Other news / information

- The new front door code 2512a (i.e. Christmas day plus 'a'), but bear in mind that you would only need it in an emergency situation because entry is currently only permitted through the back door.
- Term dates can be found on website <https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/general-information/term-dates/> (but please bear in mind that 2021 examination dates are likely to change)
- There will be no feedback day this term due to Covid-19, but rest assured our team would contact you if they had any concerns about your child.
- With a heavy heart I have to announce that our long-standing commercial / street teacher, Dan Keen, has left us in order to set up his own dance school nearer to where he lives. Dan has been such an important part of our Thursday evening sessions for many years and we will very much miss his energy, sense of humour and fantastic choreography. It's a shame it has not been possible for our students to

say goodbye to Dan in person but if anyone would like to write a message to him then please email Tilly, your administrator, and she will pass it on to him. We wish Dan the best of luck in his new venture and thank him for all his hard work at SLDS.

- In more positive news, we are very pleased to let you know:
 - One of our Grade 3 ballet students, Lula Garcia, has gained a place on the prestigious Royal Ballet Junior Associates course. We know Lula is very excited to get started on the program next week. This is a fantastic achievement for Lula and we wish her the best of luck.
 - The SLDS Effort Trophy for spring and summer term 2020 was awarded to Amelia Stiebel who is in Grade 3. Well done Amelia for working so hard in all of your classes both in the studios and online, you are a much-deserved winner!
 - The end of term musical theatre Zoom workshop taught by West End Professional Luke Redmore and for those students who participated in our online classes last term, went down a storm! We were very proud of how well our students picked up the new styles of choreography and their enthusiasm.
 - The overall winner of our Summer Holiday Performance Challenge will be announced on Instagram on 31st August. We have had some absolutely brilliant entries and Miss Zoe and I have really enjoyed watching them. It's fantastic to see some of our students in full performance mode and loving dancing, wherever that may be in the world! Unfortunately, we did not receive entries across all of the age categories and therefore, not all of the prizes will be awarded.

Second hand uniform sale - Sunday 6th September

Our next volunteer-led second hand uniform sale will be in the car park / undercover area at the rear of the studios for two hours from **10am 'til 12pm on Sunday 6th September.**

In order to mitigate Covid-19 related risks the sale will operate as follows:

Donations

You can drop off any items for the sale on 31st August (from 2.00pm onwards), 1st and 2nd September. There will be a box in the undercover area at the side of the studios. The code for the rear staff car park gate is 3110. Please take care when entering and exiting in case staff / maintenance workers are using it for their vehicle.

We will not be able to accept any donations for 6th September sale after 2nd September, because they need to be quarantined for three days, prior to being sorted and priced by our small volunteer team.

Uniform can be (i) donated, in which case it does not need to be priced or labelled, or (ii) parents can receive 50% of the proceeds. If you wish to share the proceeds, please use the uniform sale labels, attached, to provide your details and price.

Time slots for sale attendance

In order to manage numbers in the car park, we will be allocating time slots. If you wish to buy any items of uniform, please email sldsuniformsale@yahoo.com to request a time slot to attend the sale and let us have a list of the uniform items and sizes that you require. We will try to collate those items ahead of the sale.

Sale operations

1. **Please wear a mask.** We will not be able to serve anyone who is not wearing a mask.
2. It will not be possible to try on clothing items or ballet shoes.
3. Please ensure socks/tights are worn if trying on tap and/or national shoes. We will clean shoes with an anti-bacterial wipe before and after shoes are tried on.
4. If you need additional items on the day, then the volunteer team will look through the available stock for the relevant size. It will not be possible for parents/students to rummage through sale stock.
5. Please do not arrive more than 15 mins before your time slot.
6. Please wait in the car park, in a socially distanced fashion, until called to the sale table.
7. We will serve families in accordance with their booked time slot.
8. We are investigating contactless payment options, but at this time we anticipate to only be able to take cash payments. Please bring small denomination notes and coins.

Finally, please don't forget to help your child to research the dancer after whom their bubble group has been named, for discussion in their first lesson next week.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with your Administrator, Tilly Rayner, if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Best Wishes,
Miss Zoe

Principal
South London Dance School