



Lower School - Start of Term newsletter - 30th August 2024

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you've had a great summer holiday and you and your children are ready for the new academic year. Today is the last day of our summer school for Reception to Year 2 children and it has been a wonderful week of dancing, singing, crafting and making friends and lovely memories.

During the summer break, the teachers and I have been busy planning for the autumn term. I realise everyone is very busy as the new academic year approaches, but I hope you can make time to read through, so that you are aware of events and information for this term and the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new students that we have joining us this term. I hope you enjoy your first term with us and hope you have many happy years dancing at SLDS.

Overview of dates this term

THIS SUNDAY (1st September) 10am-12pm - second hand uniform sale (run by parent volunteers)

- The sale will take place in studio 3 - use the new front door code to get in through the front door. The back gate and back door codes remain the same.
- Please refer to the email that was sent yesterday for more information. Please note that sale will take place this Sunday 1st September, not Monday 2nd September.

Monday 2nd September - term starts

- Please check your invoice from lowerschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk for the class days and times for your child.
- New front door code will be in use. **Given the shocking event in Southport over the summer, we ask that everyone is extremely vigilant about not letting in anyone who they do not know and also ensuring the back door is shut behind them.** Thank you for your cooperation.
- We are very pleased to welcome back Miss Tilly - she will be teaching Stretch & Technique on a Monday. We also welcome our new Saturday assistant, Miss Jaz, who is an ex-SLDS student.
- We welcome back Ciera as our examinations administrator, and thank Miss Kayley for all her hard work last year whilst Ciera was on maternity leave.
- Our Upper School theme for the term will be about motivation to do independent practice.

Week commencing Monday 23rd September - bun demonstration week

During this week, at the start of Pre-Primary (I) to Grade 1 ballet classes, we will be providing several demonstrations of how to do a classical ballet bun for parents / carers of children. More information will be sent to you nearer the time.

Week commencing Monday 4th November - Healthy Eating week

Last year, we focused on what makes a balanced diet and so this year, we will be teaching the children about suitable food choices to give them energy for dancing. All chats will be age appropriate, however, if you do not wish your child to be involved in this part of their all-round dance education the please inform us **before the half term break**. If your child usually brings a snack to their session, then it would be great if they could bring with them a healthy snack which they can show to the rest of their group on **Saturday 9th November**.

Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd November - Opportunity for parents / carers of children in Preparatory and Pre-Primary (I) classes to watch

Further information will be sent to you nearer the time, but please be aware that 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. Therefore, please organise child care for siblings in advance if needed, or contact us if you have any queries.

Sunday 1st December - Feedback day - times and more information will be sent nearer the time

Monday 2nd to Saturday 7th December - Lower School children are invited to wear anything they like for classes, Christmas themed items are welcomed!

Monday 9th to Saturday 14th December - wear tinsel your hair for Christmas week!

Saturday 14th December - last day of term

Sunday 15th December - times TBC - Children's Christmas parties!

Looking ahead to spring and summer terms 2025

I know many families will already be thinking about their next holiday (!) so please ensure you take note of relevant dates, so that your child doesn't miss out on any opportunities.

Term dates are on our website - <https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/general-information/term-dates/>

Our summer show is confirmed for **Sunday 29th June 2024** at Catford Broadway Theatre. This will be a full-scale show and all children who are in Pre-Primary and above will be invited to perform. A show information letter will be sent to you ahead of the October half term break, in the meantime, please save the following dates:

Sunday 8th June, Sunday 15th June (note - this is Father's Day), Sunday 22nd June and Saturday 28th June.

Arrival, changing & waiting

- Bicycles, e-bikes and e-scooters may be stored in the side area of the building and can be locked to the bicycle hoops. However, e-bikes and e-scooters must NOT be stored near to the accessible toilet at the far end of the side area. Lithium batteries on e-bikes and e-scooters must be genuine makes, regularly serviced and kept in good condition. Under no circumstances may any bicycles, e-bikes, scooters or e-scooters be stored inside the building, also they must NOT be stored in staff car park near to the back door to the studios as this is an emergency exit route.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with below:

- To relieve corridor congestion and meet H&S requirements, please do not change your child in the corridor - we have two changing rooms upstairs. Also, with the exception of Melody Movement classes, please don't leave any outdoor coats and shoes in the corridor as it's a fire exit route which must be kept clear.
- Please wait in the upstairs waiting room, rather than on the stairs or in the downstairs corridor.
- Regarding the changing rooms, please note that female carers with young boys should use the girls changing room and male carers with young girls should use the boys changing room. Please contact us if you have any questions about this.
- Please do not bring buggies in corridor unless the child inside the buggy is asleep (you can enter via the back gate and bring a bicycle lock to lock your buggy to the hoops in side return).

Breaks between classes

For children in our Saturday Pre-Primary (I) classes, please ensure that you read the information that has been sent to you previously about suitable, light, nut free snacks and also send your child with a bottle of water. Further information can be found here: <https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/South-London-Dance-School-nut-products-policy-1.pdf>

Uniform & hair

Please refer to our uniform list for what your child needs to wear:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SLDS-LOWER-SCHOOL-UNIFORM-LIST-13082024.pdf>

Please ensure you name all uniform items and shoes, especially shoes and any uniform items which are removed in class.

- Tap shoes are vital for start of term otherwise children cannot dance in those lessons for H&S reasons.

- Please ensure hair is in a classical ballet bun for girls in Pre-Primary (I) ballet plus. Our ballet teachers will be doing 'bun demonstrations' in the first 10 minutes of classes from **Monday 23rd to Saturday 28th September** for children in Pre-Primary ballet. Please ensure your child does NOT have a long fringe or any hanging sections of hair over their face as it makes it impossible to use correct eye focus. Your child should wear a hairband which matches colour of leotard and / or use kirby grips.
- **Lavender ballet skirts for Pre-Primary ballet**
Please ensure you have sewn 2 tucks into your child's Matilda Roch Valley ballet skirt to ensure it fits tightly on the waist, not hips - instructions on how to do this can be found below:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/4/folders/18dyWg749hrdz8qUxXR13NKz05aoOqpJ4>
- Pre-Primary (I) children - please refer to the '*Further Information about Pre-Primary*' email which was sent to you last week from sldslowerschool@gmail.com

Absences and punctuality

Please note that our lateness policy is effective from **Monday 16th September**:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/South-London-Dance-School-Lateness-Policy-31082021.pdf>

We do not need to be informed if your child will miss only one or two lessons. However, please do notify the office if your child will miss three or more lessons in succession. Thank you for your cooperation.

Injuries, allergies, illnesses, other medical conditions & SEND

- In order to ensure the safety of our students, it is of the utmost importance that parents / carers inform us of any allergies or illnesses their child may have, so that we have this on record in case of any medical emergency.
- If your child suffers from any medical condition or has been / is in the process of being assessed for SEND and you have not already informed us, then please contact me **by 9am on Monday 2nd September** so this can be noted on your child's record and so that our teachers can provide the best possible support for your child.
- If your child carries with them an epi-pen, or any other medication which we might need to administer, then please contact me **by 9am on Monday**. Likewise, if your child no longer needs their medication, then please let us know immediately.
- If your child has suffered an injury over the Summer break, or has a pre-existing injury, then we **MUST** be notified **by 9am on Monday** so that teachers can be informed and a decision about participation in classes can be reached.

Children's dance parties

We can offer dance parties on Sunday's during term time and any day (subject to availability of teachers) during school holiday periods. One of our experienced and / or qualified dance teachers will lead a fun dance party for your child and his / her friends. The children learn a dance routine of any dance genre to their chosen piece of music which they can perform to parents at the end. For more information, contact infosouthlondondanceschool@gmail.com

To stay up to date with events happening at our school, follow us on social media:

Facebook - @southlondondanceschool

Instagram - @south_london_dance_school

Best wishes for a fantastic autumn term - we can't wait to see all of our students again!

Miss Zoe

Principal

South London Dance School