



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 6

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In extending you all good wishes for the New Year it is clear it has not got off to quite the start we expected. We have had to be somewhat reactive rather than proactive and I cannot commend the staff highly enough for the efforts they have made in the current very wintry weather conditions. A number of our staff live significant distances away from the school and all class teachers have made it in to work as have the vast majority of support staff. This has enabled St James the Great to remain open throughout the current difficult weather conditions and know from comments received that this has been appreciated. In our view it is also the appropriate work ethic message to give to the children. They have been reminded, for example, that they can only get their day to day supplies from the shops due to the ongoing work of a lot of people. I also thank Mrs Parfitt and Mrs Shakespeare for maintaining, with their teams, the pre and post school provision respectively for those who have needed it.

We have had high levels of attendance overall, albeit with some arriving later than usual and leaving earlier than usual. We would ask that children attending during these inclement weather periods endeavour to get in to school on time. There is a strong suspicion of 'lie ins' with those arriving past morning break!! Thanks to Sheila Williams for providing hot chocolate at morning break; the children certainly appeared to have welcomed this. We have been cautious with our limited salt stocks but Les and Joe have done well to keep access to the school open. Year 4 also did us proud by going, as planned, to the parish morning Mass at St Bartholomew's on Thursday. They were made very welcome and parishioners seemed to be pleased they had made the effort.

PLEASE ADVISE US

On the second day of the bad weather we responded to requests to get information about the school operating out as early as possible. We now put an indicative message on the website the night before which is updated at approximately 7.15 am. To those families for whom we have a mobile contact number a text message is sent as soon after 7.30 am as possible to update school opening information.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.
 WINDSOR ROAD · THORNTON HEATH · SURREY CR7 8HJ
 TEL: 020 8771 3424 (2 Lines) · FAX: 020 8771 00



The latest batch of snow this week caught us a little unaware and the messaging was later than would normally have been the case. However, the website message indicated that school was open unless parents were advised otherwise and this should be taken as the standing message. It would be helpful if every family could complete the slip attached to this Newsletter to confirm the position with regard to receipt of information via this route and to update details where necessary. The success rate of texts is high but not yet 100% and the timing of receipt of messages is dependent on your mobile phones being on. Some late messages were delivered past 12 noon when phones were switched on! Finally, when looking at our website remember to refresh the page when going in to the site, as some computers 'cache' the page and this may then not bring up the most recently updated page.

OTHER NEWS

With the disrupted start to the term there is not much additional news to report. We were pleased to see the replacement carpet to the Reception and Key Stage 2 areas completed during the break. Other minor works also took place including the maintenance of all external guttering. Some minor maintenance works were carried out on the school coach and my thanks to Joe Anoff for organising this. Accordingly we are ready for 'Business as Usual' as soon as the weather allows!

LENT – EARLY MORNING MASS

I am pleased to confirm that our Priests have once again agreed to celebrate Mass with us at 8.30 am every Tuesday during Lent. All are welcome to attend these celebrations which will take place in the Music Room commencing Tuesday 23rd February.

We are arranging the traditional Penitential week for Years 4, 5 and 6 in the week beginning 22nd March. During this period children will be offered opportunities for individual Reconciliation and again I would thank our Priests for making themselves available to provide this support.

REMINDER – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You will have noted from the annual date list that we will be attending Stations of the Cross at St Andrew's Church, Brook Road, at 7.00 pm on Friday 19th March. This Service will be led by Year 6 and all pupils in Years 3 to 6 are expected to attend. Younger children may attend but should remain with their parents. We hope as many families as possible will join us for this occasion.

PUNCTUALITY

Whilst overall the school has a good record in regard to pupil punctuality, it has become noticeable recently that, apart from the weather, there has been slippage in this area with a number of regular arrivals around 9.30 am. This is both unsettling for the children concerned and for the remainder of pupils in the class who are disturbed by late arrivals. This is advance notice that we are monitoring this situation closely and if necessary will communicate directly with individuals.

CLASS 4.2 ASSEMBLY – CHANGE OF DATE

Please note Class 4.2's Assembly will now take place on Thursday 4th February and not Thursday 14th January as previously advised. Please amend your date list accordingly.

HELP NEEDED

Do you have spare time on Monday afternoons and, if so, would you be willing and able to help out in Year 2 by listening to the children read? If you are interested please hand your details into the school office.

MR ANDREW BROWN

Most of you will know Mr Brown who has worked at this school in a part-time capacity for many years and which for a period included piano accompaniment. Please keep Andrew in your prayers as he is currently seriously ill in a Paris hospital after being taken ill during a visit to France just after we broke up for the Christmas break. Once any further information is received we will relay this to you. Thank you, I know he will appreciate your kindness.

EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGING

Child(ren)'s Name: Class:
..... Class:
..... Class:

(Please delete as appropriate.)

1. I confirm that I received the early morning text messages regarding the school being open during the recent bad weather and the appropriate mobile number is being used.
2. a) I did not receive any text messages regarding the school being open during the recent bad weather.
b) Please ensure future messages are sent to the following number:
3. a) I received the text messages but wish the number for future messages to be changed to:
.....
b) Please send messages to the following additional mobile numbers:-
.....

Signed: (Parent/Guardian)