



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

No 1

September 2011

Welcome back to all families. We hope you have had a good break in spite of the very changeable weather over the summer. Thank you for the postcards you have sent from a very varied range of destinations home and abroad. These will be shared with the children with a central and classroom displays being organised. Thank you also for the efforts made in regard to school uniform. The children came back very smartly turned out which hopefully can be maintained at least at the start of each day! Holiday activities in school - gym, art and football - were all well supported as were the joint activities with St Cyprian's and we hope parents found these opportunities useful. I am waiting information re. Book Trail activities but it appears a good number of our children participated again – well done to all participants. As I noted in the final newsletter last year the summer break always sees a range of maintenance works carried out. Thanks are due to Mr Parry and his cleaning team for their efforts. Les spent some time cleaning the gutters and blue panels around the school and this has certainly improved the overall look of the outside of the building. Alterations to the sink area in the reception classrooms along with new role play equipment have improved their resources. Eleven of our classroom interactive whiteboards have been upgraded and refurbished so the school is now standardised with the latest Cleverboards 3's, which will make for easier use and interactivity. Work on the hall blinds and the installation of blinds to the four remaining junior classrooms and the infant classrooms has been actioned during the break. The pathway by the pond area has been uplifted which will hopefully prevent it flooding. We will have to wait and see – but we are happy to wait for the rain!! Our holocaust memorial area has now been tidied and two benches located by the area one in memory of Mr Andrew Brown. I must also extend much appreciation to our Friends Association who, with your support, have again funded items we, as a school would not have been able to provide. As we broke up at the end of the summer term our reception and Nursery classes saw new sand pits installed with sliding covers that provide a play stage area. We have four external table tennis tables now in place that come with a number of bats and balls and new wall games have been fitted to the end of the junior building. These will be available at playtime and hopefully for a table tennis club in due course. Delivery of the new Minibus funded by the Friends is now eagerly awaited. This provision reflects the Association's very prudent fund raising and hard work. I very much hope you will all continue to support their efforts as much as possible. The dividends for the school and your children are evident. I also understand the four summer holiday seaside trips all went well as did the trip to the theatre to see The Wizard of Oz. Special thanks to Juliet Goulding for all her work organising these events and well done to Bridie Willis and all the committee. Here's to a good year ahead for the school and the Friends

I would like to thank the significant number of parents and staff who attended the funeral Mass of Sally Lehane, a very long-serving mid-day supervisor here at St James the Great. She was a lovely lady and will be sadly missed from the lunchtime team. The family are supporting St Christopher's Hospice and if anyone wishes to make a donation they can be made through school up until half term. Donations should be sent in an envelope marked "St Christopher's Hospice". Details of donations received will be notified to the family and confirmed in a Newsletter after half term.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.
WINDSOR ROAD · THORNTON HEATH · SURREY CR7 8HJ
TEL: 020 8771 3424 (2 Lines) · FAX: 020 8771 0065



AT LAST – We have just received good news that following two amended planning submissions, all of which has taken over a year, Croydon Council have at last approved our application to provide an extension to the school for improved pre and after school provision that will also be available to the school during session times. Thanks are due to Sterling Builders, the appointed contractors, who have persevered with the Council on our behalf over this matter. We will now proceed with these works which are due to commence in January and will keep you updated accordingly.

Nursery 2012 Admissions

The closing date for receipt of registration forms for Nursery 2012 admission is 21 October which is significantly earlier than in previous years. The registration form can be obtained via the school office or downloaded from our website (www.stjamesthegreat.org) and should be returned together with copies of your child's birth and baptismal certificates.

Reception 2012 Admissions

The admissions process for this cohort will soon begin and, for those families with children in our Nursery and who are resident in the London Borough of Croydon, we aim to provide a copy of the Common Application form for completion and return to Taberner House. Families who are resident in other boroughs should obtain this form from their home local authority. In all cases, completion of this form and other paperwork this school requires is necessary in order to make a valid application.

KEEP FIT CLASSES

Christmas is coming! Why not get fit for the festive season by joining Lizzie's Monday evening Keep Fit sessions starting at 7.15 pm until 8.15 pm. The cost is £3.50 per session payable weekly. I am reliably informed that these are enjoyable, fun sessions.

OPEN EVENINGS

We would draw your attention to the fact that details of this term's Open Evenings have been advised. Please note Years 1, 2 and 3 will be on Wednesday 21st September and Years 4, 5 and 6 will be on Tuesday 20th September. Nursery and Reception evenings take place later in the term.

EARLY CLOSE – FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2011

Please note that at the request of the Dean Croydon Catholic Primary Schools will be closing at 1 pm on this day to enable all staff to undertake in-service training in connection with the current changes to the liturgy of the Mass. Please ensure your child is collected promptly on this day as the training for staff is taking place off-site.

REQUEST FOR PARENT HELPERS

We are very fortunate at St James the Great to have a core of regular parent helpers although this is currently concentrated in the Infants. We would like to build a similar team of helpers to support our Junior classes. If this may be of interest to you please send a note in to school indicating the times you are able to offer. This can be as little as an hour a week and it is this kind of regular commitment we are seeking. Please note that parents would not normally be allocated to a class in which they have a child. If you would like further information please contact Miss Bekir directly.

ATTENDANCE

We have upgraded our registration process that now sees registers marked electronically. As this settles down we will start sending a text message on a daily basis requesting confirmation of reason for absence where this does not appear to have been provided. We hope you will bear with us as this system beds down. It will be helpful if absences can be advised promptly by telephone on the first day of absence if possible.

If children are ill in the night it is advisable to give them 24 hours to recover. Sickness resulting from a stomach bug is very quickly transmitted if children return to school too soon. We have already had two children having to be sent home as a result of returning to school too early.

PUNCTUALITY

The vast majority of children are always punctual to school. Please make every effort to see that your children arrive in school on time as this makes for a good start to each day.

PHONE EXTENSIONS

Parents will know when calling the school that they are given a range of options as follows. Press 1 for the school information service, 2 for admin, 3 for Finance (Mrs Spinks), 4 for attendance and admissions queries (Mrs Stock). You can press 0 at any time to get through to the main school office. or the extension number of the person you require. These are:-

1040 – Mrs Marchant
1045 – Miss Almeida (Nursery)
1046 – Mrs Pillay
1047 – Mrs Spinks
1051 – Uniform Shop
1054 – Mrs Williams (Kitchen)
1055 – Mrs Stock

Parents may, however, find it quicker to utilise the following direct dial numbers:-

Nursery – 020 8768 1045
Special Needs – 020 8768 1046

REMINDER – children must not ride scooters or bicycles on the school site. This is a genuine health and safety issue and currently scooters in particular are proving a problem.

DINNER TOKENS – We operate a very flexible dinner system at St James the Great and as a result have a good take-up for meals. Please support the service as much as possible as increased numbers help the range of options provided. Wherever possible it is helpful if tokens are purchased from the office in batches of 5 or more rather than singly or daily.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We annually prompt parents who think they may be entitled to free school meals for their children to complete the necessary paperwork. This can, however, be done at any time during the year. It is an easy process that requires you to complete a form which we then send back to the Local Authority who confirm whether or not there is an entitlement. If you think you may be entitled please request the necessary form from the school office. Once entitlement is granted there is no obligation to take meals every or any day but the school is funded on the basis of entitlement rather than take up.

EASTER RESIDENTIAL TRIP 2012 – PARENTS' MEETING

All Year 4 and 5 parents and children if accompanied are welcome to attend this meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 28th September in Class 4.2. After this meeting those registered will be required to make a firm commitment to participate as after this time we are unable to refund deposits. If there are some families undecided and decide to register after the meeting we will endeavour to secure places for them but this cannot be guaranteed as it is subject to centre availability.

HEAD LICE

Unfortunately, we have started the year with an outbreak of head lice. Please will parents undertake a thorough check of their children's hair and where appropriate treat the whole family in order to try and eradicate this problem. Thank you for your co-operation in regard to this matter.

DISABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

You may be aware that our school is statutorily required to have a disability access and equality policy and this is currently due for updating. Part of this process is the circulation of a questionnaire to enable those who access this school to express their views and give suggestions on what our priorities

should be in this area. All are free to complete and return the questionnaire, but it is hoped that anyone who considers themselves disabled or cares for disabled children will complete the questionnaire.

POLICE – Parents cannot have helped but notice the stronger than usual police presence on and around our site at the start of term. We have partly prompted their attendance as a result of some local incidents but I can assure you there is no need to be concerned by this as they are acting in a very supportive capacity reflecting our strong liaisons with the police community.

UNIFORM – It has already proved difficult to reunite some lost property with its owners due to either a lack of labelling or the legibility of hand written labels. Please can we appeal to you to ensure your children's clothes are clearly labelled preferably with printed labels.

CONGRATULATIONS: Year 6 pupils have been allocated to a range of roles and I would give a special vote of thanks to those who have taken on lunchtime responsibilities as Squabble Busters, Assistants and Line Monitors and those who are taking on library monitor duties. I am pleased to confirm that the coming year's Team Captains are: **Red Team** – Fifi Asafu-Adjaye, Kyrra-Anne Crawford; **Green Team** – Anne-Marie Dweben and Jacques D'Monte; **Blue Team** – Niall Byrne and Sky Joseph and **Yellow Team** – Elliott Fernandes and Sophia Szymaniak. The respective team Vice Captains are Aoife Courtney, Madeline Kennedy, Jack McLean and Ciara McGing. Our Junior Road Safety Officers will be: Stefano Walker Carnevale, Ezekiel Largie Poleon, Melissa Noel, Kyrra-Anne Crawford, Aoife Courtney, Joseph Rinson, Jack Carlyle and Antoinette Baffoe.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS ADVANCE NOTICE – MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

Please note that the annual individual pupil photographs and family groups will be taken on Monday 14th November. Further details will follow nearer the date.

SCHOOL BOOKSHOP

I am pleased to confirm that the school Bookshop is now open for business every Monday afternoon. Children may bring in money in order to purchase stamps in multiples of 10p towards the purchase of a book. They are also welcome to make direct book purchases utilising pocket money, birthday money etc. Parents are welcome to browse the stock any Monday afternoon between 2 and 3 pm. I would thank Mrs Stock and her team of helpers for maintaining this facility which provides a good savings learning opportunity for the children.

Childminder Ofsted registered has vacancy part/full time. Call Lucia on 020 8771 6942 or 07932 513555.

ATTACHMENTS:

We are pleased to include with this Newsletter the following:-

1. St James the Great Disability Equality Questionnaire
2. Holiday Date List – 2011-2013
3. Annual programme Date List (we will endeavour not to alter these dates).
4. Class Assembly, Mass and Prayer Service Dates.

St. James the Great Disability Equality Questionnaire

Every school has a duty to prepare a Disability Equality Scheme to highlight the school's priorities for improving disability support and access for pupils, staff, parents and visitors.

We are asking those members of our school community who consider themselves to be disabled, or are parents/carers of disabled children in our school, to help us by completing the following questionnaire.

The definition of 'disabled' includes someone who has a 'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

Please feel free to omit any questions which are not applicable and return for the attention of Miss Spong by **Monday 3rd October 2011**. All responses will be kept confidential.

			Other Comments
1.	Please circle status:	Parent Carer Staff Governor	
2.	Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	Yes/No	
3.	Do you consider your child to have a disability?	Yes/No	
4.	Are the school's facilities as equally accessible to you, or your child, as they are to other people?	Yes/No	<i>If No, please detail those facilities of the school which are less accessible.</i>
5	Are there any alterations to the school buildings or facilities that could be made to improve the equal access of disabled people?	Yes/No	
6.	Do you feel that the school's ethos and practices are effective in eliminating discrimination?	Yes/No	

7.	Have you, or your child, experienced any form of discrimination and/or harassment due to disability within our school?	Yes/No	<i>If Yes, please describe the form of discrimination/ harassment, your satisfaction with the school's response and how the school could improve its practice.</i>
8.	Does the school encourage your child's participation in its community life? E.g. school council, prefects, clubs etc.	Yes/No	<i>If No, please suggest what could be done to enable participation.</i>
9.	Does the school encourage your participation in its community life? E.g. Parent's Evening, social events, volunteer help, clubs.	Yes/No	<i>If No, please suggest what could be done to enable you to fully participate.</i>

**For the following statements please circle a number 1 to 5.
'1' indicates strongly agree and '5' strongly disagree.
'0' indicates no evidence on which to base a judgement.**

10.	Other pupils have a positive attitude towards their disabled peers.	0	1	2	3	4	5
11.	Adults in school actively promote a positive attitude towards disabled pupils and adults in the school and wider community.	0	1	2	3	4	5
12.	The school shows a strong commitment to ensuring equal treatment of all its pupils.	0	1	2	3	4	5
13.	The school shows a strong commitment to ensuring equal treatment of all its employees.	0	1	2	3	4	5
14.	The school shows a strong commitment to ensuring all groups using its premises promote equality of treatment for children and adults.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Please comment below on any particularly good practice or concerns.

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For school staff:

15.	Do you perceive there to be any barriers for disabled members of staff in terms of career progression?	Yes/No	
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ST JAMES THE GREAT SCHOOL, WINDSOR ROAD, THORNTON HEATH
HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2011

OPEN: Monday 5 September
OPEN: Monday 31 October

CLOSED: Thursday 1 and Friday 2 September (Staff In-Service Days)
CLOSE: Friday 21 October (Early Close 1 pm)
CLOSE: Friday 16 December

SPRING TERM 2012

OPEN: Wednesday 4 January
OPEN: Monday 20 February

CLOSED: Tuesday 3 January (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 10 February
CLOSED: Friday 16 March (Catholic Schools' In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Thursday 5 April

SUMMER TERM 2012

OPEN: Monday 23 April

CLOSED: Monday 7 May (Public Holiday)
CLOSE: Thursday 31st May
CLOSED: Friday 1 June (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 20 July

OPEN: Monday 11 June

AUTUMN TERM 2012

OPEN: Tuesday 4 September
OPEN: Monday 5 November

CLOSED: Monday 3rd September (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 26 October
CLOSE: Wednesday 19 December
CLOSED: Thursday 20th December (Staff In-Service Day)

SPRING TERM 2013

OPEN: Monday 7 January

CLOSE Thursday 14 February
CLOSED: Friday 15 February (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Thursday 28 March

OPEN: Monday 25 February

SUMMER TERM 2013

OPEN: Monday 15 April

CLOSED: Monday 6 May (Public Holiday)
CLOSE: Thursday 23 May
CLOSED: Friday 24 May (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Tuesday 23 July
CLOSED: Wednesday 24 July

OPEN: Monday 3 June

For your information:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Good Friday	22 April	6 April	29 March
Easter Sunday	24 April	8 April	31 March
Christmas Day	Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday

***FIVE STAFF IN-SERVICE DAYS PER ACADEMIC YEAR HAVE TO BE FIXED
YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF THOSE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE AS THEY ARE AGREED***

(September 2011)

Date List 2011/2012

DATE 2011	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
1 st and 2 nd September		<i>In-Service Training Days – School Closed</i>
Monday 5 th September		School Re-opens
Tuesday 20 th September		Open Evening Key Stage 2
Wednesday 21 st September		Open Evening Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2 only)
Wednesday 28 th September	7.30 pm	Easter Residential Visit meeting parents and children
Thursday 29 th September	4.30 pm	Catholic Schools' Staff Mass – St Joseph's College
Monday 3 rd October	2.15 pm	Whole School Mass – Fr Tom
Saturday 8 th October		Friends Association Barn Dance
Thursday 13 th October		Year 3 CAFOD Harvest Lunch
Wednesday 19 th October	7.30 pm	Year 6 Residential Visit meeting parents and children (Year 6)
Thursday 20 th October	2.45 pm	<i>Harvest Assembly</i>
Friday 21 st October	1.00 pm	School closes for half term break <i>EARLY CLOSE</i>
Friday 21 st October		Closing date for receipt of Nursery applications 2012/13
Monday 31st October		
Tuesday 1 st November	10 am	School re-opens Feast of All Saints – St Andrew's
Friday 4 th November	7 for 8 pm	Friends Association Grand Firework Display
Monday 7 th and Tuesday 8 th November		FS Open Evening – Nursery and Reception
Wednesday 30 th November		Closing Date for Nursery Supplementary Forms
Friday 2 nd December	10 am	Christmas Concert – Whole School performance
3 rd or 4 th December	12-3 pm	Friends Association Christmas Craft Fayre
5 th -9 th December		Book Fair
Monday 5 th December	2 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants
Tuesday 6 th December	7.00 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants
Wednesday 7 th December	7.00 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants (Guest Night)
Friday 9 th December	am	Nursery Concert
Monday 12 th December	7:30 pm	Carol Service at St Andrew's – All Juniors
Tuesday 13 th December		Christmas Dinner Day – Nursery
Wednesday 14 th December		Christmas Dinner Day – Whole School
Thursday 15 th December		Class Christmas Party Day Nursery closes for Christmas Break
Friday 16 th December	9.45 am 2 pm	Final Assembly School closes for Christmas Break Closing date for receipt of Reception applications 2012/13
2012		
Tuesday 3 rd January		<i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i>
Wednesday 4 th January	9.15 am	School re-opens
Friday 13 th January		Closing date for Admissions Supplementary Forms
Thursday 2 nd February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Tuesday 7 th February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Friday 10 th February		School closes for Half Term

DATE 2012	TIME	EVENT
Monday 20 th February		School re-opens
Friday 16 th March		<i>Catholic Schools' In-Service Day – School Closed</i>
Friday 23 rd March	7.00 pm	Year 6 to lead Stations of the Cross – St Bartholomew's
Wednesday 29 th March	10 am	Catholic Schools Cross Country/John Fisher Playing Fields
26 th -30 th March		Penitential Week – Years 4, 5 and 6
2 nd -6 th April		Easter Residential Visit – Years 4 and 5
Wednesday 4 th April		Nursery closes for Easter Break
Thursday 5 th April	9.45 am 2:00 pm	School-based Easter Liturgy led by Year 3 School closes for Easter Break
Wednesday 18 th April		Nursery and Reception Offer Date
Monday 23 rd April	9.15 am	School re-opens
Monday 7 th May		Public Holiday – School Closed
Saturday 12 th May	9.00 am	Croydon Catholic Schools Football and Netball Tournaments at Margaret Roper School
14 th -18 th May		Year 6 – SATs
Thursday 24 th May		Sports Day – field events
Friday 25 th May		Sports Day – Track Events
Thursday 31 st May		School closes for half term Break
Friday 1 st June		<i>In-Service Day – School Closed</i>
Monday 11 th June		School re-opens
11 th -15 th June		Year 6 Residential Visit
TBA	am	Catholic Schools' Swimming Gala
18 th -22 nd June		Book Fair
Tuesday 19 th June	7.30 pm	New Nursery Parents' Meeting
Wednesday 20 th June	a.m.	New Reception Visits
Wednesday 27 th June	7.30 pm	New Reception Visits (am and pm) Reception Parents' Meeting
Thursday 28 th June		Croydon Catholic Schools' Sports Day at St James the Great Open Evening – Nursery and Years 1 to 5
Friday 29 th June	10 am	Feast of Ss Peter and Paul – St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 3 rd July		Open Evening – Nursery and Years 1 to 5
Thursday 5 th July		Croydon Catholic Schools' Infant Sports – Thomas Becket
Friday 6 th July	10:00	Concert performance for the school
Monday 9 th July	2 pm	School Concert Open Evening – Reception only
Tuesday 10 th July	7.30 pm	School Concert
Wednesday 11 th July	7.30 pm	School Concert (Guest Night)
Thursday 12 th July		Open Evening – Reception and Year 6
Monday 16 th July	7.30 pm	Leavers' Mass – St Bartholomew's
Wednesday 18 th July	10 am 1.45 pm 4:00 pm	Leavers' Assembly and Year 6 Science Fair Children to new classes – incl. new children until 2:30 pm Leavers' Barbecue
Thursday 19 th July	10 am	Final Assembly Nursery closes for Summer Break
Friday 20 th July	2 pm	School closes for Summer Break
Monday 23 rd July		<i>In-Service Training Days – School Closed</i>
Monday 3 rd September		<i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i>
Tuesday 4 th September		School re-opens

Class Assembly, Prayer Service and Mass Schedule (updated 06/09/11)

Class	Thursday Assembly- 3.05pm	Prayer Service 9.45 am- Oratory	10 o'clock Parish Mass
R.1	22/03/12	26/1/12	21/06/12 St Bartholomew's
R.2	31/05/12	19/1/12	28/06/12 St Andrew's
1.1	21/6/12	22/3/12	05/07/12 St Bartholomew's
1.2	26/1/12	24/05/12	05/07/12 St Andrew's
2.1	01//3/12	31/5/12	2/2/12 St Bartholomew's
2.2	26/04/12	14/06/12	2/2/12 St Andrew's
3.1	08/03/12	08/12/11	14/06/12 St Bartholomew's
3.2	02/02/12	01/12/11	14/06/12 St Andrew's
4.1	10/11/11	01/03/12	19/01/12 St Bartholomew's
4.2	15/03/12	12/01/12	19/01/12 St Andrew's
5.1	29/03/12	19/01/12	12/01/12 St Bartholomew's
5.2	09/02/12	10/11/11	10/10/11 St Andrew's
6.1	-	13/10/11	03/11/11 St Bartholomew's
6.2	-	17/11/11	03/11/11 St Andrew's

Please note classes will be attending the Parish Masses listed above as part of the normal congregation, not in a lead capacity. All are welcome to the above celebrations.