



# St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Web site: [www.stjamesthegreat.org](http://www.stjamesthegreat.org)

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## NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 5

January 2012

**W**ith the Spring Term already well underway and the half term break rapidly approaching due to a shorter five week half term, our Newsletter offers a somewhat belated Happy New Year. Much has already happened this term. The school recently had an extensive two day external assessment for re-accreditation of its Inclusion Mark. We were successful and a very positive draft report has been received. Once finalised, this will be made available via the school's website. Thanks are due to all who contributed to preparation for and input during the assessment, with special thanks to Miss Spong who took the lead. In welcoming Mrs Wellington, our newly appointed Inclusion Manager, we extend our thanks to her for her involvement in the assessment, which clearly contributed to the successful outcome. Mrs Wellington will be working Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and is quickly establishing herself in her role. She has a long association with the school and we wish her well in her new post. We have been pleased to welcome a number of external speakers for recent assemblies that have included input on railway safety, sight, hearing and a Chinese cultural display. Our football and netball teams continue to do very well reflecting the range of activities our children experience. We have also been pleased to maintain our ice skating programme for the upper juniors following the temporary closure (for 18 months) of Streatham Ice Rink by using the relocated venue in Brixton.

I am sure those of you following the progress of the new build underway at the rear of the school will be impressed with the progress to date, greatly helped by the weather which has been kind to the builders. We are accordingly on target for an Easter handover.

We have a busy term ahead and event dates are included later in this Newsletter.

**LENT:** As we move towards the season of Lent, I can confirm that the traditional arrangements have been agreed and that Ash Wednesday distribution of Ashes services on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February will be:-

Reception, Years 1 and 2:	1.30 pm
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6:	2.30 pm

Parents are very welcome to attend these services.

**WEEKLY EARLY MORNING LENTEN MASS:** We are grateful to St Andrew's Priests who have agreed to say Mass for us at 8.30 am every Tuesday morning in Lent. All are welcome and we hope many children and parents will make an effort to attend as many of these as possible. They will start on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 8.30 am in the Music Room



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**



### **SCHOOL FUND – GIFT AID**

Thank you to all of you who make a regular contribution to our School Fund and/or gift aid declarations to the school. This is a critical source of income to the school and one which is increasingly supporting our capacity to maintain the resources we have. With us facing confirmed budget cuts of 1.5% next year you will appreciate how ‘balancing the books’ necessitates the need for us to maximise all revenue streams. It is acknowledged that current financial constraints are affecting everyone so your support at this time is particularly appreciated. We are writing directly to families who do not contribute to school fund to enlist as much support as possible. It is appreciated that not everyone is in a position to commit to the scheme so please do not be offended by this approach. If, however, you can make a contribution no matter how small please consider doing so.

### **HOMEWORK**

We ask parents to make provision and regularly check on their children’s homework. We believe the relatively small amount of homework set provides a good link for parents to see what their children are doing in addition to developing good habits and organisational skills for secondary school and beyond. Excuses for not completing this work have grown recently which is causing concern. Please monitor this.

### **FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT**

Thank you to those who responded to our recent request to register entitlement for free school meals whether taken or not. This boosted our numbers a little and as a result our budget allocation. New rules now mean that the school will continue to benefit for up to 4 years after any entitlement ceases so we will continue to request registrations. If unsure do complete an application for checking by contacting Mrs Marchant.

### **ACADEMY STATUS**

The DfE has confirmed our target date as 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. We will keep you informed of any developments as the application progresses.

### **ENTERPRISE**

Thanks to the work of Miss Redmond, as the school’s Enterprise Co-ordinator, your children may have mentioned some aspect of this part of our curriculum. They have described enterprise through the following acrostic:-

**E**nthusiasm  
**N**ew ideas  
**T**eam Work  
**E**xperimenting  
**R**isk Taking  
**P**roblem Solving  
**R**eclaiming  
**I**ndependence  
**S**upport and self confidence  
**E**conomic understanding and thinking

Please discuss this with your children and talk about the skills they are developing in their learning. Miss Redmond welcomes ideas for further enhancing our enterprise provision in school. If any parents are available to support topics or speak on a subject this will be welcomed.

## TERM DATES

Listed below are the key term dates:-

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February		<b>School closes for Half Term</b>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February		School re-opens
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February		Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Races
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February		Ash Wednesday 1.30 pm – Reception, Years 1 and 2 2.30 pm – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Croydon Infant Festival of Music – Fairfield Halls
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Croydon Junior Festival of Music – Fairfield Halls
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March		Catholic Schools’ In-Service Day – School Closed
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	7.00 pm	Croydon Dance Festival – Fairfield Halls
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	7.00 pm	Year 6 to lead Stations of the Cross – St Andrew’s – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are required to attend
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	10 am	Catholic Schools Cross Country/John Fisher Playing Fields
26 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> March		Penitential Week – Years 4, 5 and 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> April		Easter Residential Visit – Years 4 and 5
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April		Nursery closes for Easter Break
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	9.45 am 2:00 pm	School-based Easter Liturgy led by Year 3 School closes for Easter Break

## HOLIDAY DATES

Please find attached an up to date holiday list that includes all the inset days set so far. Please make sure you refer to this updated list and destroy any old lists.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM – DISAPPEARING ITEMS

Sadly we have had a spate of uniform items, which I am assured have been clearly labelled, going missing. In one family’s case they are on their third blazer for their child in a very short space of time. We emphasise to the children the importance of taking care of their clothing and would ask you to reinforce this message at home. Parents are also requested to check their children’s clothing from time to time to ensure they have their own items and not someone else’s. Thank you for your help with this issue.

## COACH DRIVERS

We remain hopeful that Joe will be back with us soon. In the meantime arrangements are in hand to train a back up driver. Following the appeal in a recent Newsletter we did receive one contact from a potential driver and would be grateful if that person would contact us again. Also if anyone is aware of a manual coach PCV licence holder who may be in a position to drive for us from time to time please encourage them to contact us.

## ICE SKATING – MINIBUS DRIVER

We are looking for some parents to help with driving the minibus on Tuesday mornings after half term to take our ice skaters to Brixton and return. Please drop a note in to the school office if you may be able to help either weekly or on a rota basis.

## BIKE RAFFLE

This raffle in aid of our Eco Work in school will be drawn at assembly on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. There is a final opportunity for children to buy tickets between now and the 10<sup>th</sup> at 20p each or 6 tickets for a £1.

## **BABY SITTERS**

We are aware of the difficulty some families have in finding suitable baby sitters on occasions and in the past we have circulated details of young adults known to us offering this service. We are happy to do this again if details are supplied to us. It is then up to parents to liaise directly with the sitter. Our first one is:-

Former St James the Great pupil (now in Year 12 at Coloma) offers babysitting service. Rates negotiable. I have experience of babysitting and am currently a volunteer Young Leader with the St Bartholomew's Rainbows Group. References can be supplied on request. For more information, please contact Hannah on 07809 491046.

## **ZUMBA CLASSES**

Mrs Gill has recommenced her Zumba Classes in the school hall on Wednesdays from 7.45 – 8.45 pm at £4 per session. Why not come along next Wednesday. Beginners and experienced all welcome.

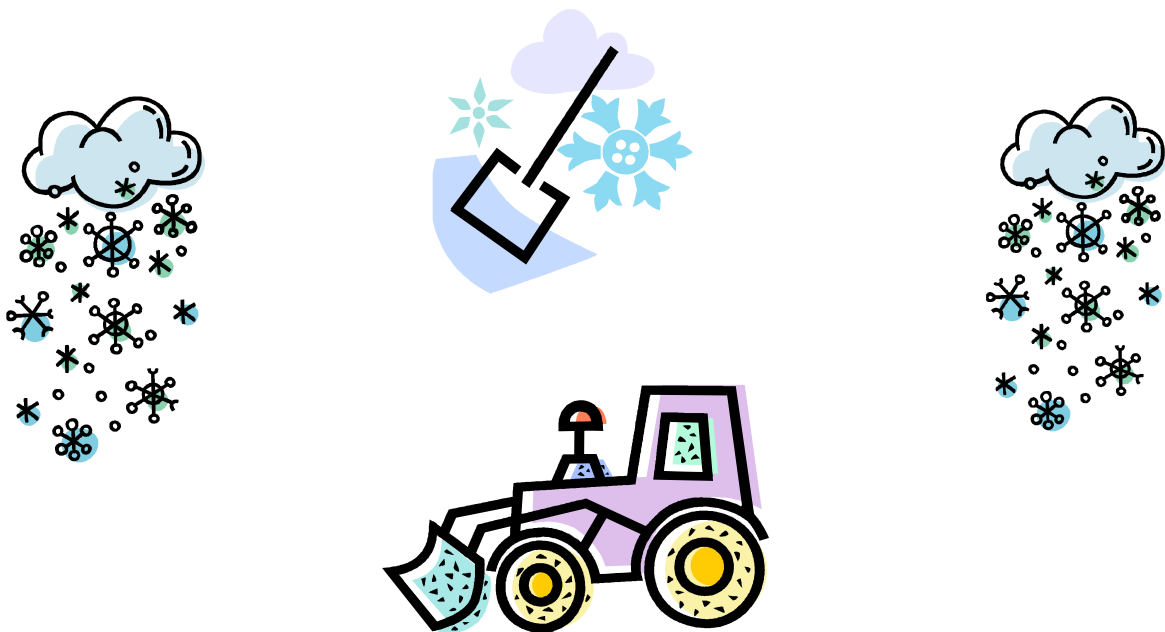
**ADVERSE WEATHER:** With winter now well and truly on us in the event of very bad weather there are a number of ways to check the school's open status as follows:-

1. Web information:-

- a) Notices on the school website – [www.stjamesthegreat.org](http://www.stjamesthegreat.org)
- b) A Local Authority link either directly using <http://map.lgfl.org.uk/opencheck/Default.aspx?la=3065201> or via our own website and select our school from the drop down menu and then click on refresh map

2. By telephone:-

- a) On the school telephone number 020 8771 3424 and selecting option 1 'the general school information service' This service is also available out of hours along with an option to leave messages.
- b) On a Local Authority telephone service 020 8408 7508 and key in, when requested, the school's DfE number 306 5201.



**ST JAMES THE GREAT SCHOOL, WINDSOR ROAD, THORNTON HEATH**  
**HOLIDAY DATES**

**AUTUMN TERM 2011**

OPEN: Monday 31 October  
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 31 May  
CLOSED: *Friday 1 June (Staff In-Service Day)*  
CLOSE: Thursday 19 July

**AUTUMN TERM 2012**

OPEN: Tuesday 4 September  
OPEN: Monday 5 November  
CLOSED: *Monday 3 September (Staff In-Service Day)*  
CLOSE: Friday 26 October  
CLOSE: Tuesday 18 December  
CLOSED: *Wednesday 19 December (Staff In-Service Day)*

**SPRING TERM 2013**

OPEN: Monday 7 January  
CLOSE Thursday 14 February  
CLOSED: *Friday 15 February (Staff In-Service Day)*  
OPEN: Monday 25 February  
CLOSE: Thursday 28 March

**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)*  
OPEN: Monday 3 June  
CLOSE: Tuesday 23 July

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**For your information:**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Good Friday	6 April	29 March	18 April	3 April	25 March
Easter Sunday	8 April	31 March	20 April	5 April	27 March
Christmas Day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday

***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***

(January 2012)