



St. James The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

No 7

February 2011

We now meet the mid-point of the academic year and it is pleasing that we have already enjoyed some notable events. Since the last Newsletter, groups of children have been involved in a number of different activities and no doubt the rest of the year will produce several more after what, we hope, will be an enjoyable half term break with some spring-like weather.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL ASSEMBLY

This event was preceded by a group of children taking part in Croydon's marking of Holocaust Memorial Day at the Town Hall. I received letters from the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Avril Slipper, and Councillor Vidhi Mohan both extending their gratitude to the pupils and Miss Bekir. They commented *"I thought both pupils gave excellent performances in their readings. I am pleased to inform you that I received many positive comments from guests and colleagues on the magnificent art display. Thank you for your help in making this such a memorable event."* (The Mayor) *"... it was wonderful to see some of our young residents playing an important role in making it such a success... it is only right that the teacher and pupils share in the praise that we have been given."* (Councillor Mohan).

Well done to Gemma Blundell-Doyle, Amanda Burrows, Sean Cobb, Charles Desa, Sean Goswell and Humaira Prince and thank you to them for representing the school so well on both occasions. We believe that our own service in school marked the occasion most appropriately. Again thanks to all the children. The tree planting part of our celebration will provide an ongoing remembrance as we develop the area at the end of the junior block. We were very grateful to Fr Tom for stepping in to plant the memorial tree which was originally going to be planted by Johnson Beharry who let us down at the last moment. Thanks also to Les Parry and Dele Fatoba for preparing the planting area. A special vote of thanks to Miss Bekir for overseeing what proved to be a very memorable occasion that will provide a lasting commemoration of this event.

OUTSTANDING MATHEMATICIANS

Congratulations to Nathan Akpani, Elliott Fernandes, Louise Fernandes, Reuben Jeganathan, Samuel Moody and Osa Ojo Osagie who took part in the Maths 24 competition held at Thomas More School, Purley. Our two teams gained 1st and 3rd places and will both go to the finals in the summer term. Good luck to them. Keep the Brain Gym going!

QUIZ CLUB – GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Perhaps not our strongest point at present but well done to Jacques D'Monte, Eoin Doyle, Jaden Gooding, Alexander Szymaniak, Shay Balsekar, Niall Byrne, Nile Dotting and Bolaji Fayankinnu who also proved excellent ambassadors for our school in the tough Quiz Club competition recently hosted at St James the Great competing against 12 teams in total achieving creditable placings.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.
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WORLD BOOK DAY 2011 – FRIDAY 4TH MARCH: We will be celebrating World Book Day as a whole school on this day. Children will be allowed to dress up as a character from a book. The more imaginative the better (you don't have to go out and spend lots of money). Prizes will be awarded for the most original and creative costumes. During the Literacy lessons on this day classes will be looking at writing book reviews and character profiles. There will be a competition for the best piece of work in each year group. The Daily Mirror and Sunday Mirror are offering schools the chance to get a free library of 150 Ladybird books. From Saturday 5th February they will be printing tokens in their newspapers. For every two that are collected we can claim a free book. Please help us by collecting these tokens and send them in to school as soon as possible.

SOUNDSTART CONCERT – YEAR 3 PARENTS: Please note there will be a short Soundstart Concert (approximately half an hour) on Wednesday 16th March at 2.00 pm for parents to see what their children are achieving in Soundstart and how to support their children practising. All are welcome.

FAB – FAMILIES ACTIVITIES BOOKS: At a recent Assembly the children were given information about a half term activity being held at Thornton Heath Library. They were also given a flyer to bring home. They can take part in the FAB challenge during February half term. Children have 3 tasks to complete in one week. **Family** – do something to make your family happy. Cook for them, take them out or put on a show for them for example. **Activity** – take part in an activity at Thornton Heath Leisure Centre. You can buy a swim card for £3 and swim as many times as you like between now and the end of March. **Books** – take part in an activity or read a book at Thornton Heath Library. The Library is absolutely free to use. Remember to get your FAB card signed by your grown-up, leisure centre and library and you've completed the challenge. You will receive some family learning goody vouchers which will allow you to borrow a DVD for free from the Library. Everyone who completes the challenge will be entered into a prize draw giving the opportunity to win a Big Day Party at Thornton Heath Leisure Centre.

HEAD LICE: We appear to be being invaded again in a number of year groups. I would ask parents to make a special effort to check their children's hair over the half term break and treat the whole family as appropriate in an attempt to lessen the problem.

CHILDCARE – CAN YOU ASSIST?

We have had an urgent enquiry from a parent seeking childcare for 5 school days a week during term time that requires either early morning childcare and to drop child when school start OR collect child from school providing childcare until parent get home from work. If you are able to help with such provision from 1st March 2011 please would you send your details into the school office ASAP. We will then pass this on to the parent concerned to enable direct contact to be made and terms and conditions agreed.

FOOTBALL: Congratulations to our football teams who continue to do very well. An update on their progress will be included in the next Newsletter. Well done to Arthur Green, Francis Berkeley-Agyepong and all the Saturday coaches. The progress of our teams is very much down to their hard work.

MUSIC: We were very fortunate to be offered 6 places in a recent London Philharmonic Orchestra Workshop. It was a great pleasure to see the performance produced in a very short time last week. This was a wonderful opportunity and experience for the children who participated: Lauren Adjei (Flute), Antoinette Baffoe (Violin), Charles Desa (Guitar), Elliott Fernandes (Guitar), Reuben Jeganathan (Flute) and Karl Ramos (Guitar). Again this group did our school proud, were complimented on their contributions and we very much hope to be asked back again.

SISTER JENNY: I would record our thanks to Sister Jenny from St Andrew's for her regular weekly visits to the school and support she is giving. She is currently working with a group of children on an Art project. We look forward to seeing the results of this work.

THANK YOU: Mrs Charlotte Deguara extends very sincere thanks for the kindness shown to her and her family following their recent bereavement. They were overwhelmed by the support shown not only from families within her child's class but across the school.

REMINDER

Please will adults bringing and collecting children ensure they use the outside accesses to classrooms. Considerable congestion is occurring, particularly in the junior corridor, at the start and end of the day and this is raising some health and safety issues. If you wish to make contact with a staff member this can be done via the outside door or via the school office. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.