



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

No 9

April 2010

Welcome back, albeit to a rather belated welcome. Hopefully you have all had a good break and are enjoying the signs we are now seeing that Summer has arrived!! This term is traditionally the busiest of the year but also one of the most enjoyable as it includes outside events such as Sports Day. Please note the attached date list for this term's programme.

I must compliment our Year 4 and 5 children who participated in the residential visit during the last week of the Spring Term. They were a great group and received numerous compliments from centre staff for their enthusiasm, good manners and behaviour. In addition members of the public complimented them on their visit to Blackgang Chine and the Cinema. Certainly when our group arrived at the Cinema there was clear concern from some Cinema goers about the large group joining them for a screening of Nanny McPhee. However, they were exemplary and were rightly praised for this. Well done to them all; they were a pleasure to spend the week with. It was particularly pleasing for me to see the boys win our best kept chalet competition. Congratulations to Joshua Ajisafe, Dean Burrows, Eoin Doyle and Joshua Joseph who achieved 30 points, just pipping the next group of boys who gained 28 points. The best girls' chalet was Lorna Behan, Louise Fernandes, Dervla McGrath, Deandra and Humaira Prince, Martha Reynolds, Chloe Rudland and Annie Vella on 24 points. I will, however, have to concede that it was a boys' group, which will remain nameless, at the bottom of the table on 12 points. It was an excellent week overall in spite of some very inclement weather. We had a particularly good day that enabled us to arrange what had been a traditional boys versus girls "water fight". The boys (my team) have a long standing record of winning this event but the girls (Mrs Lawless' team) were far better organised this year and I will concede a draw on this occasion. Year 3 and 4 children have now received information relating to next year's planned visit so hopefully this provides enough notice for those who wish to go. I am aware that the cost implications for such visits are significant but past visits tell us they represent good value for money taking account of the experiences the children have. Next year we will be visiting a brand new PGL centre in Wiltshire. Following this year's experience, we are considering a return to Gurnards Pines in the Isle of Wight in 2012.

Apologies to anyone inconvenienced by the technical (human) error with regard to the return message on the school telephone messaging facility regarding our return time. I believe this will not be a problem in the future!!

Finally I must thank Mrs Lawless, Miss O'Connor, Mrs Grabiec, Mrs Marchant, Mrs McGuire, Miss Sweeney and, of course, Joe Anoff without whose willingness to give up their time, including a day of their holiday, such trips would not be possible. Their support for the visit is much appreciated.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.

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BEST WISHES TO MRS WILLIAMS

We held a farewell assembly on Friday to mark Mrs Williams' departure to commence her maternity leave. We wish her well and look forward to hearing the news of the new addition to her family. As she plans to return to a different role I would like to extend, on behalf of the school and myself personally, sincere gratitude for all her work as Acting Deputy this year. She took on the role and has maintained it with vigour and good humour. The excellent job she has done has made a significant impact in a short time and has been an enormous help to me. I am very appreciative of her decision to delay commencing the start of her leave to see through a number of tasks. We look forward to welcoming her back next year.

SCHOOL CHICKENS AND THEIR EGGS

Our newly established Environmental Council will be undertaking an enterprising initiative to generate funds to support the costs of our recently arrived school chickens by selling the chickens' eggs. They have decided that anyone who would like eggs from the school chickens should send in £1 completing the slip at the end of this Newsletter with their child's name and class. A random list will be compiled and then the eggs will be sent home in a box of four in the order that the names are on the list.

There will also be an opportunity for families to look after the chickens during holiday periods. We would provide food and a smaller version of their fox-proof house and garden run to house the chickens whilst they are away from school. If you think you would be interested please also indicate this on the attached slip. Mr Parry has agreed to transport the equipment etc. should families not have suitable transport. In the case of longer breaks, it will be possible to share the looking after between families over the break.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL AND NETBALL TOURNAMENT

I greatly enjoyed being present at this event. We were blessed with good weather in addition to both our Football Team (A): Luca Boome, Zgora Boret, George Box, Sam Egole, Jaydon Gidden, Mark Houlihan, Brendan O'Donovan and Cassian Thomas; and Netball Team: Shania Beck, Viktoria Bukaczewska, Rhianna Creary, Allison Furtado, Jodie Howard, Charlotte Jones, Armelle Lee, Roisin Lopeman, Delisia Marfo-Mensah, Gabriella Morrone, Siobhan Osagie, Humaira prince and Casey Tcheukam, coming away with the winners' trophies. Our second Football Team: Nathan Akpani, Joshua Berkeley-Agyepong, Mario Coker-Russo, Charlie Desa, Nile Dotting, Patrick Melody, Antonio Modeste, Samuel Moody, Osa Ojo-Osagie and Karl Ramos also did us proud progressing through to the quarter finals. Hopefully this bodes well for the other competitions this term. Well done to them all and thanks to Mrs Scott Cree and Miss Church for their work with the Netballers and our Saturday morning coaches led by Mr Agyepong and Mr Green for their work with the Footballers along with Mr Stewart's ongoing support for sport at St James the Great. A good team effort all round.

CABRINI SOCIETY – SAM'S APPEAL

If you have not already returned your boxes, please do so as soon as possible. Many thanks for your support for this charity.

SCHOOL SHOES: We would ask parents to be careful when purchasing new school shoes to ensure that the footwear is appropriate and is not, in fact, trainers being marketed as shoes. Thank you for your co-operation in regard to this matter.

GYM CLUB: Well done to the members of our Gym Club who continue to achieve outstanding results, not least taking account of their limited facilities. Three of five girls entered to represent Croydon in the London Borough Youth Games were successful. Congratulations in particular to Sky Joseph (who is the youngest gymnast from St James the Great to qualify) and also to Melissa Mullings. We wish the girls every success in the competition which takes place in East London on the weekend of 12th/13th June at which they will be competing against at least 30 other Boroughs.

FAIRTRADE FESTIVAL: Fun and family friendly Festival to be held on the South Bank during the weekend of 7th-9th May. Saturday 8th May 11:00-21:30 and Sunday 9th May 11:00-16:30. Free entry.

YEAR 6 SATS

I would advise parents that our school is not involved in the SATs boycott being undertaken by some schools this year and accordingly SATs will go ahead as normal in the week beginning 10th May 2010.

Whilst fully supporting pupil assessment we remain unhappy with the publication of league tables that paint a very narrow perspective of school performance which has been proven to be far from accurate. Accordingly we will support moves which we feel appropriately target this issue.

Newsletter Attachments:-

1. Summer Term 2010 RE Parents' Letter
2. Term Date List

Summer Term 2010 Date List

Monday 3 rd May		School closed – May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 6 th May	3.05 pm	Class 1.1 Assembly
Thursday 13 th May	3.05 pm	Class R2 Assembly
Thursday 20 th May	3.05 pm	Class R1 Assembly
W/B 10 th May		Year 6 – SATs
17 th -21 st May		Year 6 Residential Visit
Thursday 27 th May	9.45 am 3.05 pm	Class 3.1 Prayer Service Class 2.2 Assembly
Friday 28 th May		School closes for half term Break
HALF TERM		
Monday 7 th June		In-Service Day – School Closed
Tuesday 8 th June	9.15 am	School re-opens
Thursday 10 th June	10 am 10 am 3.05 pm	Class 3.1 - Mass at St Bartholomew's Class 3.2 - Mass at St Andrew's Class 3.1 Assembly
Saturday 12 th June	All day	Festival of Football
Thursday 17 th June	9.45 am p.m.	Class R2 Prayer Service School Sports – field events
Friday 18 th June	am	Catholic Schools' Swimming Gala
Monday 21 st June	7.30 pm	New Nursery Parents' Meeting
Wednesday 23 rd June	a.m.	New Reception Visits
Thursday 24 th June	9.30 am 9.45 am 3.05 pm	Croydon Catholic Schools' Sports Day at St James the Great Class R2 Prayer Service Class 1.2 Assembly
Monday 28 th June	All day	Sports Day – Track Events
Wednesday 30 th June	10 am 10 am 7.30 pm	Class 1.1 – Mass at St Andrew's Class 1.2 – Mass at St Bartholomew's New Reception Visits (am and pm) Reception Parents' Meeting
Thursday 1 st July		Open Evening – Nursery and Years 1 to 5
Tuesday 6 th July		Open Evening – Nursery and Years 1 to 5
Friday 9 th July	10:00	Concert performance for the school
Monday 12 th July	2 pm	School Concert
Tuesday 13 th July	7.30 pm	School Concert
Wednesday 14 th July	7.30 pm	School Concert (Guest Night)
Thursday 15 th July		Open Evening – Reception and Year 6
Monday 19 th July	7.30 pm	Leavers' Mass – St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 20 th July	10 am 1.45 pm 4:00 pm	Leavers' Assembly Children to new classes – incl. new children until 2:30 pm Leavers' Barbecue Nursery closes for Summer Break
Wednesday 21 st July	10 am 2 pm	Final Assembly School closes for Summer Break

St James the Great RC (VA) Primary & Nursery School

Child's Name: Class:

I enclose £1 and wish to be included in the list to receive 4 school chicken eggs.

I would be interested in looking after the chickens during a holiday period.

Signed: (Parent/Guardian)

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we return to school after Easter the Church is still celebrating this great event. This term we will also celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The focus of our term's work in Religious Education is the role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives. We will be exploring the topics *Messengers & Witnesses, Islam, Change* and *Treasures*.



MESSENGRERS & WITNESSES

(April 19th - May 14th)

In this topic we focus on the importance of giving and receiving messages. Like the apostles, Christians have a responsibility to receive and to pass on the message of Easter. The children are invited to look at ways Christians pass on the good news of Easter to others today.

Suggestions for home activities

- As a family, send a happy message either by post or email to someone the family knows. Focus on some happy event or the good things that are happening in your lives. Encourage the children to contribute their ideas to the message.
- Ask your child to tell you the story of Pentecost

ISLAM (May 17th - 28th)

During these 2 weeks, the children will learn about how Muslims live and worship.

Suggestions for home activities

- Talk together about what you know about Muslims.



CHANGE

(June 7th - 30th)

In this topic we focus on the way a person's relationship with God and with others can be affected by choices we make. Whatever choices we make have consequences, and these consequences affect the lives of others. God, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, offers an opportunity to change selfish behaviour. God's unchanging love and forgiveness helps the person who wants to change.

Suggestions for home activities

- Look for opportunities for forgiveness and reconciliation in the day to day life of the family.
- With the children talk about the importance of saying sorry.

TREASURES (July 1st - 23rd)

The final topic in the Summer term looks at **Neighbours**. The children learn about their neighbours near and far and explore how they can love and support each other.

Suggestions for home activities

- Talk about how well you know your neighbours and how you support each other.
- As a family, think of ways you can support neighbours around the world.
- Write a prayer together for neighbours around the world.



We hope you find this leaflet helpful.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

DATES TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady

Ascension Day

May 16th

After His Resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of 40 days. Ascension Day is when we celebrate

Pentecost Sunday

May 23rd

This is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.



The Body and Blood of Christ

June 6th

On this feast we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

Ss Peter & Paul

June 29th

Religious Education

Summer Term

2010



Parents' Letter