



# St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 1

September 2006

**W**elcome back to everyone. Once again I would record thanks to all parents for ensuring the children have returned from their break smartly turned out ready to settle into the new school year. Thank you also for the tremendous response for postcards to be sent from holiday destinations. Once you get an opportunity to see them on display you will see a wide range of destinations home and abroad, near and far. It also appears that the children enjoyed their break wherever it was, enjoying much summer fun.

As you know while the children are on holiday much goes on in school. This year has been no different and I must record enormous gratitude to our new Premises Manager, George Coles, who has worked long hours and long weeks in an effort to bring the school up to his clearly very high standards. I know he feels he will need more time yet to get things as he wants but I am sure you will agree that the impact of his efforts are already clear. It is now up to us to support his work and I am sure the children will do their best to look after the school environment. Many thanks again to George, members of his cleaning team and Joe who have all supported his work,

The summer coach trips, although experiencing mixed weather, went very well and appeared to be enjoyed by all. Parents will be pleased to note that during the break the coach was prepared for and successfully passed its annual PSV test. Whilst this level of test is not required for our vehicle we feel it important to keep it tested to this high standard. Thanks to Joe for his efforts in this regard.

St James the Great is a busy place and we know that we have a busy year ahead. A good start has been made by all staff and I would like to formally welcome the following new members to the team: Miss Karima Bekir, Miss Daria Hass, Miss Angela McCaughey, Miss Anna Whittingham, Miss Ellen Jackson and Miss Clare Sweeney.

Quickly it feels like we have never been away!!!

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED ATTENDING THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION MICHAELMAS BALL** – if not, please do so. This event has taken a significant amount of planning and is going to be an excellent and enjoyable event. I am sure you will see from the flyers that have been issued that whilst the ticket prices are on the high side they are good value for all that is being provided. Do join us if you can. Ten places remain.

**START OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS:** Parents are invited to join us for this celebration on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15 pm. This will be the final time Fr Anto will celebrate Mass for us before he leaves St Andrew's Parish.



school achievement award  
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## **SCHOOL MEALS**

Please find attached to this Newsletter our updated school menu which at £1.50 per day remains excellent value, particularly when compared with the current Local Authority price of £1.65 for a less varied menu. The new menu has been adapted to reflect additional requirements placed on schools in regard to nutritional value and incorporates new as well as established menu items. The children's initial reactions have been very positive but we would welcome any feedback during this half term trial period.

## **PARENT HELPERS**

We are very grateful to those of you who already offer a regular slot of voluntary help for the school. If you are available to help with any of the following please let the staff member concerned know, either personally or via a note into school.

1. Guided reading in Year 2 on Wednesday afternoons. (Mrs Mascarenhas would be very grateful.)
2. General reading support at anytime. (Again contact Mrs Mascarenhas.)

**N.B. MINI BUS DRIVERS:** If you are over 25 and have this category on your driving licence and would be willing to be contacted to take (sometimes stay) and collect children on educational visits, please let the school office know. There is no commitment only an agreement to be approached to check availability when a driver is required.

## **DATE LISTS**

Please find attached to this Newsletter the school's annual programme of events and a list of proposed class Masses, Prayer Services and Assemblies. As far as possible we will maintain these dates, although occasionally unforeseen circumstances can cause changes which will be notified to you as early as possible.

## **START OF SCHOOL DAY – REMINDER**

1. A member of staff is on duty from 9 am and Key Stage 2 pupils can be left on the playground from this time.
2. Key Stage 1 (Reception and Years 1 and 2) should be under the supervision of a parent/carer until the whistle is blown at 9.15 am.
3. **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Lining Up:** Parents will have noted that we have instigated a new system in regard to these year groups lining up at the start of the school day. It would be appreciated if once the whistle goes children are permitted to join their class line by themselves. Parents wishing to wait until the class moves into their classroom are asked to wait away from the lines in the playground roadway markings adjacent to the garage block.

## **WET WEATHER DAYS (N.B. ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS)**

1. Children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should be taken to the library area. A member of staff will attend the library area at 9.00 am and assume responsibility for the children. Parents are then requested to leave the building as congestion on wet days is a safety risk.
2. Key Stage 2 pupils should go to the main hall where at 9 am a teacher will be on duty.
3. Nursery children should always be delivered to Nursery staff by an adult at the start of session times 9.15 am and 1 pm.

Your help and co-operation in regard to making the start of the day smoother by abiding by the above is appreciated, as is ensuring your child's punctuality.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Thank you for getting your children off to the new term appropriately dressed. For clarification, I can confirm that Year 2 continue to use Bookbags rather than Rucksacks. However, if it becomes necessary to replace the Bookbag later in the year parents may prefer to purchase a Rucksack at this stage ready for Juniors.

## **GIRLS' HAIR**

Please ensure hair extensions and fancy colourful accessories are kept for holiday times only. Hair accessories should be school uniform scrunchies or dark blue/black.

## **WATER – REMINDER**

Children in Years 1 to 6 may bring a clear bottle of water to school for consumption during the day. Plastic bottles with sports tops essential. In class provision will be made for Nursery and Reception children.

**PARENTS' ICT CLUB:** This Club will recommence on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30-10.30 am based on the Keybyte Scheme. To take part or for further information please contact Mrs Cefai directly.

## **BABYSITTING**

A 15 year old past pupil has offered her services as a babysitter. Anyone wishing to contact Emily to book her services should telephone 020 8684 6831. We are intending to compile a new list of babysitters for circulation to parents and anyone able to recommend somebody for this list should advise the school office accordingly. Rates, dates and times etc. will need to be negotiated directly with the babysitter.

## **CAR BOOT SALE**

26<sup>th</sup> Croydon Scout Group are holding a Car Boot Sale at St James the Great School on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Gates open 10 am – 2 pm. Sellers 9 am. Pre-booking: Cars £5.00, Vans and People Carriers £7.00. Admission: 50p. Ring Kathy on 020 8653 1702 to book. Refreshments will be available to purchase.

## **BOOKSHOP**

The school Bookshop re-opens from next Monday with the new term's stock. Savings stamps for books continue to be available to the following values: 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 if you would like your child to save for a book rather than make an outright purchase. Parents are welcome to visit the Bookshop in the Reception area from 3 pm onwards.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Mrs Mowbray would appreciate it if any outstanding photograph monies from last term could be sent in as soon as possible.

## **KEEP FIT**

I am pleased to confirm that Lizzie has recommenced her Monday evening Keep Fit Class from 7-8 pm. New members and returners will all be welcome, both male and female. Cost is £3 per session, payable on attendance.

## **CROYDON CHILDREN'S CLUB**

This organisation which offers good quality pre and after school care has informed us that following approaches from parents working as Nurses, they have extended their opening hours to accommodate varying shift patterns. The sessions are open to all and now operate from 7.00 am. Please contact Georgina on 07950 603655.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** We are currently firming up our list of extra curricular activities and will issue a definitive list with our next Newsletter.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Menu
2. Up to date Holiday Date List.
3. Annual programme date list. Dates known have been included and we will confirm other dates as they are advised to us – *we will make every endeavour to keep to these dates which will only be altered as a result of circumstances beyond our control.*
4. Details regarding a Conference evening at Fairfield Halls in connection with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and ADD special needs issues.
5. Class Service and assembly date list – *all welcome.*
6. RE Newsletter.

**ST JAMES THE GREAT RC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL  
MENU**



<i>WEEK ONE</i>					
	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>Main Dishes</b>	Pork Meatballs in Gravy Tuna Pasta	BBQ Chicken Vegetable Lasagne	Meat Bolognaise Salmon Fish Cake	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Chicken Curry	Locally produced Beef Burger or Pork Sausage
<b>Starchy Dishes</b>	Egg Noodle Couscous	New Potatoes Tortilla Wrap	Spaghetti Jacket Potato	Rice Jacket Wedges	Bun Fat Chips
<i>Daily Selection of Breads and Salad Bar</i>					
<b>Vegetables</b>	Mixed Vegetables Cauliflower Gratin	Sweetcorn Broccoli Florets	Peas Baby Carrots	French Beans Sweetcorn	Mixed Salads
<i>Daily Selection of Fresh Fruits and Yoghurts</i>					
<b>Fruit and Desserts</b>	Fruit Salad	Apple & Plum Crumble Custard	Fruit Jelly	Vanilla Ice Cream Hot Chocolate Sauce	Cookie Fresh Fruit Fruit Smoothie
<i>WEEK TWO</i>					
<b>Main Dishes</b>	Cod Fillet Fish Fingers Selection of Cold Meats	Chilli Con Carne Vegetable Pizza	Roast Turkey Tomato & Herb Pasta	Vegetable Curry Locally Produced Pork Sausages	Beef Burger or Fish Fillet
<b>Starchy Dishes</b>	New Potatoes Pitta	Rice Jacket Potatoes	Roast Potatoes Tortilla	Basmati Rice Mash Potatoes	Bun Fat Chips
<i>Daily Selection of Breads and Salad Bar</i>					
<b>Vegetables</b>	Country Vegetables Peas	Sweetcorn Coleslaw	Cabbage Julienne Carrots	Baked Beans Sweetcorn	Mixed Salad
<i>Daily Selection of Fresh Fruits and Yoghurts</i>					
<b>Fruit and Desserts</b>	Peach Slices in Juice	Apple & Pineapple Sponge	Rice Pudding with Sultanas	Mandarins & Ice Cream	Cookie Fresh Fruit Fruit Smoothie
<i>WEEK THREE</i>					
<b>Main Dishes</b>	Ham & Pineapple Pizza Vegetable Burger	Chicken Drumsticks Mackerel Pasta Salad	Shepherd's Pie Salmon Fish Cakes	Vegetable or Chicken Sweet & Sour Cod Fish Fingers	Beef Burger Or Pork Sausage
<b>Starchy Dishes</b>	Couscous Jacket Potatoes	Tortilla Wrap New Potatoes	Mash Potato Pasta Shapes	Rice Noodles	Bun Fat Chips
<i>Daily Selection of Breads and Salad Bar</i>					
<b>Vegetables</b>	Coleslaw Sweetcorn	Peas Farmhouse Vegetables	Sliced Carrots Green Beans	Sweetcorn Roast Vegetables	Mixed Salad
<i>Daily Selection of Fresh Fruits and Yoghurts</i>					
<b>Fruit and Desserts</b>	Greek Yoghurt and Pears	Chocolate Sponge Chocolate Sauce	Orange Jelly	Spiced Apple Cake	Cookie Fresh Fruit Fruit Smoothie

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

**SUMMER TERM 2006**

OPEN: Wednesday 26 April

***CLOSED: Monday 1 May (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)***

CLOSE: Thursday 25 May

***CLOSED: Friday 26 May (Staff In-Service Day)***

OPEN: Monday 5 June

CLOSE: Friday 21 July

***CLOSED: Monday 24 July (Staff In-Service Day)***

**AUTUMN TERM 2006**

OPEN: Tuesday 5 September

***CLOSED: Monday 4 September (Staff In-Service Day)***

OPEN: Monday 30 October

CLOSE: Friday 20 October

CLOSE: Wednesday 20 December

**SPRING TERM 2007**

OPEN: Monday 8 January

***CLOSED: Thursday 4 & Friday 5 January (Staff In-Service Days)***

CLOSE: Thursday 15 February

OPEN: Monday 26 February

***CLOSED: Friday 16 February (Staff In-Service Day)***

CLOSE: Thursday 5 April

**SUMMER TERM 2007**

OPEN: Thursday 19 April

***CLOSED: Monday 7 May (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)***

CLOSE: Friday 25 May

***CLOSED: Monday 4 June (Staff In-Service Day)***

OPEN: Tuesday 5 June

CLOSE: Friday 20 July

**AUTUMN TERM 2007**

OPEN: Tuesday 4 September

***CLOSED: Monday 3 September (Staff In-Service Day)***

OPEN: Monday 29 October

CLOSE: Friday 19 October

CLOSE: Friday 21 December

**SPRING TERM 2008**

OPEN: Monday 7 January

***CLOSED: Friday 4 January***

OPEN: Monday 25 February

CLOSE: Friday 15 February

CLOSE: Thursday 20 March

**SUMMER TERM 2008**

OPEN: Monday 7 April

***CLOSED: Monday 5 May (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)***

CLOSE: Friday 23 May

***CLOSED: Monday 2 June (Staff In-Service Day)***

OPEN: Tuesday 3 June

CLOSE: Friday 18 July

***CLOSED: Monday 21 July (Staff In-Service Day)***

**AUTUMN TERM 2008**

OPEN: Tuesday 2 September

***CLOSED: Monday 1 September (Staff In-Service Day)***

OPEN: Monday 3 November

CLOSE: Friday 24 October

CLOSE: Friday 19 December

**SPRING TERM 2009**

OPEN: Monday 5 January

CLOSE: Friday 13 February

OPEN: Monday 23 February

CLOSE: Thursday 9 April

**SUMMER TERM 2009**

OPEN: Monday 27 April

***CLOSED: Friday 24 April (Staff In-Service Day)***

***CLOSED: Monday 4 May (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)***

OPEN: Monday 1 June

CLOSE: Friday 22 May

CLOSE: Friday 17 July

**AUTUMN TERM 2009**

OPEN: Tuesday 2 September

***CLOSED: Monday 1 September (Staff In-Service Day)***

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**For your information:**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Good Friday	14 April	6 April	21 March	10 April	2 April
Easter Sunday	16 April	8 April	23 March	12 April	4 April
Christmas Day	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

***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***

**Date List 2006/2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September		<b><i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i></b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September		School Re-opens
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	2.15 pm	Whole School Mass
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	11 am	Reception Intake Croydon Advertiser Photograph
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	4.45 pm	Catholic Schs Staff Mass–Regina Coeli-mini-bus from SJTG 4pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October		Open Evening Key Stage 2
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October		Year 3 CAFOD Harvest Lunch
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October		Open Evening Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2 only)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	2.45 pm	Harvest Assembly
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	7.30 pm	Year 4&5 Residential Visit ting for Parents & children (Music Room)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October		<b><i>School closes for Half Term</i></b>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October		<i>School re-opens</i>
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October		<i>Closing date for receipt of Reception applications 2007/08</i>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	10:00 am 2:45 pm.	Feast Of All Saints - Mass St Andrew's Yrs 2 to 6 Non-Eucharistic Service for N to Y1
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	7 for 8 pm	Friends Association Grand Firework Display
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30 pm	Governor Parent & Friends Association AGM's
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November		Open Evening – Reception
W/B 4 <sup>th</sup> December		Book Fair (MF & CS)
	12-4 pm	Friends Association Christmas Craft Fayre
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	2 pm 7:30 p.m.	Christmas Concert – All Infants Carol Service at St Bartholomew's – All Juniors
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants (Guest Night)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Dinner Day – Nursery
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Dinner Day – Whole School
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December		Class Christmas Party Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30 pm	Nursery Concert
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December		Nursery closes for Christmas Break
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	2 pm	<b><i>School closes for Christmas Break</i></b> Closing date for Nursery applications 2007/08
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> January		<b><i>Inset Days</i></b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	9.15 am	School re-opens
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February		School closes for Half Term.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	9.15 am	<b><i>Catholic Schools In-Service Day Regina Coeli – School Closed</i></b>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February		<b><i>School re-opens</i></b>
TBA	a.m.	Catholic Schools' Cross Country
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00 pm	Yr6 UKSA Resid. Visit mting for parents&children (Music Room)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March		All Croydon Primary Schools September 2007 admission offers.
W/B 26 <sup>th</sup> March		Penitential Week – Years 4, 5 and 6
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Year 6 to lead Stations of the Cross – St Andrew's

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> March		Easter Residential Visit – Years 4 and 5
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April		<b><i>Nursery closes for Easter Break</i></b>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	9.45 am 2:00 pm	School-based Easter Liturgy led by Year 3 <b><i>School closes for Easter Break</i></b>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15 am	<b><i>School re-opens</i></b>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May		<b><i>School closed – May Day Bank Holiday</i></b>
W/B 14 <sup>th</sup> May		Year 6 – SATs
TBA	a.m.	Croydon Catholic Schools Football and Netball Tournaments at Margaret Roper School
21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> May		UKSA – Year 6 Residential Visit
Friday 25 May		<b><i>School closes for half term Break</i></b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June		<b><i>In-Service Day – School Closed</i></b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15 am	<b><i>School re-opens</i></b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	p.m.	School Sports – field events
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	All day	Sports Day – track events
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June		New Reception Visits
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30 pm	New Nursery Parents’ Meeting
TBA		Catholic Schools’ Swimming Gala
TBA	a.m.	Croydon Catholic Schools’ Sports Day at St James the Great
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30 pm	New Reception Visits (am and pm) Reception Parents’ Meeting
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	10 am 2.45 pm	Feast of Ss Peter and Paul Mass for Key Stage 2 and Year 2 at St Bartholomew’s Non-Eucharistic Service for Nursery – Year 1
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	2 pm	School Concert
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30 pm	School Concert
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30 pm	School Concert (Guest Night)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30 pm	Leavers’ Mass – St Bartholomew’s
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	4:00 pm	Leavers’ Barbecue
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	1.45 pm	Children to new classes – incl. new children until 2:30 pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	9.45 am	Leavers’ Assembly Nursery closes for Summer Break
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	9.45 am 2 pm	Final Assembly <b><i>School closes for Summer Break</i></b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September		<b><i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i></b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September		<b><i>School re-opens</i></b>

Dear Parents or Guardians

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to a presentation evening to raise awareness of the every day struggles learning difficulties can cause. I hope the evening will also give you a greater understanding that there is now an answer that can put a stop to all the learning frustrations.

The evening will be hosted by myself on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006** from **7.00 pm to 8.30 pm** in The Arnhem Gallery at **Fairfield Halls**, Fairfield, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 1DG.

DORE is a treatment centre for Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Attention Deficit Disorder. My daughter, Susie, is the driving force behind the programme, throughout her school life she was inhibited greatly by dyslexia. As a parent of a sufferer I can empathise and understand that learning differences can be very hard to deal with for all those involved. For that reason I am now committed to making sure I help as many other people as possible and give them their chance in life.

**Easily tired or frustrated? Sick of feeling like you 'can't'? This can mean that people are challenged everyday by:**

- **Low self esteem**
- **Poor handwriting**
- **Reading difficulties**
- **Poor spelling**
- **Clumsiness**

Is this how you or your child is affected by learning difficulties or someone else close to you? If so, I would urge you to come and join us at our friendly presentation evening. The evening is complimentary providing you with the chance to gain a better understanding about these learning frustrations and what DORE can do to correct them permanently.

We hope the evening will help you understand the problems and answer any questions you may have. Topics covered will include:-

- The symptoms
- Coping strategies
- The root cause
- The solution
- Recent research
- Interviews with people have overcome these frustrations
- Question and answer session

To reserve your **FREE** tickets call **0870 880 6060** or email [senconference@dore.co.uk](mailto:senconference@dore.co.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Wynford Dore  
Founder

### Class Assembly, Prayer Service and Mass Schedule

<b>Class</b>	<b>Thursday Assembly – 3.05 pm</b>	<b>Prayer Service – Tuesday or Thursday at 9.45 am in The Oratory followed by refreshments in the Staff Room</b>	<b>10 o'clock Parish Mass</b>
R1	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2007	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2007 – St Bartholomew's
R2	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2007	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2007	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2007 – St Bartholomew's
1.1	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2007	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2007 – St Andrew's
1.2	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2007	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2007 – St Bartholomew's
2.1	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2006	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2007	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2007 – St Andrew's
2.2	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2006	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2007 – St Bartholomew's
3.1	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2007	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2007 – St Andrew's
3.2	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2007	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2006	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2007 – St Andrew's
4.1	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2007 – St Andrew's
4.2	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2007	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2006	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2007 – St Bartholomew's
5.1	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2007	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2006 – St Andrew's
5.2	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2007	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2006 – St Andrew's
6.1	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2007	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2006 – St Andrew's
6.2	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2007	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2006 – St Bartholomew'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. It may be necessary on occasions to change dates of attendance subject to parish commitments, e.g. requiem Masses.

Dear Parent(s),

The question "Where do I come from?" is the basis of this term's work. Christians believe that God the Father is Creator and source of all life and because everything and everyone created comes from God then all life must be revered and respected.

As schools return for the Autumn term, the church's year is moving towards its completion. Before Advent, which is the start of the new church's year, we especially celebrate the Communion of Saints throughout the month of November.

The topics to be studied this term are: **Babies**, **Initiation** and **Gifts**. These help us to deepen our understanding of giftedness, belonging and loving within creation.



**BABIES**

(4<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> October)

In this topic we focus on the joy that babies bring into the lives of their parents and families. We also wonder at the mystery of each new life that has been created by God in his image and likeness and is loved and cared for by Him like a parent. The children are encouraged to understand the ways in which they show respect for the dignity of the people in their lives at home, in school and in their neighbourhood.

**Suggestions for home activities:**

- Talk to your child about his/her arrival into the family and things that family members said about them, e.g. family characteristics.
- Together, look at photographs or videos of them as babies and recall their story of coming into the world, their first year and the care they needed.
- Make a scrap book of babies using magazine pictures or photographs of your own child. Underneath each picture write one of the following: "God created babies (you) to be like Him"; "A baby is a miracle" or "You are a miracle"; "God is your parent, you are His child"; "Babies (you) are beautiful"; "Babies (you) bring Joy".

**INITIATION**

(9<sup>th</sup> October – 10<sup>th</sup> November)

In this topic we look at the many ways we are welcomed (initiated) into the communities in which we live. These include the communities of family, school and church.

The children learn about the Sacrament of Baptism which enables the family to both welcome a new baby into the 'Domestic Church' community of the family and also into the parish community. Children explore the ways in which they welcome new people, other children, new staff and parents into the community of the school. They are also helped to grow in awareness of their own initiation into the church.

**Suggestions for home activities:**

- Discuss with your children how you, as a family welcome visitors to your home.
- Make a list – e.g. invite them to come in, take their coats and invite them to sit down; Switch off the TV; offer some refreshment; ask how they are; then talk about what else the family might do.
- Show photographs, Baptismal candle, certificate, shawl etc. relating to their own welcome into the family of the church.
- As well as celebrating their birthday, celebrate their Baptism Day by inviting their Godparents for a special meal.

**OTHER FAITHS**

(week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November)

This term, another world faith will be explored in years 1-6. We want the children to grow in understanding and respect for the beliefs of others in order to promote peace in our world. It is the lack of understanding and respect that has been the cause of so much conflict in the past.



**Suggestions for home activities:**

- Encourage your child to share with you what they have been learning about the world faith.
- Look for the displays in school on this topic and talk about it with your child.

## GIFTS

(20<sup>th</sup> November to end of term and beyond)

In this topic we explore the theme of giving and receiving gifts as a sign and expression of love and friendship. The children are helped to understand that gifts are specially chosen by the giver, for the person who is to receive them.

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas when we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus given by God as a sign of His love for all human beings. The children are encouraged to reflect on the gifts they have received in the past and what those gifts mean to them now.

### *Suggestions for home activities:*

- *Make or buy an Advent calendar that uses **religious symbols** to help your child prepare for Christmas.*
- *Help your child to prepare a gift list for others rather than themselves. Get them to think about the individual person concerned and what would give them pleasure or would be useful to them.*



**We hope you find this leaflet useful and will be able to share in our celebrations throughout the term.**

**Please keep us in your prayers as we try to support your children.**

**With all good wishes,  
Yours sincerely,**



Special times this term:-

- October the month of the Rosary;
- November the month of the Holy Souls;
- 1<sup>st</sup> November All Saints;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November All Souls;
- 12<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday;
- 26<sup>th</sup> November Christ the King
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December beginning of Advent;
- 8<sup>th</sup> December Immaculate Conception;
- 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day.

Please watch for notices regarding use of The Oratory and invitations to participate in parent groups.



## ***Parents' Letter***



## ***Religious Education***

***Autumn Term  
2006***