



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

No 1

September 2010

We welcome you back and hope you have all had a good summer! We often comment on how quickly the school year appears to pass by; I think most would agree the summer break is the period we all look forward to only to find in no time the next school year is underway. That said, it has been lovely to receive a steady stream of postcards over the break period from a very wide range of destinations. These have reflected the national trend of more home-based holidays. Thank you very much for taking the trouble to send these in. Mrs Lawless has very kindly agreed to once again set up the central display which will show some far flung destinations. This will be complemented by some class-based displays that will see the cards sent in shared with the children. Year 6 are the recipients of my cards which wish them a good final year with us; I am sure they will be a great Year 6. We have issued them with their Year 6 ties which we trust they will wear with pride as a privilege that can be withdrawn.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Lavinia Spong to the staff as our new Deputy Headteacher, Miss Sheree Eaton as Class 5.1's new teacher and Miss Frania Grabiec who is with us for the year for her GTP training. I am sure all three will settle quickly into their roles and will enjoy being part of the St James the Great team. I know you will make them welcome.

A final thank you to all parents for ensuring their children have returned smartly attired in full uniform ready for the year ahead. Please remember to ensure all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name in order that lost property piles can be kept to a minimum. Please also keep in mind that our dress code includes requirements in regard to haircuts with a couple of children returning from the holidays "sailing very close to the wind". May the 2010/2011 academic year prove to be another successful year.

SUMMER WORKS

Whilst visually there may not be many obvious signs of summer works this year, the holiday period was as busy as ever behind the scenes. Most noticeable will be:-

1. The new covered area outside of the Nursery which greatly enhances outside opportunities. This work also saw the relocation of the awning purchased by the Friends Association to the Key Stage One playground to provide additional shade. In addition some repair work was undertaken to Nursery safety surfacing.
2. Restaining of the lower timbers to the exposed sides of both the Music and Junior wings of the building was carried out.
3. An opportunity was taken to have all the external storm drains and gullies jetted and cleaned which hopefully will see clearer paths during winter rains. Special thanks to Joe Anoff for the preparatory work he undertook in advance of the contractors coming on site.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.

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4. Internal and external window cleaning.
5. Minor electrical works and annual service.

Following on from the full use of our premises during the break for football, art and dance activities our cleaning team has worked hard to prepare the school for the new year. Thanks to Les and his team for their efforts.

OTHER PREMISES MATTERS

Four meetings between the Local Authority, Governors and senior staff took place over the summer in connection with proposals to expand the school. Whilst retaining a very open mind on this matter any final decision one way or the other is still not imminent not least due to significant doubts over funding issues. At this point there is nothing else to report but parents will be kept advised of any developments and consulted should formal proposals be made.

NEW BUILDING

At the end of last term the Governors approved proposals to erect a new building primarily for pre and after school provision and use by the school in the school day with opportunities for other out of hours use. A planning proposal has been submitted to Croydon Council and subject to approval works will commence early October. The site proposed is currently adjacent to the gazebo to the top end of the small field. This is much needed additional space that will be sited to impact as little as possible on our current green space provision. I hope to be able to report further on this development in a future Newsletter. I would record thanks to our Friends Association whose agreement to support this project financially has made it possible.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' STAFF MASS

This year's service is due to take place at St Chad's Church, South Norwood on Tuesday 28th September 2010 at 4.30 pm followed by a reception. All staff working in Catholic schools are welcome along with Catholic staff currently working in non-Catholic schools. Please do consider coming along if you are in these categories of employment.

SCHOOL CATERING

You may have picked up from local press coverage that Croydon Council is ceasing to maintain a central school meals contract. This in many ways validates our historical decision to bring catering in-house. However, in order to maintain a high quality service that is self financing and not a cost to the school budget a good level of take-up is required. Please support our school meals service as much as possible. Whilst moving to £1.70 per day it remains excellent value. Our flexible arrangements also offer parents an unusually high level of choice. Attached to this Newsletter is a copy of the current Menu. Next week is week two of the Menu. To coin a phrase 'use it or lose it'.

PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE

It has been interesting to look to the front of the building in the morning and note the last minute arrivals! Overall we have a good record of attendance and punctuality and it greatly benefits the children to get a calm start to the day and be part of the start of day instructions. You are asked therefore to make every effort to ensure your children are on the site before the bell goes. Likewise full attendance is very important and we will continue not to authorise in-term absences other than for very exceptional circumstances. All requests for such leave must be put in writing.

BOOK TRAIL

Once again you appear to have well supported this annual summer library activity. Thank you. Clearly this supports the children's ongoing reading but it is also pleasing to hear from the librarian, when she delivers the children's certificates, her enthusiasm for the fantastic support our school has traditionally given to this programme. I know as a parent how demanding on time this can be over the break even though for the children it is fun reading. Well done to all who took part. I will give further details in due course.

READING HELPERS

A number of parents have given great service over the years by regular weekly attendance to hear children read. Teachers do their best to fit this in to their timetable but parental support for this task cannot be over-valued. Could you spare one or two hours a week to hear readers? Grandparents, aunts and uncles etc. are equally welcome. If you can help please complete the slip attached to this Newsletter and return it to the school office. A member of staff will then contact you to confirm arrangements. You could be allocated any class although not normally one in which you have a child. Please offer to help in this way if at all possible.

REMINDERS

1. FRIENDS ASSOCIATION MICHAELMAS BALL – SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

There is still time to book a place at this prestigious Black Tie event. Tables are restricted and will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Use the slip attached to this Newsletter to obtain places. Why not consider getting family and friends to join you and book a table? We ran this event four years ago and it is still highly rated as a night out. Give it a go!!

2. EASTER 2011

This is the year when our dates are significantly out of step with other local schools as previously notified due to the timing of Easter. We will be send out in the New Year details of a holiday scheme that will be co-ordinated by Mrs Shakespeare who runs current after school provision in the hope this will offer reasonably priced child care for this period.

3. FRIENDS ASSOCIATION SUMMER TRIPS

These were well supported once again and those who went appeared to have a really good time. Well done to the Association for co-ordinating these days which, I know, are much appreciated.

SCHOOL CHICKEN EGGS

Our school chickens are doing well having returned from their summer holidays. Thank you to the families who took care of them over this period. We are nearly at the end of the list of families who have requested some St James the Great Free Range Eggs. If you would like 4 eggs please complete the slip at the end of this Newsletter and return it to school with £1 (this goes towards the provision of chicken feed). You will then be sent your eggs when your name reaches the top of the list which is compiled on a first come first served basis.

SCOOTERS AND BIKES

These are becoming a significant safety issue before and after school. **REMINDER** children coming to school on bicycles or scooters **MUST** walk them into school from the school gate and walk them out to the school gate before riding them again. Bicycles and scooters must not be ridden on the school site between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. Thank you for your co-operation in regard to this matter.

OTHER SAFETY ISSUES

CARS

Whilst maintaining a perspective on these matters, it is important that we are all careful as accidents do happen. As a result parents are not permitted to drive onto the school site between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm other than in very exceptional circumstances. It is important, therefore, to time your journey to school to allow sufficient time to part a little distance away from the school. Please also be sensible to local residents' driveways and ensure their access is not restricted.

BUGGIES

We would respectfully request that buggies are not brought past the main entrance lobby due to the trip hazard they present to others moving around the building. Thank you for keeping this in mind.

ALLERGIES - IMPORTANT

Whilst on safety issues, we are currently updating our records in regard to children who suffer from allergies and other medical conditions that may require attention during the school day. In order to ensure our records are complete we would ask you to send the slip attached to this Newsletter to school confirming any issues of this nature relating to your child even if you have provided this previously.

SCHOOL BOOKSHOP

The School Bookshop re-opens on Monday 13th September. This facility provides a good opportunity for children to learn the habit of saving by purchasing stamps in multiples of 10p towards the purchase of a book. I am very grateful to the volunteer parents who run the Bookshop.

EINSTEIN'S ENTERTAINERS – SCIENCE CLUB

Following a very exciting Assembly, there has been a very good take-up for this after school club. The company have agreed to run 2 classes on a Monday evening and as a result there are a few places still available. If you wish your child to take part please send the form and payment back to school as soon as possible. Once over-subscribed a waiting list will be maintained. I am sure the children will learn much in this club.

LIZ'S EXERCISE CLASS – COME AND JOIN US!

Every Monday night in term time in the school hall between 7.00 and 8.00 pm. Only £3.50 per class. For more information contact Liz on 07956 123390 or liz_rutledge@hotmail.com.

CAN YOU HELP?

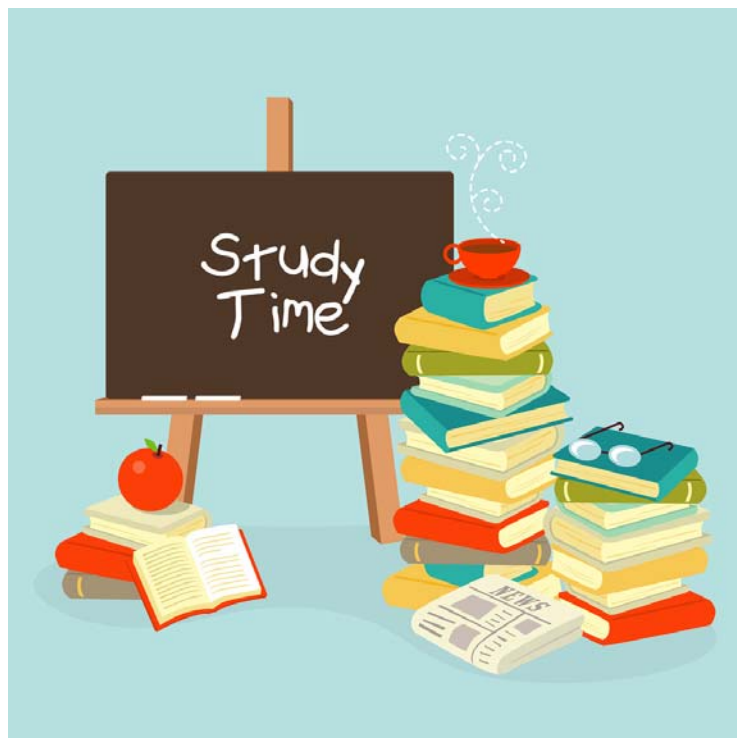
One of our families needs help to get their two junior children home to South Norwood after school, possibly until the end of 2010. If you are able to help please contact Wendy Fernandes on 020 8768 0545 or 07904 775377.

AND FINALLY – MONEY - SORRY

St James the Great has a reputation for having a positive outlook and determination to achieve what it sets out to do. This undoubtedly stems from our strong community outlook and support received from you, the parents. I am confident this will continue. I am, however, very concerned about funding issues in the medium term which will impact significantly as a result of planned cuts in public spending. I am also acutely aware of the financial constraints parents are likewise facing. However, our new building project, which we have had to finance, has only been possible due to funding we have received from parents through the regular contributions they make to school fund and the Gift Aid declarations made. Contributions to this scheme are made monthly, quarterly or annually and whilst a guide figure of £40 per family per year is suggested we do receive currently annual amounts between £12 to £120. All contributions small or large are greatly appreciated and last year the total was further improved by a tax reclaim of £5,000. Thank you very much to those who are participating in this scheme. It makes a real difference and will in the coming period prove invaluable. I hope those currently not part of the scheme will consider helping to whatever level they can. We will be writing to you directly over the coming weeks to ask for your support.

Attachments:-

1. Updated Holiday Dates (please note this list now includes all of the In-service Training Days for the next academic year).
2. School Meals Menu.



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

(Our comprehensive Menu has been designed to meet nutritional guidelines for school meals)



WEEK ONE				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meatballs in Gravy Tuna Pasta Salad Cauliflower Cheese (V)	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chicken Kebabs Vegetable Kebabs	Beef or Vegetable Bolognese (V) Steamed Salmon Fillet	BBQ Chicken Meat Lasagne Vegetable Lasagne (V)	Locally Produced Beef Burger Salad Rolls (V)
Rice Jacket Potatoes	Potato Wedges	Spaghetti Jacket Potatoes	New Potatoes Jacket Potatoes	Steak Chips
<i>Seasonal Fresh Vegetables, Salad Bar and Fresh Breads</i>				Selection of Cookies Cup Cakes Fruit
Peaches and Cream	Vanilla Sponge and Custard	Ice Cream and Hot Chocolate Sauce	Chocolate Mousse and Shortbread	
<i>Fresh Fruit Selection and Yoghurts</i>				
WEEK TWO				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Vegetable Pizza (V) Chilli Con Carne	Chicken Casserole Vegetable Casserole(V) Fish Fingers	Roast Turkey, Pork Beef or Lamb Tomato and Herb Pasta (V)	Chicken Pie Selection of Cold Meats Sweet & Sour Vegetables (V)	Cod Fish Fillet Salad Rolls (V)
Jacket Potatoes Rice	Boiled Potatoes	Roast Potatoes	New Potatoes Couscous	Steak Chips
<i>Seasonal Fresh Vegetables, Salad Bar and Fresh Breads</i>				Selection of Cookies Muffins Fruit
Jelly	Fruit Crumble and Custard	Rice Pudding	Iced Vanilla Sponge	
<i>Fresh Fruit Selection and Yoghurts</i>				
WEEK THREE				
Chicken Curry Vegetable Curry (V) with Vegetable Biryani Tuna & Sweetcorn Fish shapes	Cheese & Vegetable Quiche (V) Spicy Chicken	Shepherd's Pie Vegetable Lasagne (V) Salmon Fish Cakes	Ham & Pineapple Pizza Vegetable Chilli (V)	Locally Produced Pork Sausage Salad Rolls (V)
Rice Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes Noodles	Mash Potato New Potatoes	Couscous Jacket Potatoes	Steak Chips
<i>Seasonal Fresh Vegetables, Salad Bar and Fresh Breads</i>				Selection of Cookies Rice Krispie Cakes Fruit
Ice Cream with Fruit Coulis	Chocolate Sponge and Chocolate Sauce	Fruit Salad & Jelly	Fruit Sponge	
<i>Fresh Fruit Selection and Yoghurts</i>				

N.B. Special Diets will always be catered for.

June 2010

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

Reading Helpers

Child's Name: Class:

I am able to offer hours per week to listen to children reading.

Name and contact number:

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

Friends Association (Black Tie) Michaelmas Ball – Saturday 25th September 2010

Name:

Child's Name: Class:

- I would like to book a table for 10 persons for the Michaelmas Ball (£425)
 - I would like to buy tickets at £42.50 per person for the Michaelmas Ball
 - I enclose cash/cheque(s) to the value of £..... made payable to 'Friends of St James the Great'
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St James the Great RC (VA) Primary & Nursery School

Chicken Eggs

Child's Name: Class:

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

Signed: (Parent/Guardian)

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

Allergies and Other Medical Issues - Confidential

Child's Name: Class:

Please note my child has the following allergies/medical conditions about which the school needs to know:-

Signed: (Parent/Guardian)