



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

No 2

November 2007

Well done to Michael Dolan, Sharon Anand Rajmohan, Hugo Pludowski and Karl Ramos who formed our team in the recent area Quiz Club Challenge hosted at St James the Great. It was a close, nail biting competition that saw our team take an early lead falling back in the later part of the competition only to come back strongly at the end to clinch success. The results were: St James the Great 2,210 points, Regina Coeli 2,150 points, St Mark's 2,070 points and West Thornton 1,980.

Our team now progresses to the regional heat in the New Year in the competition which is competition involving a broad range of questions, mathematics, history, etc. Having entered this time we are pleased to have progressed to the second stage against strong competition.



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FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Once again one of the highlights of the year was our very grand Fireworks Display. This was well attended and the display was enjoyed by all in addition to making close to £1,000 profit. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. It is a big investment providing the 15-20 minute display with the fireworks costing about £1,800. The big attendance, however, makes it more than worthwhile. The evening was nicely rounded off by a compliment from the Community Support Officers who said it was an extremely well organised event. Well done to all committee members who were able to help with the event. Special thanks to Dave Goldsmith, a past parent, who continues to manage the fireworks for us. Darren Byrne also gave up a significant amount of time the day before and on the day, as did Les Parry, so a special mention to them also. We were also very grateful to Helen Rudland and Polina Athayde for their help with catering arrangements. The Friends Association have already "clocked up" two successful events this term, the Barn Dance and Fireworks. With your help our Christmas Fayre will make it three in a row. Please offer your help for the Fayre if you can. Donations are welcome at any time. We have already held a successful non uniform day for bottles and will be holding a second on **Friday 30th November** for Cakes. Many thanks for the bottles. We hope for an equally positive response for cakes.

STAFFING

I am pleased to inform parents that the Governors have approved additional staffing for the calendar year January to December 2008. This has facilitated the appointment for one year of Mrs Lawless and Miss Jackson, our successful GTP students who will now be able to complete their first teaching year at St James the Great. They will be based in Year 6 and Year 5 respectively. This will enable us to provide additional focussed teaching groups.



A Voluntary Aided School in the Trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Southwark.
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CHRISTMAS CARDS: I very much hope you will support the Friends Association Christmas Card fund raiser. Having seen the children's designs this has been a very rewarding project and I am confident the children will be very pleased with their published artwork. Congratulations to Anthony Menezes whose card design has been chosen for the school's Christmas card which will be sent to other Croydon schools and a wide range of recipients across Croydon and beyond.

RECEIPTS

On a few occasions recently requests have been made to office staff for receipts in respect of payments made through the office. It has always been a policy at St James the Great not to issue receipts due to the considerable amount of time this would take and the significant additional burden this would place on administrative staff. This has never proved an issue as only on very rare occasions have problems arisen which have been speedily resolved. If you have concerns regarding this matter then cheques do offer a more secure method of payment and in themselves provide a receipt. I trust you will appreciate our policy in regard to this matter and thank you for your co-operation.

TRACKSUITS – YEAR ONE

A number of parents have enquired as to whether they may purchase tracksuits from the school uniform shop for Year One children who are now regularly undertaking external coaching as part of the PE curriculum. Some parents are concerned that the PE kit does not keep their children warm enough for these sessions. The tracksuit remains an optional part of the school uniform for infant children but I can confirm Mrs Mowbray has a stock of smaller sizes should any parents wish to order one for their child.

OPEN INVITATION

Our school Choir will be singing in the Whitgift Centre between 4.45 and 5.15 pm on Tuesday 4th December in support of St Christopher's Hospice. All are welcome. Why not consider popping along, particularly if you are out Christmas shopping?

The Choir will also be opening our Christmas Craft Fayre at St James the Great on Sunday 2nd December so do come along to support the Fayre and Choir.

THORNTON HEATH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The big switch on will be 26th November (TODAY) approx 5.30pm in the High Street!!! There will be a Santa, and the Salvation Army band together with two Choirs, free mince pies donated by Iceland and Tesco's and free hot chocolate donated by Subway !!!!

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS:

These hours have now been extended and the shop will be open on Tuesday 9.20 am until 10.30 am (subject to demand) and on Wednesdays from 2.00-4.00 pm. We hope these additional times will be beneficial but would remind you that orders may be placed using the order forms on the carousel in the Reception area.

DATES TO NOTE FOR THIS TERM

Please make sure you have highlighted the following dates in your diary:

CHILDREN IN YEARS 3, 4, 5 AND 6

JUNIOR CAROL CONCERT AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BROOK ROAD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

Other than in very exceptional circumstances ALL junior children are expected to attend this event. Younger and older children are very welcome but should remain with their families in the Church.

INFANT CONCERT EVENINGS ON TUESDAY 11TH AND WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER AT 7.00 PM

Again all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are expected to attend BOTH evening performances.

START OF SCHOOL DAY

We have some concerns about a few children who are arriving at school as early as 8.25 am and are coming on site without any supervision. We would remind parents that school starts at 9.15 am and children should not be on site before 9.00 am unless they are attending a pre-school activity. I am sure you will appreciate the safety implications in regard to this matter. The opportunity for siblings of children taking part in pre-school activities to wait with supervision in the Music Room remains available.

PUNCTUALITY

We generally have a good record in regard to pupil punctuality. Recently, however, it has been noted that there are a number of regular cases of late arrival at school. We believe punctuality is an important aspect of a child's learning, not least because late arrival can mean them missing the very important introduction to the school day. We would ask parents to make every effort to ensure their children are on the playground in time for the morning whistle and thank you for your co-operation in regard to this matter.

PIANO LESSONS ADVERTISEMENT

We have been asked to provide the details of piano lessons delivered by an experienced female ABRSM qualified teacher. Contact can be made by telephone or text on 07977 297786 or by email on learnpianonow@yahoo.co.uk. Any arrangements need to be made directly with the teacher concerned and this advertisement is not provided by any way of recommendation as the teacher is unknown to us.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

We recently sent out proofs of your child's school photograph. A few returns of orders or proofs are still outstanding and we would request these are returned by the deadline of Monday 3rd December at the very latest.



ANIMATION PROJECT

Well done to our group of Year 5 and 6 pupils who have been working with a professional animator and a group of students from Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise College developing animation for a recorded story. All involved have praised the group for their hard work and we are looking forward to seeing the finished work.

LEADING TEACHER

We extend many congratulations to Mrs Scott Cree who has been recognised by the Local Authority as a Leading Teacher in the area of Literacy. This is both a well deserved personal accolade as well as one for our school.

CAN YOU HELP FOR A SHORT PERIOD?

We have a family who are urgently seeking help with a school run morning and evening for two children from 1st to 13th December from West Norwood to St James the Great. Appropriate expenses will be paid. If you think you may be able to help without any obligation please drop your name and contact details to the school office and we will pass this on to the parent concerned who will then liaise with you directly.

FOOTBALL

YEAR 4 GIRLS

Two Year 4 girls football teams did us proud in a recent tournament at Elmers End that saw our B team, Adrianna, Cecilia, Alison A, Maria and Robyn, reach the quarter finals and our A team, Zgora, Gabriella, Nicole, Roisin and Casey, bring home the winners' trophy following an unbeaten record throughout the tournament. Well done to both teams.



GIRLS VS CORPUS CHRISTI, BRIXTON

Whilst less fortunate than our Year 4 girls they let Corpus Christi win by 7 goals to 1. It is intended to reverse this score in a rematch later this year. Well done to all the girls who took part and played with such good spirit. Rachel Gibbons, Simone Fernandes, Felicianna Fernandes, Lauren Lehane, Aniela Bernatek, Jade Asagba, Kirsty Shunmoogum, Zgora Boret, Nana Asafu, Christina Lemince, Shannon Lawlor and Demi-Lee Simpson. Many thanks to Craig who has been coaching the girls.

BOOK FAIR REMINDER

Our Autumn Term Book Fair starts next week. The Fair will be open from 8.45 am in the morning and again at the end of the day until 4.00 pm for parents to come and view/buy. As usual all children will be given the opportunity to visit the Book Fair and reserve a book. Please note there is no obligation to make any purchases. We are very conscious of the range of financial demands on parents at this time of year and from the school's point of view try to keep these to a minimum. It does however, seem that this term has a particularly high level of demand. We will, however, to space these and assist wherever appropriate.

ST ANDREW'S 26TH CUB GROUP

This Cub pack which runs at St James the Great on a Thursday evening is facing closure from next Easter due to the departure of the current long serving leaders. Mr Goldsmith stands down at the end of this term and Mrs Lawless will cease to be a warranted leader from Easter. If anyone would be interested in helping to run or assume leadership of this Cub pack please either send a note into school or contact Mrs Lawless directly. It would be a great shame to lose what has been a great opportunity for many of our children. Please give it some thought.

ADVERTISEMENT – CAR FOR SALE

Silver Toyota RAD4, 2 door, 2 lady owners, leather interior, £8,900 or close cash offer. Further details from Mr Previn Pillay on 07956 496367.