



# St. James The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 3

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*All at St James the Great send very best wishes to families and friends for a*



*Happy and Holy Christmas with every blessing for 2009*

*Once again we have rounded off the calendar year with excellent Nursery and Infant productions and a highly enjoyable Junior Carol Service. Thanks are due to all the staff for their work in achieving such high standards particularly as this is such a busy term. I would also like to thank you all for your generosity which will see £250 donated to the SVP and £100 will go to St Mary's Family Centre. These amounts will make a difference and I know will be welcomed by both organisations.*

*It is also difficult to express on behalf of the staff how grateful we are for the numerous cards and gifts received. These are much appreciated and if it has not been possible to extend thanks personally please accept this general thank you as a sincere mark of our gratitude for your support and kindness.*



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**A**s indicated overleaf this Newsletter comes at the end of an extremely busy period that saw the school re-assessed for its Investors in People Accreditation and go through an RE Inspection as required for church schools following Ofsted inspections. It is great to be able to confirm that we have been re-accredited as Investors in People for a further three years and the assessor's report can be found on our school website. You have now received a copy of the final RE report which gave a good overview of the school and we are sure you will share our pleasure in the findings of the report. St James the Great School has just been nominated as a "tracker school for 'social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL)'" . A recent visit by the DCSF Regional Advisor resulted in him wishing to place identified good practice at St James the Great on their website as an exemplar. The Advisor intends to undertake two further visits later in the year. I would record my thanks to Miss Ellen Jackson for her work in this area and the support given on the visit day by the parents who met the Advisor. The most recent Friends Association event, the Christmas Fayre, was also an enormous success. Proceeds were up on last year so thank you again for all the support received, not least to the band of helpers who helped to clear up at the end of the day ensuring the school was virtually unaffected by the necessary disruption such an event creates. In addition this half term we had a superb Friends Association Fireworks Display attended by not far short of 1000 people.

### **SCHOOL CD**

We received orders for 250 copies of our CD which will be delivered before the end of term. We are willing to place one further order for any late orders but these must be received by the end of the second week of the spring term.

### **STAFFING**

We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Murphy back next term. She will be adopting a new role for the remainder of this academic year that will enable us to target support for specific groups of children. For the purposes of continuity Miss O'Connor will remain the substantive teacher for Class 5.2.

### **HELP A LONDON PARK**

This is a campaign recently launched by the Mayor of London who is providing significant funding for improving ten London parks. The grants will be awarded to the parks receiving the highest number of votes in a public poll which is being conducted on line. The school is a member of the Friends of Thornton Heath Rec and this is included as a potential recipient for funding. We would ask you to take a look at the web information and consider casting a vote in support of our local park. The web address is as follows: [www.london.gov.uk/parksvote](http://www.london.gov.uk/parksvote). Please encourage friends and family to also cast a vote.

### **ST JAMES THE GREAT ROSARY GROUP**

This group have asked us to thank those who supported their stall at the Christmas Fayre, which raised £137.20 for the group.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2 PM ON FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AND WE WOULD REQUEST YOU ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE COLLECTED PROMPTLY. WE RE-OPEN ON MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009. AS ALREADY ADVISED THE LAST NURSERY SESSION IS PM ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.**

*My thanks to all the staff: teaching, support, admin, catering and premises for the many hours they put into the school well over and above any call of duty. This "extra" makes all the difference. I wish them all an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break. Likewise to our Governors who also work very hard on behalf of the school. We look forward to further success in 2009.*

