



# St. James The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

QUALITY ICT IN SCHOOLS

No 3

November 2010

**A**utumn, if not winter, is now upon us but hopefully all had a good half term break. We now enter one of the busiest half terms of the school year as we lead up to all the traditional Christmas activities. Please make sure you have recorded the dates already issued on the annual date list and re-issued for this term at the end of this Newsletter. There is requirement for pupil attendance at the concert and carol performances and for this reason they have been notified well in advance. Before we move on I would record thanks in regard to a number of notable items:-

### 1. SCHOOL PARISH PRAYER BOOK

You may recall that some time ago we invited the submission of information and prayers for inclusion in a School Parish Prayer Book for the children. I am really pleased that this project has now come to fruition and your child will be given their own copy of this, what we hope families will find, useful publication. We hope you will agree with us that we have managed to produce a really well presented Prayer Book and I would like to thank Richard MacPherson, a parent of a past pupil who organised the printing for us at a very reasonable cost.

### 2. YEAR 3 CAFOD LUNCH/HARVEST ASSEMBLY

This is always an enjoyable celebration and Year 3 once again did us proud. Their "school made" soup received many accolades and the lunch had a record number of supporters including a strong representation from St Bartholomew's senior citizens. Thank you to all who supported the lunch which raised a record amount of £350 for CAFOD.

Families were also very generous with our best ever level of grocery donations for 'Nightwatch' which made an impressive display at the assembly. Year 3 led the celebration extremely well and thanks go to Miss O'Brien, Miss McGrath and all the support staff for the preparations in advance.

3. **OUR QUIZ CLUB TEAM** of Joe Harries, Bolaji Fayankinnu, Leon Kapszewicz, Michael Menezes, Rahul Rodrigues and Saskia Poulter achieved a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place against Castle Hill who we beat last year into 1<sup>st</sup> place. I am sure our team will be up for a return challenge next year. Well done to all team members and thanks to Mrs Leathem for accompanying them to the competition.

### 4. SCHOOL FUND

A big thank you to those families who we advised were not currently contributing to school fund and have now agreed to support the scheme. If you were contacted and have not yet responded can I ask you to consider doing so? The next few years are going to be very difficult financially and whilst appreciating the effect this period will also have on families any level of contribution you can commit to will make a significant difference collectively.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.

WINDSOR ROAD · THORNTON HEATH · SURREY CR7 8HJ

TEL: 020 8771 3424 (2 Lines) · FAX: 020 8771 0065



**LESS PAINFUL WAYS??** There are other ways you can also help us particularly over the coming Christmas period.

1. Please remember when shopping online to log on first to [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and then proceed to the site you wish to make your purchases from. You may be surprised by how many on-line suppliers you can access through this route which then gives the school a commission on your purchases (information about which we do not see) at no extra cost to yourselves with all available discounts still applying. You will need to register on the just giving site and nominate our school if you have not already done so but this is a one-off task. Please do this for online purchases especially over the Christmas period, this could prove very beneficial to the school. Please also ask family, friends and relatives to also help in this way. The more the merrier!!
2. Even simpler and no spending involved just a little of your time!! Logon to [www.generationgreen.co.uk](http://www.generationgreen.co.uk). Go to 'In your home' and take part in any of the activities. When finished you will be given the opportunity to donate leaves, choose St James Thornton Heath. We are then able to exchange the leaves donated to purchase items to support our gardening club and Eco work. Do also ask family and friends to do likewise.
3. We have circulated Woodcote Green Garden Centre's Christmas Vouchers; if you use these at the Garden Centre maybe for your Christmas tree or any other items give the voucher to the cashier and our gardening club will receive 25 pence per voucher.
4. Ongoing collections – please remember us for:-
  - Used printer toner cartridges.
  - Old mobile phones.
  - Box Top tokens from the top of Nestle Cereal packets. These are each worth 10p to the school.
  - Any outstanding Tesco or Sainsbury vouchers.

#### **CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY – WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

It does not seem possible that we are already thinking about this occasion. We wish to continue with the annual tradition of ALL children staying for a school dinner on this day. Please will you ensure your child has a dinner token for this day. As all children stay on this day it is very upsetting if one child appears with a packed lunch. We have attached a copy of the Christmas dinner menu. Please advise us if your child has any dietary requirements which we will cater for.

#### **GREAT SUPPORT – THANK YOU – FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FIREWORK DISPLAY**

The turn-out for this event was fantastic and saw the Friends doubling last year's proceeds to over £1,500 with 1,200 plus attending. Many said that the display was the best to date. At the committee debrief after the event it was acknowledged that we need to try and address the food queues for next time and this we will endeavour to do. Please let us know if you have any other thoughts. I would not, however, detract in any way from the success of the night and in addition to thanking all the committee I would wish to make special mention of three parent helpers of past pupils of the school: Dave Goldsmith, Adrian Burgess and Paul Hay. Dave gave up a significant amount of work time in order to ensure a good display. The kitchen staff also worked hard on the day to get the food ready with special thanks to Helen who manned the kitchen on the night. We also appreciated the presence of St John's Ambulance and our Community Police team whose support helped the smooth running of the event. Well done again to one and all.

#### **ECO GREEN FLAG AWARD**

Congratulations and a big thank you to Debbie Lawless for all her work in achieving a successful outcome to last week's external assessment of the school that saw us gain the top Green Flag Eco Award. We are the first school in Croydon to gain this accreditation and a great deal of this success is also down to the children who met the assessor and did us proud, demonstrating very strong 'Green Credentials'. Special thanks also to Karen Rodrigues who acted as the Governor representative to be grilled by the assessor. A great result for all concerned. We are awaiting the assessor's final report but she said she felt that as a school we should be working harder to reduce our paper usage by making Newsletters etc. available electronically rather than sending out hard copy to everyone. It is proposed, therefore, from the start of the Spring Term to notify a link to parents by email when a Newsletter is issued. Hard copies will

be made available to those for whom this method is not suitable. Please complete the slip at the end of this Newsletter to indicate email addresses for notification or to request ongoing receipt of a hard copy. If this proves successful we may move to this method for other communication.

### **PUNCTUALITY**

Whilst the morning arrangements whereby Junior children line up at their classroom doors at the start of the day is working well it is being kept under review as it is currently masking a significant increase in the number of late arrivals to school. Late arrivals were more obvious and, therefore, I suspect less prevalent when children lined up on the playground at the start of the day. Please ensure your children arrive to school promptly to enable them to be ready to start the day at 09:15 or, in the case of Nursery pupils, 9 am. Thank you for your co-operation in this regard which we will continue to monitor.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

I commented at the start of the school year about how smartly children had returned to school. Recently this has slipped a little and I would gently remind you that it is expected that uniform requirements will be complied with. Please note:-

- Children should now be in full winter uniform which means boys should no longer be wearing sleeveless jumpers.
- Uniform hats and scarves are the only ones permitted. Likewise dark blue or black gloves.
- Children should not be wearing and bringing into school 'ear muffs'. If your child needs greater ear protection than that provided by the woolly hat then cotton wool should be employed.
- **TRAINERS for PE** – again these need to be plain simple, Blue, Black or White, no multi-colours.
- Coats – uniform only.

**NAME LABELS:** We would ask parents to undertake periodic checks both to ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled and that the uniform your child has brought home is their own as we are finding from time to time that children inadvertently pick up someone else's clothing and there is a long delay in this being discovered and then returned.

### **AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB – EINSTEIN'S ENTERTAINERS**

Following an exciting assembly two 8 week after school courses have now been completed. There will be follow on 8 week programmes next term for both new and existing participants. Further details and a booking form are attached to this Newsletter if you would like your child to participate. The classes were over-subscribed last term so book early to guarantee a place. You may have seen the recent very positive Croydon Advertiser article on this group who will also have a table at our forthcoming Christmas Fair.

### **CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS**

The Friends Association Christmas Draw Tickets are going well. Thank you to those who have already returned ticket stubs and monies and to those who have requested additional tickets to sell. It would be appreciated if ticket stubs can be returned promptly to avoid a big build up nearer the draw of stubs needing folding.

### **CHRISTMAS BOOK FAIR**

Our annual Christmas Book Fair will take place from Tuesday 30th November to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. The fair will be open for parents and children to look through the books after school between 3.30 and 4.00 pm. **Please note our school bookshop will not open during the week of the Book Fair.** There will be a wide selection of children's books available for you to choose from including picture books, young fiction and junior novels as well as reference and non-fiction titles. **This is the ideal opportunity to purchase books for Christmas presents.** Your support is greatly appreciated because for every book sold at the fair the school earns commission, which will enable us to add new books to our school and class libraries.

### **SCHOOL CHICKENS – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY REQUEST**

These have proved a big hit with the children and certainly contributed to our Eco Award. We are also working through the list of those who paid £1 as we get 4 eggs. Our chickens are still laying and if you wish to go on this list please send in your £1 in an envelope marked with your name and 'chicken eggs'. This money is used towards chicken feed etc.

Would you help to give the chickens a holiday over Christmas? They require little upkeep and any eggs laid (no guarantees) cover the chickens' holiday rent! Please drop a note to Mrs Lawless if you are interested. If we receive multiple offers we will pick a name by lot and contact you for another holiday period if you are unsuccessful. We can arrange delivery and collection of the chickens and their portable coop.

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

You should now have received the proof of your child's photograph with a range of options in regard to purchasing prints. Please note if you wish to receive any ordered photographs before the Christmas break orders with payment must be received no later than Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**REMINDER – OWN CLOTHES DAY – FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER FOR DONATIONS OF BOTTLES FOR THE BOTTLE STALL AT THE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE.**

### FRIENDS ASSOCIATION TEA TOWEL ORDERS

Having seen the proofs of each year group's design incorporating an individual picture with the child's name, I feel sure these will be much in demand. We have placed a limited order number for each year group and it will not be possible to gain any further stock so you are advised to get orders in as quickly as possible using the order form already issued to you. Further forms can be obtained from the carousel in the Reception area.

### MONDAY KEEP FIT

Please note these sessions have finished until after the Christmas break. Liz apologises for the early finish due to the fact she has been unwell. Do put Monday evenings 7-8 pm in your diaries as a New Year Keep Fit resolution. We will inform the start date at the beginning of next term.

### CHARITY SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

*Can you help by sponsoring Tricia Batchelor, mum of Megan in Year 3, for a sponsored cycle ride (11 miles) to raise money for the Accord Hospice? In September this year Tricia's sister was diagnosed with cancer. On 14<sup>th</sup> November Isabelle sadly lost her battle with the disease. The family would like to help others and say thank you to the Hospice who helped Isabelle in the short time she was there. If anyone would like to sponsor Tricia "our little Scottish friend" please see Maggie Turner (Imogen's mum) or Natalie Bryant (Millie's mum) Year 3, who have the sponsor forms on Tricia's behalf. Please would you all keep Tricia, Jim, Megan and family in your prayers at this time. Thank you.*

W/B 29 <sup>th</sup> November		Book Fair
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	10-11 am	Quiz Club area heat
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.45 am	Class 3.2 Prayer Service
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	12-3 pm	Friends Association Christmas Craft Fayre
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	2 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants (Rec, Years 1 & 2)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants (Rec, Years 1 & 2)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants (Rec, Years 1 & 2)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	am	Nursery Concert
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Evening	Football Fundraiser
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	7:30 pm	Carol Service at St Bartholomew's – All Juniors (Yrs 3,4,5&6)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Dinner Day – Nursery
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Dinner Day – Whole School
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December		Class Christmas Party Day Nursery closes for Christmas Break
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.45 am <b>2 pm</b>	Final Assembly <b>School closes for Christmas Break</b> Closing date for Nursery applications 2011/12

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

Email Addresses

Child's Name: .....

Class: .....

I am happy to receive future Newsletters via an email link

Please forward the link to the following email address(es) (please print)

.....

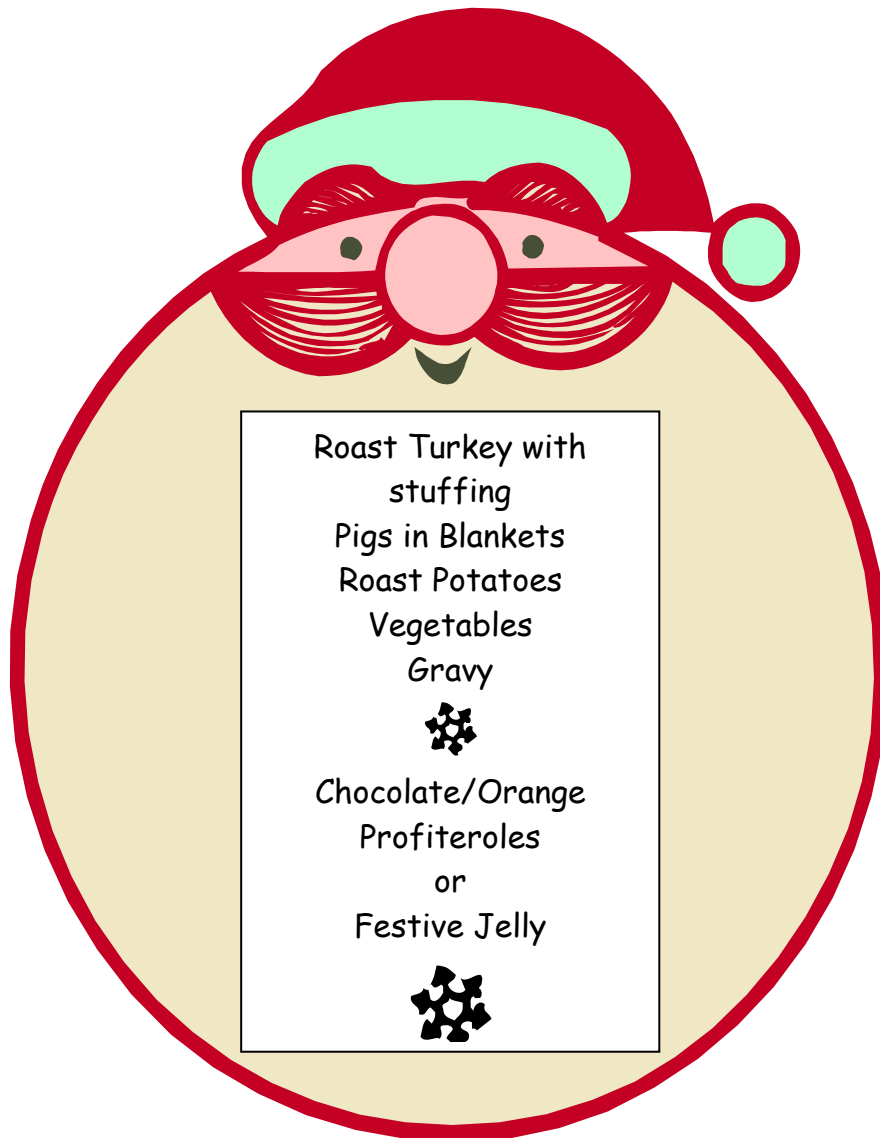
I wish to continue to receive email by hard copy.

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WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER

ST JAMES THE GREAT

CHRISTMAS MENU 2010



# Einstein's Entertainers

[www.e-entertainers.co.uk](http://www.e-entertainers.co.uk) ☎020-8123-8697

## Science After School Programmes

Our goal is to provide fun edutainment for children, giving them a clearer understanding of the sciences. Our after school clubs are designed to encourage your children to build upon what they learn in school. We offer a different programme each week to help children develop a better understanding through demonstration, and hands-on experiments. They are undertaken in a responsible and completely safe environment. **All our staff are CRB checked and fully trained. Einstein's Entertainers are proud to be affiliated with The British Science Association.**

Science or magic that is the question? Magicians often use science to help them with their trickery...in this lesson we explore and experiment with some common tricks as well as fascinating the children with some chemical reactions to get them thinking whether it is science or magic at work...or both?!

## WONDERFUL WEATHER

This class gets the students excited about the wonderful world of weather in all its glory! We look at various forces, including thunder and lightning and the children get to try their hand at being meteorologists and will get some amazing UV colour changing beads to take home and experiment with.

## AIR-MAZING

We will explore the fascinating properties of air pressure demonstrating this through various activities for example, a ping-pong race with hairdryers, an airzooka, vortex lights and tornado tubes! They will of course get something to take home to keep their sciencetastic minds active.

## BODY BITS

We will look at our own bodies and find out some gross, amazing and just plain weird facts about our bodies via some colourful demonstrations and activities as well as making their own working model arm to take home.

## BLOOD & GORE

In this class, the students get to explore the gory world of our blood and how it works. After making a working model lung, the students will explore our circulation system and get to make their very own tasty blood to drink and take home. *Please mark any allergies below.*

## C.S.I

In this Crazy Science Investigation lesson, the students get to investigate a mock crime scene. They have to put their best forensic minds to work to discover "who dunnit" using fingerprinting, UV dusting, the importance of memory via witness statements and get to extract DNA...from an onion!! The students will get their own detective equipment to take home



**ST JAMES THE GREAT SCIENCE CLUB (8 WEEK COURSE) £48.00 per child. 10/01/11 – 07/03/11**



**Please fill in BLOCK CAPITALS**

Child's name and D.O.B \_\_\_\_\_

Any allergies/relevant medical info \_\_\_\_\_

Full postal address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name and number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact (email/phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children

Total amount £



Please make all cheques payable to **EINSTEIN'S ENTERTAINERS**. Please return all booking slips to the office by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January** at the latest, places are limited and are offered on a first come first served basis.

For a copy of our terms and conditions please email [info@e-entertainers.co.uk](mailto:info@e-entertainers.co.uk)