



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 4

January 2008

The Christmas and New Year break appear to have gone well with everyone returning ready for the challenges of the term ahead. So far absence levels do not reflect any “plagues” so fingers crossed we will escape these! Dates for the term are attached and I would draw your attention to the fact that we have stayed with our previously published Easter break dates which may well be different to other schools. Please be aware of this particularly if you have children at secondary schools. Our Easter break is as follows:-

School closes: Thursday 20th March at 2.00 pm
School re-opens: Monday 7th April

Apologies if this creates any difficulties for families with older children but as already advised we felt it was better to stay with the dates we had already notified.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Christmas Fayre proved to be a highly successful event. Thank you for all your support. A superb figure of £4,011.38 was achieved although we are still awaiting some matched funding that is likely to take the final figure to over £4,750.

NEW MINIBUS

This was delivered just before we broke up and has only been made possible thanks to our Friends Association’s efforts.

SCHOOL PROMOTIONS – RECYCLED TONER CARTRIDGES

Many thanks to Mr Goswell and Mrs Jones who have secured a number of used toner cartridges from their work places. These generate a good return for the school and we would welcome other sources of cartridges for recycling.

The Tescos, Sainsburys and Box Tops tokens/vouchers are equally welcome.

PARENTAL VIEWS

We endeavour to keep abreast of parental views on issues and would remind parents of the comments box and slips available in the main reception should you wish to express your view on any school related matters.



A Voluntary Aided School in the Trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

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I am pleased to attach the analysis of comments placed on last year's end of year pupil reports for your information. Apologies for the missing Year 6 class but these reports were inadvertently passed on to secondary schools before the comments were collated. I very much hope parents will continue to use the end of year opportunity to make comments as this is one way we have of reviewing a range of issues. Thanks to those who commented last year.

UTILITY WAREHOUSE

A number of parents expressed an interest in cheaper utility costs at the stall that was at our Christmas Fayre advertising this facility. You are asked now to call 0800 1313000 for further details. This is open to all families and following recommendation from one of our parents we have signed up as a community to the above company which has a track record in providing significant savings regarding home and business utility costs. The school in turn benefits from anyone who uses this company and gives our appeal number B72750 when registering. Further details are given below and I certainly feel they are worth a no commitment call as customers are free to use one, two or more of their utility services. The parent who introduced the company confirms they have made significant savings on their utility bills. The details are as follows:-

"We have recently joined a new fundraising scheme, and are hoping that many of you will benefit from cheaper bills whilst at the same time helping the school..

The scheme is administered by the Utility Warehouse Discount Club, which is part of Telecom plus PLC, a major UK company listed on the London Stock Exchange.

The Utility Warehouse provides over 200,000 residential and business customers throughout the UK with everyday utilities such as phone, internet, mobile phone, electricity and gas.

They guarantee their services will always be competitively priced against other suppliers; and most customers who switch make substantial savings compared to their current suppliers. They also produce a convenient single monthly bill for all your utilities.

When you join the Utility Warehouse, they will donate up to 5% of your monthly bill to us, for as long as you remain a customer. I'm sure you can appreciate what a significant and reliable income this will generate, especially if all of us take part.

Joining the Utility Warehouse is straight forward. You can call them, for free, on 0800 1313000 and they will talk you through the process. Please give them our appeal number, St James the Great School – B72750, to make sure your donations come to us.

The transfer process is simple – it all takes place over the telephone. No-one visits your home, and you receive the same gas, electricity and phone services through the same pipes and wires.

Please consider joining the scheme. It could make a tremendous difference to helping us raise funds for the school, in addition to having a positive impact on your bills..

DATE FOR DIARY

We will be holding a Curriculum evening for parents on Monday 10th March starting at 7.30 pm. The Friends Association will begin the evening at 7.15 pm with their Annual General Meeting. Refreshments will be served from 7.00 pm and we would ask you to endeavour to attend. Further details will be issued nearer the date.

PARKING ON ZIG-ZAGS

We would again ask parents to observe parking restrictions at the start and end of the school day for the safety of everyone. We know this can be a nuisance on wet days but we would hope people would understand the need for these restrictions and abide by them every day and not only on the days Mr Parry is standing by the front gates. Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.

SPANISH CLASSES

To enable this class to recommence new members are being recruited. If your child would like to attend Spanish Classes which take place on a Tuesday morning at 8.30 am please request an application form from the school office. The costs are £20 per term with a one-off registration fee of £12 which provides all the necessary individual learning materials.

RE NEWSLETTER

Please find attached this term's RE Newsletter for your information.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION QUIZ NIGHT

This has been organised for the evening of Friday 29th February 2008. Please put this date in your diary. This is usually a well-supported function which caters for both junior children and adults. You can attend and join a team on arrival or put your own team together. Further details will be issued separately.

KEEP FIT WITH LIZZIE

Why not consider keeping fit with Lizzie? Her Keep Fit session runs on a Monday evening from 7-8 pm and is open to all - beginners to the experienced, male and female. Very good value at £3.50 per session. The next session for new starters will be on Monday 4th February. Why not give it a try?

ADULT IRISH DANCING

Again this group is open to beginners as well as those with some experience and takes place on Tuesday evenings between 8 and 9 pm. If interested you are welcome to come along and have a look. Please contact Bride Willis for further information on 07801 814748.

DRAMA WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

We would draw your attention to a leaflet that was issued today giving details of free drama workshops for our children with a view to them deciding whether they would like to take up drama as an after school activity through a company called Perform. We hope this may be of interest.

BLOOD DONING

We would like to support the National Blood Service whose stocks of blood supplies are seriously low at the present time. A number of staff are regular blood donors and we would like to encourage all aged between 17 and 65 to become donors. The next open sessions are due to take place on Tuesday 12th February between 9.30 and 12 noon and 2.00 - 4.00 pm at Selhurst Park Stadium, Whitehorse Lane (at the back of Sainsburys). This is a drop in arrangement so feel free to pop along. Donating takes approximately 1 hour from start to finish. We will keep you updated of future dates.

TERM PROGRAMME/HOLIDAY DATE LIST

Please find below this term's dates, for your information.

Tuesday 5 th February:	Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Wednesday 6 th February:	Ash Wednesday – distribution of ashes - times to be advised
Thursday 7 th February:	Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Wednesday 13 th February:	Yr 6 UKSA meeting for parents and children – Music Room at 7.00 pm
Friday 15 th February:	School closes for half term at 3.30 pm
Monday 25 th February;	School re-opens
Wednesday 27 th February:	Catholic Schools' Cross Country
Friday 29 th February:	Friends Association Quiz Night
3 rd -7 th March :	Penitential Week – Years 4, 5 and 6
Friday 7 th March:	Stations of the Cross led by Year 6 – St Bartholomew's at 7.00 pm
17 th -21 st March:	Easter Residential Visit – Years 4 and 5
Wednesday 19 th March:	Nursery closes for Easter break
Thursday 20 th March:	School-based Liturgy led by Year 3
	School closes for Easter break at 2.00 pm