



# St. James The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 5

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**We extend every blessing to all our families for  
Christmas and send every good wish for the  
New Year**



It does not seem possible that one third of the academic year is now completed but it is and has been with some style. Our Infants did us proud with three excellent concert performances with accolades flowing from the audiences. As I commented on the final evening the children do get tired at the end and may prove at home to be a little more fractious than usual for a short time. The benefits of performances and the atmosphere without doubt make it worthwhile. I would reiterate my thanks to parents for their support on these occasions. As a result of the charity collections at the evening performances we have been able to send £150 in support of St Barnabas Chapel at Mayday and £100 to the Bethlehem Olive Tree Appeal. Thank you.

Our Junior pupils continued to keep our Christmas spirit alive with an excellent Carol Service at St Andrew's last Monday celebrating the real meaning of Christmas through superb singing, readings and music. We are very appreciative of the support given to this celebration which raised a total of £218 towards the nominated charity, The Royal Marsden Hospital. Thank you for your generosity.

At all these events much work goes on behind the scenes leading up to performances and whilst there are always key players our success is always down to the contribution, large and small, of time given by the "staff team". I would record my appreciation to them all. Much relies on goodwill but it is not taken for granted. It is also the children who are to be complimented for once again rising to the occasions. May all enjoy a well earned Christmas break.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.  
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**FAREWELL:** The final Assembly of the Autumn term always provides a lovely end to the term and leads nicely into the Christmas break. This year, however, we have had to mark the departure of Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong who moves to her new post as Deputy Headteacher at St Mary's Junior School in Carshalton at the start of next term. Whilst very pleased for her, it is always sad to see such long-serving members of staff, who have made such a valuable contribution to the life of the school, move onto pastures new. We do, however, wish her every success in her new role and look forward to hearing about the valuable contribution she will make to her new school. Perhaps we should be grateful that as she moves to a new Borough we are unlikely to have to compete with her new school on the sports field!

**FRIENDS ASSOCIATION:** Again the end of the year very much went off with a bang and not a whimper! A great day was had at the Christmas Fayre which raised in excess of £5,000 due in part to matched funding received from Barclays of £750 via Andrew Cranwell and £300 from Mercer via Jackie Gibbons. We would thank these two parents who organised this for us. Well done to all the Committee and Bridie Willis particularly for soldiering on in spite of a fall. The success was fully deserved. With another Lion King trip the term was rounded off nicely.

**SUGGESTION BOX – RECEPTION AREA:** A number of questions/comments have been received through this route this term and we are pleased that people are availing themselves of this opportunity. We will provide a breakdown of these and the responses in the New Year.

**ST JAMES THE GREAT AFTER SCHOOL CLUB** has a few spaces available in this excellent setting for the January term. For more information please take an information pack from the office or contact Sharron Shakespeare on 07931 200097. Full time place £45 per week or daily rate £10.

**YEAR 5 AND 6 FOOTBALL TEAMS** have received confirmation that both years can enter the Football league tournament that if successful will end in a real live football match at Wembley Stadium. Good luck to the teams involved.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2 PM ON FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AND WE WOULD REQUEST YOU ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE COLLECTED PROMPTLY. WE RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010. AS ALREADY ADVISED THE LAST NURSERY SESSION IS PM ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.**



*On behalf of the staff I would like to let you know how grateful we are for the numerous cards and gifts received. These are genuinely much appreciated and if it has not been possible to extend thanks personally please accept this thank you as a sincere mark of our gratitude for your support and kindness.*

*On a personal note I would like to thank all staff, parents and Governors for the enormous contribution they make to the life of the school as we look forward to further achievements in 2010.*

