



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 5

January 2011



Happy New Year. The children must have been very good in 2010 as Father Christmas appears to have rewarded them accordingly from what they have told us on their return to school!!! We hope you have all enjoyed a ‘family’ Christmas and the break. The government has made it clear that we are all going to find things more difficult over 2011 but I am confident by maximising the resources we have and by supporting our Friends Association whenever we can we will weather the coming period. without too significant an impact on the provision we make for the children. On that positive note – welcome back to all for an interesting, productive and, as always, busy Spring Term ahead with hopefully some Spring-type weather as soon as possible.

CHILDCARE – CAN YOU ASSIST?

We have had an enquiry from a parent seeking childcare for up to 3 days a week during term time but requiring a flexible arrangement to take account of shift work patterns. If you are able to help with such provision please would you send your details into the school office. We will then pass this on to the parent concerned to enable direct contact to be made and terms and conditions agreed.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – VERY IMPORTANT (INCLUDING NURSERY)

You may be aware that the level of funding made available to the school by the Local Education Authority is affected by the numbers registered at the school as being entitled to free school meals. The recently announced government “pupil premium” is fully based on free school meal entitlement. Please could I ask **parents** not already in receipt of, but who may be entitled to, free school meals and anyone choosing not to access free meals to complete the slip simple application form attached to this Newsletter to enable us to check regarding entitlement. You will be entitled if either parent/guardian is in receipt of Income Support (IS), Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (IB JSA), Child Tax Credit (CTC) *provided you do not also receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income as assessed by the Inland Revenue that does not exceed £16,040*, or a letter of support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1989.



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



SCHOOL FUND REQUESTS: As previously advised, we have very much appreciated the response to our request to families to support our School Fund and if you still have to respond it would be appreciated if you would do so as soon as possible. One further mail shot will be made this year and if you receive one we trust you will not be either offended or feel unduly pressurised. As noted earlier, we just need to maximise our resources of which School Fund is a significant part. In future we will make an annual attempt to increase support for the scheme and are very grateful to the good number of you who support the school in this way.

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB (PROMPT RESPONSE REQUIRED AS PROVISION WILL BE DEPENDENT ON DEMAND) – SEE ATTACHED FLYER: As you are aware, our Easter Holiday this year is out of step with the Local Authority. As a Catholic school we will continue to work into Holy Week and our break will commence on Good Friday and for the two weeks following Easter Sunday. Aware of the difficulties this may pose for families regarding childcare, Mrs Shakespeare, who runs our after school club, has agreed to offer an Easter holiday scheme running from 8 am to 6 pm from Tuesday 26th April to Friday 6th May (excluding Public Holidays). This will be subsidised care and details of costs etc. are attached. Please respond by the end of next week to indicate an interest as it will be necessary to staff and plan this programme in line with demand which needs to be ascertained in advance. If the demand is sufficient those registering an interest will be sent further details of the programme and information about the payment schedule at which time a firm commitment will be required. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

NEWSLETTERS BY SENT MESSAGE NOTIFICATION: Due to the low level of slip returns on this proposal we will continue to issue hard copies of the Newsletter to all families at least until the half term break. We have re-issued the option note at the end of this Newsletter and would ask you to return the slip if you have not already done so.

Due to photocopier problems at the end of last term, production of the Christmas Newsletter was not possible until the last day of term. We posted copies to families where pupils were absent and Nursery pupils without older siblings in the school. Hopefully all families received a copy. If not, it is available both via the school's website and the drawers in the main Reception area.

SPRING TERM 2011 - TERM DATE REMINDERS

Inset Day: Friday 18th February 2011

Half Term: Thursday 17th February to Friday 25th February inclusive

Easter Break: Friday 22nd April to Friday 6th May inclusive

N.B. SUMMER TERM CLOSURE WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY (this is a change from the previously published date to take account of public holidays).

An up to date holiday date list is attached to this Newsletter please ensure previously issued lists are discarded.

TERM DATES

Thursday 3 rd February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Tuesday 8 th February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
15 th /17 th February		Catholic Schools Cross Country – John Fisher Playing Fields
Thursday 17 th February		School closes for Half Term
Friday 18 th February		<i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i> Friends Association Barn Dance
Monday 28 th February		School re-opens
Monday 21 st March		In-Service Training Day – School Closed
Monday 4 th April		Nursery and Reception Offer Date
Friday 8 th April	7.00 pm	Year 6 to lead Stations of the Cross – St Bartholomew's
11 th -15 th April		Penitential Week – Years 4, 5 and 6
18 th -22 nd April		Easter Residential Visit – Years 4 and 5
Wednesday 20 th April		Nursery closes for Easter Break
Thursday 21 st April	9.45 am 2.00 pm	School-based Easter Liturgy led by Year 3 School closes for Easter Break

We have previously issued a date list of scheduled events, Class Masses, Assemblies etc. for your information. Please note that Stations of the Cross this year will take place at St Bartholomew's on Friday 8th April at 7.00 pm. All pupils in Years 3 to 6 are expected to attend. Younger children may attend but should remain with family and friends, many of whom we hope will join us.

LENT – EARLY MORNING MASS: We hope to once again celebrate a weekly early morning Mass at 8.30 am during Lent. All will be welcome to attend these celebrations. Further details to follow.

We are planning the traditional Penitential week for Years 4, 5 and 6 in the week beginning 11th April. During this period children will be offered opportunities to receive the Sacrament of individual Reconciliation. Further information will be given to the children.

ADVERSE WEATHER: With winter now well and truly on us there are a number of ways to check the school's open status as follows:-

1. Web information:-
 - a) Notices on the school website – www.stjamesthegreat.org
 - b) A Local Authority link either directly using <http://map.lgfl.org.uk/opencheck/Default.aspx?la=3065201> or via our own website.
2. By telephone:-
 - a) On the school telephone number 020 8771 3424 and selecting option 1 'the general school information service' This service is now available out of hours along with an option to leave messages.
 - b) On a Local Authority telephone service 020 8408 7508 and key in, when requested, the school's DfE number 306 5201.

KEEP FIT OPPORTUNITY: Why not keep your New Year's resolution to get fit by joining Lizzie's Keep Fit Class starting again next Monday 12th January? This provides good exercise for beginners and the more experienced in a social atmosphere and is open to both ladies and gentlemen. It is inexpensive at £3.50 per session payable on the night. Why not put 7-8 pm on Mondays in your diary and join in?

BOOK SHOP PRIZE WINNERS: Well done to Gabriella Berkeley-Agyepong in Class 1.2 and Kayleigh Behan in Class 3.1 who were winners of the school Book Shop's Christmas Raffle. Please remember Book Shop is open every Monday afternoon during school time. Children may save stamps towards the purchase of a book and parents are welcome to come and view the stock and make purchases.

GYMNASTICS COMPETITION: Our Gymnastics Club will be holding an inter-club competition on Saturday 22nd January 2011 from 10.30 am onwards. All are welcome. There will be refreshments to purchase on the day. Entrance for adults will be £1.50. Parents of the children participating in the competition are reminded to submit the consent form.

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)

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I wish to continue to receive mail by hard copy.

ST JAMES THE GREAT SCHOOL, WINDSOR ROAD, THORNTON HEATH
HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2010

OPEN: Thursday 2 September
OPEN: Monday 1 November
CLOSED: Wednesday 1 September (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Thursday 21 October
CLOSED: Friday 22 October (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 17 December

SPRING TERM 2011

OPEN: Wednesday 5 January
OPEN: Monday 28 February
CLOSE: Thursday 17 February
CLOSED: Friday 18 February (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSED: Monday 21 March (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Thursday 21 April

SUMMER TERM 2011

OPEN: Monday 9 May
OPEN: Tuesday 7 June
CLOSE: Friday 27 May
CLOSED: Monday 6 June (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Wednesday 20 July
CLOSED: Thursday 21 July (Staff In-Service Day)

AUTUMN TERM 2011

OPEN: Monday 5 September
OPEN: Monday 31 October
CLOSED: Thursday 1 and Friday 2 September (Staff In-Service Days)
CLOSE: Friday 21 October
CLOSE: Friday 16 December

SPRING TERM 2012

OPEN: Wednesday 4 January
OPEN: Monday 20 February
CLOSED: Tuesday 3 January (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 10 February
CLOSE: Thursday 5 April

SUMMER TERM 2012

OPEN: Monday 23 April
OPEN: Monday 11 June
CLOSED: Monday 7 May (Public Holiday)
CLOSE: Thursday 31st May
CLOSED: Friday 1 June (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 20 July
CLOSED: Monday 23 July (Staff In-Service Day)

For your information:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Good Friday	2 April	22 April	6 April	29 March
Easter Sunday	4 April	24 April	8 April	31 March
Christmas Day	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday

***FIVE STAFF IN-SERVICE DAYS PER ACADEMIC YEAR HAVE TO BE FIXED
YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF THOSE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE AS THEY ARE AGREED***

(January 2011)

HUB Application for Free School Meals

- Free school meals are available only to children whose parent(s)/guardian are in receipt of Income Support, Income-based (not contribution-based) Job Seeker's Allowance, an income-related employment and support allowance, Child Tax Credit (**where there is no entitlement to Working Tax Credit**), and annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue does not exceed £16,040) or financially supported by NASS (National Asylum Support Service).

Administration of the scheme for the provision of free school meals is undertaken by Croydon Council for those pupils attending a maintained school within the London Borough of Croydon. This form should be completed and returned to the school.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

1 FAMILY DETAILS OF PARENT/GUARDIAN IN RECEIPT OF QUALIFYING BENEFIT

Parent/Guardian's SURNAME/FAMILY NAME (as it appears on benefit letters)	FIRST NAME / INITIAL	MR/MRS/MS/MISS
National Insurance Number of Parent/Guardian or National Asylum Seeker Number		
Parent /Guardian Date of Birth		
DATE	MONTH	YEAR

2 ADDRESS

Post code	Borough of Residence	Daytime Tel. No.

3 NAME OF CHILD/CHILDREN REQUIRING FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Family Name or Surname	First Name	Date of Birth

4 DECLARATION

I declare that the information given on this form is true and complete and I undertake to inform the school if my entitlement to one of the qualifying benefits is terminated. I understand that I will be liable for any costs incurred in providing free school meals for my child(ren), should I fail to inform the school of the termination of my benefit.

I agree that you will use the information I have provided to process my claim for free school lunches and will contact other sources as allowed by law to verify my initial, and ongoing, entitlement to free school lunches.

I have read and I understand the above declaration.

SIGNATURE _____ (Parent/Guardian) **DATE** _____

s110 of The Education Act 2005 requires that data is only used for its intended purpose, i.e. to determine eligibility for free school meals and that improper use of information is an offence. All LA users are required to sign a declaration to confirm that they will only use data for its intended purpose.

<u>FOR OFFICE USE:</u> Authorised by: (Initials and date)	Free School Meal: Start	HUB Application Approval Date
	Finish



Easter Holiday Club

26th - 28th April and 3rd - 6th May

(N.B. These dates exclude the Bank Holidays)

**Sports, Dance, Drama,
Football table, Games,
Arts and Crafts,
Cooking, Computer Fun,
Outdoor adventures,
Trips and Outings
Plus lots more!**

**Limited Spaces
Subject to uptake**

**£20
per day**

**St James the Great Pupils
Reception - Year 6
8am-6pm**

**Sibling
Discount**

Register your interest NOW!
To receive more information and
a booking form

**Light breakfast and
afternoon snack
provided
Bring a packed lunch**

Child(ren)'s name(s)

Class(es)

I am interested in Easter Holiday Club places on (please tick)

- 26th April 27th April 28th April
 3rd May 4th May 5th May 6th May All 7 days

Please send me more information and a booking form

Signed

Contact Number

**Complimentary day
offered if all 7 days
booked**

Run by St James the Great After School Club
Please contact club manager Mrs Shakespeare on 07931200097 with any questions