



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 6

April 2008

Welcome back. We hope all enjoyed the Easter break. The result of the early Easter break sees a term of just under 14 weeks ahead so, whilst not wishing the term away, I feel sure summer holidays will be welcome once they arrive. Please make every effort to ensure any holiday bookings do not start before we break up on Friday 18th July. Other than in very exceptional circumstances we are required to decline permission, making such absences unauthorised. In any event the children do not like to miss the end of term activities particularly in the summer which include preparations to move to new classes etc. As usual the summer term is one of the busiest of the year and the calendar for this term is attached to this Newsletter.

EASTER RESIDENTIAL VISIT

I must congratulate the 59 children who joined this trip. They proved to be an excellent group willing to 'have a go' at some very challenging activities. Whilst the weather was very cold at times they took this in their stride and proved to be a pleasure to be with. My thanks go to Mrs Cefai, Mrs Lawless, Mrs Marchant, Miss McCaughey, Mrs Faik and Mr Anoff who made this trip possible. Plans are underway to offer a similar visit to the current Years 3 and 4 children in 2009, details of which have been issued separately. If these have not been received further copies are available from the office.

MRS TERRY CEFAI – SECONDMENT TO HEADSHIP

St James the Great School is rightly proud of the strength of the staff team which has seen a number gain promotion over the years to senior posts both internally and externally. The governors have always supported the development of staff in this way.

I am pleased to inform parents that, following an approach from the Local Authority, the secondment of Mrs Cefai to the post of Headteacher at Wolsey Infant School for the summer term commencing 21st April 2008 has been approved. Whilst we will miss her services over this term we wish her every success in the challenges of her secondment. Whilst acknowledging this presents some disruption for the children in Class 2.1, approval was granted in the knowledge that the school was in a position to appropriately cover Mrs Cefai's absence. The parents of the children in Class 2.1 have been advised separately of these arrangements.

RAINBOWS – 21ST BIRTHDAY

Rainbows are the youngest members of Girl Guiding and are aged between 5 and 7. This year they are celebrating their 21st birthday and we are supporting these celebrations by allowing members of Rainbow groups to wear their Rainbow uniform to school on Wednesday 7th May 2008.



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

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MINIBUS ACCIDENT

Most of you will be aware that whilst I was on the Year 4 and 5 residential visit before Easter break, one of our school Minibuses was involved in an accident at the junction of Apostle Way and Parchmore Road whilst taking our football team to a match. The police have viewed this as a genuine accident and no further action is proposed. I was kept informed throughout the incident and would wish to express my thanks to Mrs Murphy, my Deputy, and Mrs Scott Cree (in her capacity as a First Aider) for the excellent manner in which the situation was handled. I am also very appreciative of the way in which Francis Ageypong and Arthur Green, the driver and supervising adult, dealt with the situation clearly putting the children first and ensuring their prompt and safe return to the school. Regretfully accidents do happen, but clearly as a result of all proper procedures having been followed with the children restrained in the vehicle this was a relatively minor incident. This was reflected in the children's greatest concern which was missing the football match! We have been able to provide the insurers with all the required documentation including the vehicle MOT and recent service record which was carried out only a few weeks previously at half term. It is likely that the vehicle will be deemed, because of its age, to be beyond economic repair and subject to insurance value a replacement will be sourced. On a personal note I have appreciated comments from parents advising me that they felt this incident had been managed very well by the staff at the time. Thank you.

SPECIAL NEEDS DROP-IN

Due to some time-tabling changes it has been necessary to change the drop-in session time for parents who have any academic concerns regarding their child's progress. Mrs Pillay will now be available without appointment on Tuesday mornings between 9.15 and 10.30 am.

CURRICULUM EVENING

Reminder that this evening is scheduled for Monday 14th April and all are welcome. The programme is the same as previously advised starting with the Friends AGM at 7.15 pm and Curriculum evening at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 pm onwards.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

ICE CREAM SALES – CAN YOU HELP?

The Friends Association would like to recommence their summer sale of ice cream after school but can only do so if there are sufficient volunteers to join a rota to manage the after school sales. The commitment is approximately 40 minutes from 3.20 to 4.00 pm. If you are able to offer help in this way either weekly, fortnightly or monthly please telephone Bridie Willis on 07801 814748 for further information. **ALL OFFERS OF HELP WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED.**

60S, 70S AND 80S NIGHT

Please book the evening of Saturday 26th April in your diary for this event. From past experience this has always proved to be an excellent evening and further details will be issued separately. Watch out for the flyer.

FRIENDS OF THORNTON HEATH RECREATION GROUND

This is a fairly newly formed group who have already made a significant impact on the environment of the Recreation Ground. With this area being close to the school we are actively supporting the group. Individual membership is available at £3 and group membership at £10 and they can be contacted by email on kesnard@blueyonder.co.uk. They are planning to promote the Recreation Ground with an event to launch the new playground area that has recently been developed. If you are available, this event is scheduled to run from 11 am to 3 pm on Friday 11th April. The aim of the group is to provide a public forum for information, opinion and debate on all matters relating to the Recreation Ground with a view to promoting it for the benefit of the people of Thornton Heath and visitors.

WOODCOTE GREEN NURSERIES – SCHOOL PROMOTION

For those of you with green fingers who may use the above Nursery for gardening, plants, materials and equipment please note that between April 1st and June 30th 2008 vouchers will be available for use by schools for every £10 spent at the Nursery. We would welcome any vouchers parents are able to collect.

REMINDERS

CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY LENTEN COLLECTION BOXES

Thank you to all of you who have supported this charity collection. A large number of boxes have already been returned. Please can you ensure that any boxes still at home are sent into school by Friday 18th April 2008 to enable us to confirm the final amount raised.

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE – DAFFODIL APPEAL

A box has been available on the main office counter with these daffodil pins and this has already raised £25. There are some daffodil pins remaining and if anyone wishes to support this appeal please send a donation in an envelope marked “Daffodil Appeal” and we will be happy to send home a daffodil pin for any donation of £1 or more. This is a very worthy charity that supports care of cancer patients. We will be closing the collection on Friday 18th April.

CAN YOU HELP? END OF DAY TRANSPORT

We have a parent looking for their child to be collected from school initially on two days a week and dropped home in Norbury. It is possible this may be extended in the future with a request for after school care until 6 pm. If you feel you may be able to help, please drop a note into school with a name and your contact number and we will pass this on to the parent concerned who will liaise directly with you regarding remuneration etc.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS’ FOOTBALL AND NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

Please note from the attached date list that the arrangements for this event have changed. It will now take place on Thursday 1st May from 4 pm at Margaret Roper School. All are welcome to support.

SUMMER TERM DATE LIST 2008

Monday 7 th April	9.15 am	School re-opens
Monday 14 th April	7.15 pm	Friends Association AGM and Curriculum Evening
Thursday 17 th April	3.05 pm	Assembly led by Class 5.2
Thursday 24 th April	10 am 10 am 3.05 pm	Class 4.1 Mass – St Andrew’s Class 4.2 Mass – St Bartholomew’s Assembly led by R1
Saturday 26 th April	Pm	Friends Association 60s and 70s Night
Thursday 1 st May	9.45 am 3.05 pm 4 pm	Prayer Service – Class 4.2 Assembly led by Class 1.2 Croydon Catholic Schools Football and Netball Tournaments at Margaret Roper School
Monday 5 th May		School closed – May Day Bank Holiday St Bartholomew’s Anniversary Picnic (school site)
Thursday 8 th May	3.05 pm	Assembly led by R2
W/B 12 th May		Year 6 – SATs
Thursday 15 th May	3.05 pm	Assembly led by Class 3.1
19 th -23 rd May		UKSA – Year 6 Residential Visit
Thursday 22 nd May	9.45 am 3.05 pm	Prayer Service – Class 5.1 Assembly led by Class 3.2
Friday 23 rd May		School closes for half term Break

Monday 2 nd June		In-Service Day – School Closed
Tuesday 3 rd June	9.15 am	School re-opens
Thursday 5 th June	3.05 pm	Assembly led by Class 2.2
Friday 6 th June		Catholic Schools' Swimming Gala
Thursday 12 th June	10 am 10 am p.m.	R1 Mass – St Bartholomew's Class 1.2 Mass – St Andrew's School Sports – field events
Friday 14 th June	10 am	R2 Mass – St Andrew's
Saturday 14 th June		Festival of Football
Monday 16 th June	All day	Sports Day – track events
Wednesday 18 th June	a.m.	Croydon Catholic Schools' Sports Day at St James the Great New Reception Visits
Thursday 19 th June	3.05 pm	Assembly led by Class 1.1
Monday 23 rd June	7.30 pm	New Nursery Parents' Meeting
Wednesday 25 th June	10 am 10 am 7.30 pm	Class 2.1 Mass – St Bartholomew's Class 2.2 Mass – St Andrew's New Reception Visits (am and pm) Reception Parents' Meeting
Thursday 26 th June	3.05 pm	Assembly led by Class 2.1 Open Evening – Nursery to Year 5
Monday 30 th June	7.30 pm	Easter Trip 2009 Parents' Meeting
Wednesday 2 nd July	10 am	Class 3.2 Mass – St Andrew's
Thursday 3 rd July	10 am	Class 3.1 Mass – St Bartholomew's Open Evening – Nursery to Year 5
Monday 7 th July	2 pm	School Concert
Tuesday 8 th July	7.30 pm	School Concert
Wednesday 9 th July	10 am 7.30 pm	Class 1.1 Mass – St Bartholomew's School Concert (Guest Night)
Thursday 10 th July		Open Evening – Year 6
Saturday 12 th July (provisional)		Friends Association Family Disco
Monday 14 th July	7.30 pm	Leavers' Mass – St Andrew's
Tuesday 15 th July	4:00 pm	Leavers' Barbecue
Wednesday 16 th July	1.45 pm	Children to new classes – incl. new children until 2:30 pm
Thursday 17 th July	10 am	Leavers' Assembly Nursery closes for Summer Break
Friday 19 th July	10 am 2 pm	Final Assembly School closes for Summer Break
Monday 21 st July		In-Service Day – School Closed