



# St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER



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No 7

February 2010

The February half term marks the mid-point of the year and hopefully we will now start to see some better weather for the summer programme. As always the break goes by very quickly but in spite of it not being school time it was tremendous to see such great support for the Menezes D’Gama family at St Andrew’s for Penny’s requiem. Thank you for this as I know the family appreciated your support and a special thank you to all the choir members who turned out. I know we will keep the family in our prayers.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mrs Rebecca Williams, our acting Deputy Head, who, I am sure most people know, is expecting her first child. She has advised me that she will be commencing her maternity leave from early May and whilst planning to return to the teaching staff next year has declared her intention not to seek appointment as the school’s permanent Deputy. The Governors have accordingly moved to advertise this post nationally and I will keep parents advised accordingly. We wish Becky well and look forward to hearing news of her new addition in due course. Mrs Williams’ absence will leave a number of gaps, none perhaps more notable than her contribution to the music life of the school. I am very pleased, therefore, to confirm that Mrs Juliet Goulding has agreed to take on management of the school choir during her absence with ongoing musical accompaniment by Miss Ellie Jones. I have no doubt that this partnership will ensure continuity of this provision and I extend my thanks to Juliet for taking on this role.

### ST JAMES THE GREAT SCHOOL EXPANSION:

Please do not believe all you read in the press. The Croydon Advertiser article indicating our school was earmarked to move to three forms of entry painted a very positive stance on a process that is at a very early stage and about which Governors are far from convinced on many counts. Currently a feasibility study from an architectural point of view is underway. There would be a number of consultation processes to be followed including getting parental views before Governors will even consider such a development. In advance of any formal consultation please feel free to discuss the matter further with members of the Governing Body. I will advise you of any further developments.

### SCHOOL DRESS CODE - HAIRCUTS

I both value and appreciate the support given by parents to school requirements in this regard and in fairness to you I believe it important to challenge breaches in the policy. It is very regretful that just before half term the boundaries were being pushed with some very short cuts and some very long hair concerning boys. Hair extensions have also appeared among some girls and we would remind you that these should be avoided during term time. Please note breaches will be pursued and accordingly compliance will avoid distress or offence.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.

WINDSOR ROAD · THORNTON HEATH · SURREY CR7 8HJ

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## **IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAY – FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Reminder – school will be closed to all pupils on this day.

**BOOKSHOP:** I am extremely grateful to Mrs Stock and the team of parents who run our school bookshop each Monday afternoon. Thanks also for the support you parents give. The children who regularly save towards the purchase of a book learn a good lesson about saving in addition to getting much enjoyment from reaching their target and buying a book. As a result of all this effort Mrs Stock presented the school with a cheque for £1,000 commission from the bookshop built up over an extended period of time which will go towards supporting literacy resources for the benefit of all the children. Many thanks again and well done to all.

**REMINDER – IMPORTANT:** Our school will be leading Stations of the Cross at St Andrew's Church, Brook Road, Thornton Heath, this year on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm. **ALL JUNIORS (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)** are expected to attend. We hope families will also join us for this service which always provides a wonderful period of reflection leading up to Easter.

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** Curriculum Evening. Please put **MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** in your diary. We will be holding a curriculum evening for all parents that will deal with Numeracy, Anti Bullying and the Sex Education aspect of the school's PHSCE programme. Please make every effort to attend for what, I am sure, will prove to be a productive evening and help parents share Mathematics effectively with their children at home. More details to follow at a later date.

## **LENTEN MASSES – TUESDAY MORNINGS 8.30 AM IN THE MUSIC ROOM**

The first of these weekly services commenced last week and was well attended – do think about coming along at least once during Lent – or more regularly if you can.

## **WORLD MATHS DAY ON WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2010**

**MATHLETICS:** We are actively encouraging the children to take part in World Maths Day, a link to which can be found on our school website's front page on [www.stjamesthegreat.org](http://www.stjamesthegreat.org).

Your child has been given a unique Logon Name and User password to enable them to take part at home if they have computer access. They are currently being shown how to use these. To cut down time getting further copies we would ask the children to keep these details safe at all times. This information will continue to be useful as it will enable them to access an ongoing Mathematics site called Mathletics. This site, in addition to offering opportunity to compete with children across the world, will also provide separate opportunities for teachers to set Mathematics tasks accessible from home. We are conscious that some children may not have access to computers at home and we will ensure school based opportunities are available to fill any gaps.

**FRIENDS ASSOCIATION:** Well done once again to this committee. It was a great pleasure to watch the children get excited about taking part in the recent 'Fashion Show'. Thank you too to all parents who supported this evening. This function raised in the region of £450 - well done.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

We are marking this in school and all pupils are welcome, if they wish, to come to school dressed as a **character from a book**.

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

I would remind parents that having held the price of our school meals at £1.60 against Croydon's now £2.00 per meal, this represents very good value indeed. We are keen to hold this lower price as it benefits all who access the service by making it more affordable. However, the level of take up will decide this for us and I would, therefore, urge you to allow your child to have a school dinner as often as possible. We are currently on Week Two of the menu cycle which can be viewed on the school website.

## EVENTS LIST FOR THIS HALF TERM

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45 am 3.05 pm	Class 6.2 Prayer Service Class 3.2 Assembly
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45 am 3.05 pm	Class 4.1 Prayer Service Class 5.2 Assembly
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b><i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i></b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Croydon Schools' Music Festival (Infants) – Fairfield Halls
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Croydon Schools' Music Festival (Juniors) – Fairfield Halls
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45 am 3.05 pm	Class 2.2 Prayer Service Class 3.1 Assembly
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Year 6 to lead Stations of the Cross – St Andrew's
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Am 9.45 am 3.05 pm 7.00 pm	Catholic Schools' Cross Country – John Fisher Playing Fields Class 1.2 Prayer Service Class 2.1 Assembly Croydon Dance Festival – Fairfield Halls
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> March		Penitential Week – Years 4, 5 and 6
29 <sup>th</sup> March-2 <sup>nd</sup> April		Easter Residential Visit – Years 4 and 5
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March		Nursery closes for Easter Break
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	9.45 am 2:00 pm	School-based Easter Liturgy led by Year 3 <b>School closes for Easter Break</b>

## LENTEN TALKS: TO THE CROSS AND BEYOND AT ST ANDREW'S PARISH

This series of talks will take place in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm starting on Thursday 18th February:-

Thursday 18th February “St. John the Evangelist” Fr. Francis Moran

Thursday 25th February “ St. John of the Cross” Sr. Jennie Eldridge DMJ

Thursday 4th March “ St. Mary Magdalene” Sr. Magdalene Lawler SND

Thursday 18th March “Mary, the Mother of Jesus” Mr. Emmanuel Ajoku

Thursday 25th March “St. Francis of Assisi” Fr. Francis Moran

The aim of each talk is to say something about the particular Saint –their life or teaching – and then to explore their relevance or meaning for us today. The style of most of the evenings will be a talk/presentation at 7.30pm followed by a break and the opportunity for questions/discussion. All welcome.