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No 7

July 2006

At this point we look back over the year and ponder where time went. I believe this reflects what a busy and successful year we have had. More recent items are reported in this Newsletter with others having been recorded in previous Newsletters throughout the year. With this being the final Newsletter of the school year I would like to extend my thanks to a number of people. As a school we are very fortunate to have an excellent staff team who give 110% in time, work and effort on behalf of the children. Our teaching and support staff are a talented group and whilst they will be seen around the school at different times during the summer I very much hope they will enjoy a break with their families and a chance to recharge their batteries. Our Friends Association team have likewise earned a break. This hard working committee has served us well over the year and have always made themselves available to assist us, in addition to running a great range of events. Most recently over 100 children attended 'The Wizard of Oz' show and 400+ attended the Summer Disco which in spite of cooler weather appeared to be enjoyed by all with the rain only arriving just as the clearing up was completed. Thank you for your support; it means a lot to the committee and makes their work worthwhile. Thanks are also due to our school Governors who likewise have had a very busy year. They have undertaken a range of visits to the school and have been faced with a number of additional meetings. Their contributions, often behind the scenes, make them a highly valued part of our community. Finally, our children remain second to none, as does the support parents give to St James the Great School.

I would take this opportunity on behalf of the staff and myself to wish you all enjoyable summer breaks be it on a stay at home holiday or trips abroad. We would like to have a display of postcards on our return in September so if time permits please get your children to send a postcard from holiday destinations to their class. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Lawlor and her environmental team on their recent success in the London School Environment Awards. Mrs Lawlor with Lily Hay and Esther Ivens attended City Hall to receive the highly commended award from fourteen Croydon entries. The Mayor, Ken Livingstone, presented them with a plaque and cheque for £1,000 which will be allocated to the development of our Gardening Club and their work.

CONGRATULATIONS also to Mrs Scott Cree who with Mrs Williams attended the Artsmark Gold Award Ceremony at The Royal Festival Hall with two pupil representatives – Freddie Mezzela and Abena Ababio. Thank you and well done to this team.

N.B. SEE THE REMINDERS AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR OUR END OF TERM PROGRAMME.

VISIT FROM MALCOLM WICKS MP

Your children may have told you about the recent visit to the school by our local MP, Mr Malcolm Wicks, who is also the Minister for Energy. He toured all classes ably shown round by School Council Members Lily Hay,

Sophie Rutledge and George Twum-Barima. He seemed impressed by the school and was very complimentary about our solar panels and agreed to lend his support to plans to introduce use of a wind turbine to provide an additional energy supply for the school. Watch this space!

FAREWELL

With an unusual number of recent staff promotions we will be seeing several staff changes for the Autumn Term. As a school we will see this in a positive light but are nonetheless very sorry to say goodbye at the end of term to:-

MRS TAMMY LAWLOR whose links with St James the Great span almost 10 years. We wish her every happiness and success as she takes up her Deputy Headship at St Mary's School, Beckenham. She will be greatly missed by us all although we very much hope she will stay in touch.

MISS MELISSA BALZAN whose impact on the school has been significant in her three years with us. We wish her all the best for the future on her relocation to Kent. I have no doubt we will likewise stay in touch.

MISS SUSAN GALLAGHER – whilst Miss Gallagher has only been with us for one term we are sorry we will not get to know her better. As she goes off to do other things we also trust she will be successful in whatever direction she takes.

WELCOME – It is good to report that our staff team is back up to full strength. New staff bring with them additional strengths to the team and we welcome on to the staff our new Premises Manager, Mr George Coles, and new teaching staff Miss Angela McCaughey, Miss Anna Whittingham, Miss Karima Bekir and Miss Daria Hass. We hope they will all have long and happy associations with the school.

STAFFING ALLOCATIONS

I am able to confirm staffing allocations for the Autumn Term as follows:-

CLASS	TEACHER	SUPPORT STAFF
Nursery	Mrs Shakespeare/Miss Church	Miss Campbell/Mrs Chambers
R1	Miss O'Brien	Mrs Grabiec
R2	Mrs Forward	Mrs Tracey
1.1	Mr Allen	Mrs Douch
1.2	Mrs Mascarenhas	Mrs Pollock
2.1	Mrs Cefai	Mrs Wentworth
2.2	Miss McCaughey	Mrs McGuire/Mrs Daly
3.1	Mrs Minards	Mrs Melody/Mrs Daly
3.2	Miss Whittingham	
4.1	Miss Bekir	Mrs Faik
4.2	Mrs Williams	
5.1	Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong (Mrs Lawless GTP)	Miss Sweeney
5.2	Miss Berry	
6.1	Mr Kenny	Mrs Reynolds
6.2	Mrs Murphy (Miss Jackson GTP)	
PPA/Cover	Miss Hass	
SENCO	Mrs Pillay	
Music Support	Mr Brown	
Maternity Leave (Oct 06)	Mrs Scott Cree	

CYCLING PROFICIENCY

Congratulations to the following pupils who out of a total of 37 on the course successfully passed the test:-

Marine Anton Sathiyadhasan, Hannah Burgess, Oliver Cole, Rosalind De Souza, Hannah Duffy, Jack Elliott, Andrew Fernandes, Natasha Ferrari, Elliot Goppy, Lily Hay, Catherine Humphries, James Humphries, Benji Kusi, Thomas Lamerton, Jacob Liard, Madeleine Love, Kristina Lucia, Joshua Madine, Daniel Mansaray, Martin Melody, Joshua Monfries, Rohan Nedd, Sophie Rutledge, Jodie Parry, Alfie Savage, Hannah Smith, George Twum-Barima, Elizabeth Wentworth and Daniel Zenao.

FAREWELL YEAR 6

We say farewell to our Year six children and thank them for the many contributions they have made to the life of our school as they go off to their respective secondary schools:-

Bishop Thomas Grant

Abena Ababio
Lauren Box
Oliver Cole
Timothy Dalgado
Hannah Duffy
David Fredericks
Josephine Jellicoe
Thomas Lamerton
Douglas Lissenburg
Kathleen Lissenburg
Joshua Madine
Piotr Marcinkiewicz
Joshua Monfries
Rohan Nedd
Ejirie Otuguor
Jodie Parry
Alfie Savage
Ashley Sullivan
George Twum-Barima

The London Oratory

Jonathan Barrington
Benjamin Kusi
Daniel Mansaray

Cator Park

Coco Pemberton

La Retraite

Karlifa Russell

Redruth High School

Sara Corvaglia

St Joseph's

Ricardo Bushell-Auguste
Elliot Goppy
Michael Gray
Conor Lehane
Adam Phillips
Craig Rose

The John Fisher School

Nicholas Afuwape
Ciaran Daly
Andrew Fernandes
James Humphries
Michael Isaacs
Jacob Liard
Martin Melody
Daniel Zenao

Coloma Convent

Marine Anton Sathiyadhasan
Catherine Humphries
Rebecca Jimenez
Madeleine Love
Kristina Lucia
Hannah Stock
Elizabeth Wentworth

St Philomena's

Brieanna Abrams
Hannah Burgess
Danielle D'Cruz
Melissa D'Sa
Rosalind De Souza
Natasha Ferrari
Lily Hay
Savannah John
Antoinette Redmond
Sophie Rutledge
Hannah Smith
Nicole Watts

Wilson's

Jack Elliott
Samuel Leggett

Thank you also for the book donations made by this group to the school. Book plates have been placed in the books to mark your donation which will prove useful for several years to those following you.

SPORTS DAY RESULTS

Thank you to Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong for her superb organisation of our Summer Sports Day which ran so well and appeared to be enjoyed by everyone. The setting up and cleaning away help, along with the family support for this event was appreciated. Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong's work in organising the annual Catholic Schools Athletics competition was also appreciated. The final results were:-

1 st :	Blue Team:	720 points	2 nd :	Green Team:	707 points
3 rd :	Yellow Team:	705 points	4 th :	Red Team:	674 points

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

It was good to see St James the Great regain the cup after three years.

1 st :	St James the Great:	100 points
2 nd :	St Joseph's Juniors:	96 points
3 rd :	Thomas Becket:	81 points

YEAR 5 SECONDARY TRANSFER

All Year 5 pupils have been issued with the paperwork relating to secondary transfer in September 2007. An updated list of secondary school open evenings will be issued in September to the current Year 4 and 5 families and whilst current Year 4 children have another year to go we would strongly urge parents to take the opportunity to visit prospective secondary schools. Further information will be given at the autumn term open evenings.

SUMMER PRODUCTION

I must commend Years 4 and 5 and all the staff involved in last week's Concert performances. The audiences clearly enjoyed the performances and I heard comments such as "I never thought they would top the Lion King". Well done to everyone and thank you for the £250 charity collection in aid of London's Air Ambulance Service.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you very much for the support given to the recent Book Fair which raised a book commission for the school totalling £989. The money raised from Book Fairs has a significant impact on the level of book provision across the school. I would record thanks to Mrs Faik and Mrs Lawless for their excellent organisation of the Fair.

CAN YOU HELP?

One of our parents is looking for someone to drop off and pick up their child from St James the Great. If you can help please telephone 07910 418284.

26TH CROYDON (ST ANDREW'S) SCOUT GROUP

The Group Scout Leader would like to remind parents that priority for admission to Cubs is given to boys who have attended Beavers at St Andrew's. If you wish to add your child's name to the waiting list for Beavers, forms are available for this purpose in the Reception area. The Group is actively looking for Leaders in all sections and Travis Lawless (GSL) would be happy to hear from anyone interested – telephone 020 8653 3852.

SUMMER HOLIDAY BOOK TRAIL

All classes have been reminded that Croydon Libraries, including Thornton Heath, are again running their annual book trail. We would encourage as many children as possible to participate in the trail even if they are only able to attend on a few occasions. We have now, for a number of years, recorded the highest level for attendance on the trail for all Croydon schools.

TEAM POINTS

This year's results are: 1st: Yellow Team –4613 points, 2nd: Blue Team –4507 points, 3rd: Green Team – 4429 points and 4th: Red Team – 4200 points.

REMINDERS

TOMORROW – FINAL OPEN ASSEMBLY AT 9.45 AM. All are welcome. This will be largely music based and is likely to be of extended length.

SCHOOL CLOSES AT 2 PM TOMORROW AND YOU ARE ASKED TO ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE COLLECTED PROMPTLY. SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON TUESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2006 FOR YEARS 1 – 6 AND ON WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER FOR RECEPTION CHILDREN (PART TIME). NURSERY PARENTS HAVE BEEN ADVISED REGARDING START DATES SEPARATELY.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION – BLACK TIE EVENT – SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2006

A few tickets remain for this event which will be offered on a first come, first served basis at the start of the new term.

FINAL THANK YOU – On behalf of the staff and myself I would like to extend thanks for the many end of year gifts and cards received. It is difficult at this time of year to thank people individually and I very much hope you will accept this general acknowledgement.

