



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

No 7

May 2009

With the Easter break now seeming an age ago and half term rapidly approaching, we gear up for the very busy second half of the Summer Term. National school attendance statistics were published towards the end of our Easter break that saw St James the Great head the Croydon Schools' table for the best attendance statistics in the Borough and well above national levels. Well done to all the children. Thank you also for your support in ensuring consistent attendance by your children and compliance with our requests to avoid taking holidays that encroach on term time – tempting as prices may make this at times!! I would also extend appreciation to Mrs Stock who manages our attendance issues; her “eye being on the ball” is certainly reflected in this achievement.

The Easter break got off to an excellent start for the Year 4 and 5 children participating in the Easter residential visit just before the break. They were an excellent group to be with and rose to the many challenges they experienced; well done to them all. We were fortunate with the weather and the Lincolnshire Centre proved to be one of the best we have visited. With several of the children asking if they could stay for a second week I think that says it all. I must record very sincere thanks to the staff who agreed to give up their week as without this commitment the trip would not be possible. Thanks to Mrs Lawless, Miss O'Connor, Mrs Grabiec, Mrs Marchant, Mrs McGuire, Miss Sweeney and also to Jonah Beck and Ricky Lawless who provided much appreciated additional support. As always Joe Anoff not only drove the coach but also helped throughout the week. A great team effort; thanks to them all. Our new telephone message system appears to have worked well to confirm our return time and we now hope to refine this facility further. Plans are already underway for a similar trip next year and the current Years 3 and 4 have received initial details which has generated a good response already. It is appreciated that these weeks are costly particularly in the present economic climate, but the children get much from these experiences. We, therefore, give as much time as possible in order for costs to be spread. Your continued support of these weeks is, I believe, a compliment to the school. Thank you. We wish Year 6 an enjoyable week at the UKSA.

SCHOOL FETE

This event on **SUNDAY 10TH MAY** saw “all hands to the pump”. Thanks to one and all for helping and coming on the day and for persuading friends and family to also come along. We were blessed with the weather and it was great to see so many past families from the school coming along. I know the Friends have issued their own letter to you and I am confident you will agree it was a magnificent achievement all round, both from a fundraising and social point of view. All was made possible by a great Friends Association Committee ably steered, cajoled, charmed etc. by the Chair, Bridie Willis. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Bridie who we cannot thank enough for having remained Chair to see this event through to the great success it was. Many thanks again Bridie – well done.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.

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OFSTED RETURNED – SUBJECT INSPECTION

In addition to carrying out normal school inspections Ofsted undertake a range of subject inspections. Schools are said to be randomly chosen for this mini, but more focussed, inspection and it is felt that schools graded as good or outstanding in their main inspection are more likely to face subject inspections between their main inspections. We received our call for an inspection of Modern Foreign Languages and the HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) spent the day with us on Monday 18th May. The outcome comes in the form of a letter which is published on the Ofsted website. We felt the day went quite well and I will advise parents once the reporting letter is received and available. This subject forms part of the KS2 compulsory curriculum from September 2010 but I feel is off to a good start already here at St James the Great.

PLEASE NOTE

Class 3.2 Prayer Service Date Change – This will now take place on Thursday 18th June. Apologies if this causes inconvenience but it was due to a clash of events.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – THURSDAY 4TH JUNE – SCHOOL UNIFORM

After half term break all children are expected to be in correct summer uniform. Navy dresses and white socks (not tights) for girls, short grey trousers for boys. Year 6 boys may wear long trousers. This will also ensure they are appropriately dressed for their class group photographs that will be taken on the morning of 4th June.

SCHOOL MEALS

Many of you may know that the Local Authority have recently raised the price of school meals served under their contract to £2.00. We are currently able to offer better provision at £1.60 which is extremely good value. In addition we have flexible provision which allows children to choose the days on which they take a school meal. We are keen to hold the price, particularly in the current financial climate for as long as possible without compromising the excellent provision made. Our most recent analysis shows current costs running at £1.61 per meal just tipping over the purchase price. In order to keep costs within budget we only require a small increase in the uptake in meal numbers. I am, therefore, asking you to encourage your children to take a school dinner on as many days as possible. We will in turn continue to adapt the provision to make it as nutritional and attractive as possible. Your continued support for school meals will be appreciated.

REMINDER

Some concerns have arisen recently regarding children being brought to school and left unattended on the school site before the designated time of 9 am. Unless your child is taking part in a pre-school activity or has been booked into the Breakfast Club they are not permitted to be unaccompanied on site before 9 am when cover arrangements commence and your co-operation in this regard will be much appreciated. Likewise at the end of the school day, junior children who are not collected must report to the main reception area and not wait outside unattended. **PLEASE DO NOT ASK OR SUGGEST TO YOUR CHILD THAT THEY MAY PLAY ON THE FIELD OR WAIT AT THE GATE AWAITING COLLECTION AS UNTIL THEY ARE COLLECTED WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR WELL-BEING.**

INCLUSION MANAGER'S DROP-IN SESSION

For the second half of the summer term these sessions will take place on Thursday mornings from 9.15-10.30 am. This time allows a brief discussion with Mrs Pillay should you have any special needs issues or other general issues she may be able to deal with that you would like to raise. To maximise the benefit of this open availability we would ask that you keep these initial meetings to a maximum of 10 minutes. If it is felt a longer time is necessary a longer session will be booked for an alternative mutually agreeable time. This will enable us to provide as many opportunities as possible whilst keeping waiting times to a minimum.

IEPs

Please note that IEPs will be reviewed at the end of this term and not new Individual Education Plans provided as inadvertently suggested in the last Newsletter.

HALF TERM

Please note the school is closed next week for the half term break. The Monday following the half term is an In-Service training day and, therefore, children return to school on: **TUESDAY 2ND JUNE 2009.**

RE NEWSLETTER

Please find attached the Summer RE Newsletter.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION TRIP

We hope all those booked to go to The Spectrum at Guildford have a great day on Monday 1st June. Please remember departure time from St James the Great is 10 am sharp, returning at approximately 4 pm.

Details of the four day trips planned for the summer holiday will be issued immediately after the half term break.

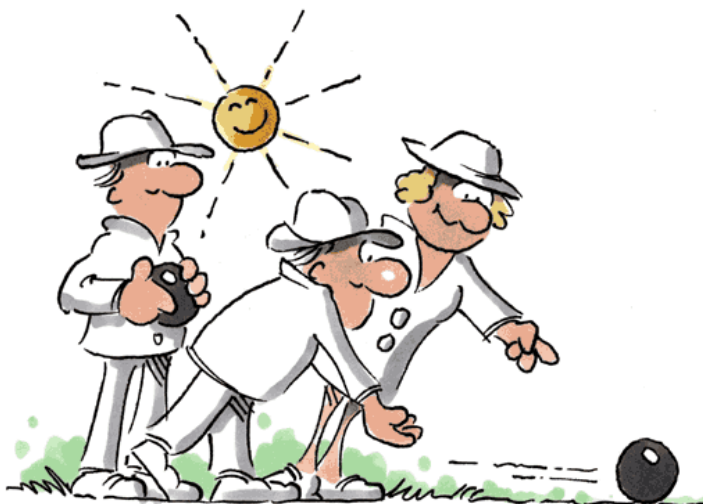
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We have been asked to circulate the childminding details that follow. Please note any arrangements made are private and do not construe any recommendation on the part of the school.

“Mrs Judy Henry, Mya Henry’s Grandma, will shortly have vacancies for children aged 5 and over. As a former voluntary teaching assistant at St James the Great, I enjoy working with children and will help with homework. If you are interested, please call me on 020 8406 5418.”

ADVERTISEMENT – BENSAM MANOR BOWLS CLUB, THORNTON HEATH RECREATION GROUND (CAREW ROAD END)

Have you ever thought of learning to play bowls? Why not give it a try during one of our ‘Open Days’ on **Saturday 30th May between 12 noon and 4 pm.** The club is looking to recruit new members, both established and non-established bowlers, all are welcome. Come and give it a try and afterwards have a cup of tea and tell us what you think.



R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

Summer 2009



This term your child(ren) will be studying three topics in religious education:
Good News, Choices and Neighbours

Good News

During this topic your child(ren) will think about the good news they have to share with others. They will remember the Easter story from last term and will hear about Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit. They will learn about the story of Pentecost and how everyone, with the help of the Holy Spirit, can spread the Good News about Jesus.



Choices

In the second topic *Choices*, is about the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). The topic begins by helping children to understand that they can make choices, and those can be good or bad. When good choices are made it makes everyone happy and we are acting as a friend of Jesus would. When we make wrong choices we need to say sorry and start again, trying to avoid making those choices again.

Help at home: Perhaps you might discuss some of your child(ren)'s choices with them, talk about saying sorry and the need for forgiveness and for us to forgive others. Say the Our Father slowly noticing the words at the end.



Neighbours

The last topic of the year is neighbours. It helps your child(ren) to think about their neighbours both near and far, and that we share with them the beautiful world God has created. They will learn about respect for other people and consider how they can be a good neighbour to them. Your child(ren) will learn how Jesus loved and welcomed everyone.

Help at home: perhaps you could help your child(ren) become aware of their local neighbours and how they might help them. It would be useful to look through the newspaper and see if there are any stories about our neighbours in other countries and what we might do to help them through our prayers and thoughts. .



Special days this term: ~ there are some important feasts this term

24 th May	<u>The Ascension (a holy day of obligation),</u>
31 st May	<u>Pentecost Sunday,</u>
7 th June	<u>Trinity Sunday,</u>
14 th June	<u>The Body of Christ – Corpus Christi (a holy day of obligation),</u>
27 th June	<u>Aylesford Diocesan Celebration for the Year of St Paul 11.30am . Mass 12.00</u>
29 th June	<u>St Peter & Paul (a holy day of obligation),</u>