



St. James The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

No 8

July 2008

It appears the half term break, which now seems a long time ago, was enjoyed in spite of the very wet weather particularly over the bank holiday weekend. The Friends Association organised a trip to the Tutankhamun Exhibition on the Inset day. This opportunity was availed by a party of two mini buses plus our coach. All had a great time by all accounts and thanks go to Juliet Goulding for arranging this.

I had the pleasure of being invited on the first weekend of the break to a reunion held in the school hall by "The Class of 2001" these being our Year 6 leavers in 2001. This was the first event of its kind held here. My thanks to past pupil, Sarah Jones, for organising the event which ran from 4-8 pm and was attended by almost 40 members of the year group. It was interesting to note how many of the group have retained contact since leaving St James the Great. I certainly feel our school can be proud in having played a part in the lives of what was clearly a warm, aspiring group of young people about to enter the next phase of their lives as they complete their secondary school careers. It was a pleasure to see them again. We wish them every success in the future and thank them for recalling their primary school years; we hope to catch up with them again in the future.

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

We were pleased to see our Year 6 pupils back fit, healthy and suntanned from their week on the Isle of Wight. Reports suggest they had a great, if challenging, week. Special thanks to all the staff who made the trip possible: Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong, Mrs Murphy, Mr Kenny, Mrs Marchant, Mr Stapleton and Miss Sweeney.

N.B. The information regarding a proposed UKSA visit for the current Year 5 children has now been issued. It is hoped that parents will encourage their children to participate as will be seen from this year the majority do join the trip and gain much from the experience. Please feel free to discuss this visit with your child's class teacher or myself.

2009 – YEARS 4 & 5 VISIT

Following the recent meeting in regard to this trip, we will now assume those registered for the trip are committed to joining the party unless we hear from their parents to the contrary before the end of term.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FAMILY DISCO – SATURDAY 12TH JULY 2008

A flier has been issued in regard to this event which is one of our most successful events each year. Do consider purchasing some tickets for what is always a great evening.



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

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MINI BUS

Thank you to our Friends Association for recent delivery of our replacement Mini bus. Our two vehicles have now been secured through supplier, Morgan Elliott, who will undertake the ongoing service and maintenance of the vehicles as LDV main agents. Both vehicles look resplendent in our school livery and will greatly enhance the opportunities we can provide for all our pupils.

CONGRATULATIONS are due to Mrs Terry Cefai who has, following a successful interview, been confirmed as the new substantive Headteacher at Wolsey Infant School, New Addington. We will be arranging to wish her well in her new post before the end of term.

We also extend congratulations to the following staff who are leaving us at the end of term to undertake new ventures namely: Mrs Minards who moves to a new post at an Independent School in Wimbledon, Miss McCaughey who is going travelling and Miss Whittingham who is moving to a new post in Lewisham. Whilst we are very sorry to lose them from our staff we wish them every success for the future.

Parents may also be interested to note that past staff member, Mrs Tammy Lawlor, who left us almost two years ago to take on the Deputy Headship of St Mary's School, Beckenham, has been appointed to the Headship of St Joseph's Infant School in Upper Norwood. We extend congratulations to her and are pleased to see her back in the "Croydon fold".

CLASS ALLOCATIONS 2008/09 AND WELCOME

You will see from the staffing list below which classes they have been allocated to next year. You will also note that we are pleased to welcome a number of new staff. We are hoping they will be able to visit St James the Great on the class switch over day, Wednesday 16th July, when your children will have the opportunity to meet them.

| Class | Teacher | Support Staff |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Nursery | Sue Forward | Natasha Campbell Geraldine Grabiec |
| R1 | Laura O'Brien | Pat Chambers |
| R2 | Donna Shoulder | Clare Sweeney Sharron Shakespeare (until Oct half term) Sarah Church (0.6 from Jan 09) |
| 1.1 | Leah Mascarenhas | Anna Pollock |
| 1.2 | Johan Allen | Sue Tracey |
| 2.1 | Ellen Jackson | Donna Sullivan |
| 2.2 | Daria Hass | Breda Wentworth(Mon, Tues, Wed)/ Kathy McGuire (Thur and Fri) |
| 3.1 | Mark Kenny | Cathy Melody (3 days)/Sebastiana |
| 3.2 | Karima Bekir | Fernandes (2 days) |
| 4.1 | Becky Williams | Geraldine Daly |
| 4.2 | Jean Gardner | |
| 5.1 | Debbie Lawless | Gill McGowan |
| 5.2 | Claire Murphy (0.6) Tracey O'Connor (0.4) | |
| 6.1 | Tammy Scott Cree | Sue Reynolds |
| 6.2 | Mary Berkeley-Agyepong | |
| | | |
| | Other Staff | |
| SENCO/EAL/ EMA/Cover | Genevieve Pillay | |
| Music Support 0.4 | Andrew Brown Eleanor Jones | |
| PPA Cover | Tracey O'Connor | |

GIFT AID – THANK YOU

We are very appreciative of the large number of families who have completed ‘Gift Aid Declarations’ to the school. If you are a tax payer and have not yet done so please request a form from the school office. This requires no more than your signature and having just received a payment of £6,300 for the 07/08 year you will appreciate how much benefit this scheme is to the school.

SCHOOL SPORTS/CATHOLIC SPORTS/ CROYDON SPORTS

Well done to all our team members for all of these events. We were blessed with good weather and our team members all performed very well. Thank you especially to Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong who takes on the lion’s share of organisation and also to all staff who supported these events. I also appreciated the great support given by our Friends Association to our own and Catholic Sports Days and Les Parry for his early starts and for helping set up.

MINI BUS DRIVERS

Now we have access to two school mini buses we are looking to increase the number of drivers who can on occasions make themselves available for day trips etc. Notice is always given. If you have this category on your licence and may be willing to help please drop a note to the school office.

QUIZ CLUB

Well done to our team members who again did us proud achieving a commendable 6th place in the final section of the event, the Regional Finals. Thank you to Michael Dolan, Sharon Anand Rajmohan, Hugo Pludowski and Louise Fernandes. Hopefully they and others may be willing to try again next year.

FAMILY PRAYER BOOK

In conjunction with St Andrew’s Church we are compiling a family prayer book which in future years it is hoped will be provided free of charge to each of our Reception entrants. We are aware that our diverse community will be able to recall prayers which they may have learnt as children but that could be lost if not recorded. The book will include some traditional prayers of the church but hopefully also a large number of prayers that are submitted by families at the school. We have attached a slip to the Newsletter to submit a prayer but please feel free to submit additional ones on paper in an envelope marked “Family Prayer Book”. It is hoped that we will be able to collate a wide range of prayers originating from different sources and countries. There is also an option to offer any suggestions families may have regarding how to introduce family prayer but this is purely optional as the receipt of prayers is the main thrust of this request.

N.B. If any prayers are from a specific country etc. this will be noted if included with the prayer sent in. If you or your family’s name is included in submissions it will be assumed that you are happy to have this noted in the final version of the prayer book.

COLOMA AND JOHN FISHER

We extend congratulations to two of our past pupils, Jessica McGowan and Gavin Da Silva, who we understand have been appointed as Head Girl and Head Boy respectively of the above schools.

PARENT/VISITOR FORMS

For some time now forms have been available in the Reception area to enable parents or visitors to make compliments, comments, suggestions or complaints. These have been used by a few people and have proved helpful in enabling us to elicit people’s views on a range of issues. In the vast majority of cases people have put their names on these forms and we have been able to get back to them as appropriate. Whilst understanding that on occasions people prefer to make an anonymous comment this does make dealing with some issues very difficult. I have recently received return of one of these forms by post and would be grateful if the person who submitted it would contact me personally. Any discussion, of course, will be kept confidential.

GERMAN SPEAKERS WANTED

Some parents would like to form a Deutcher Kreis to practise their spoken German. Anyone interested please contact Elizabeth on 020 8679 4828 or Claire on 020 8764 8257.

BOOK FAIR

Many thanks for the tremendous support given to this term's Book Fair. The commission from which will provide a further £1,200 worth of books for the school. I would like to thank Anna Pollock and her team for such an excellent result.

SUMMER PRODUCTION – YEARS 4 AND 5

These classes have been provided with information regarding the allocation of tickets for the two evening performances on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th July. Should any parents from other year groups like tickets for either of these performances of Oliver please contact the school office regarding availability.

MILK ORDERS

Please remember that in order to secure milk for your child from the start of next term orders must be received by Wednesday 9th July. Any late orders will not be able to be processed until the start of the new term leading to a delay of up to 14 days for the provision of milk.

NURSERY CHILDREN

For those children transferring to Reception next term, we would remind you that they start on Wednesday 3rd September and that for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday they will be part-time. Morning children will be in school from 9.15-11.30 am with afternoon children being in school from 1.30-3.30 pm. The difference in these session times takes account of the mid-morning break.

RECENT COMMUNICATIONS

Please note a significant number of communications were sent home last Friday, the details of which are as follows:

1. Letter to parents following Ofsted.
2. UKSA letter to Year 5.
3. Football Krazee (summer holiday courses).
4. Jazzy Art (summer holiday course).

PRIVATE ADVERTISEMENT

MATHS CLUB

An informal group session that aims to improve mental maths ability and increase confidence in basic skills through games and practical activities. Not a text book in sight! Classes for 2008/09 will be £10 per child for an hour's tuition and will run as follows:-

| | | |
|------------|--------|--------|
| Tuesdays: | Year 3 | 4-5 pm |
| Thursdays: | Year 4 | 4-5 pm |

Places will be considered for children in Years 2 and 5 dependent on mathematical ability. Maximum group size 6. Contact Justine Wellington on 020 8765 0085 for more information.

FAMILY PRAYER BOOKLET

Please contribute to the St Andrew's and St James the Great family prayer booklet - you can include prayers that you remember from your childhood, family prayers said in the morning; last thing at night; at mealtimes and family prayers said on other occasions.

Please state the origin of your prayers e.g. traditional, country of origin, created by the ... family etc.

These prayers will be offered during the months of September and October and collated for publication later in the year.

Are you willing to share your advice on successful ways to introduce family prayer?
Please use this space to tell us how you do it.

THE STORY SO FAR...

- ❖ St James the Great teachers will drive a family prayer collection. The pupils from each year group will be set a family homework, where prayers, either known to them or created by them, will be written.
- ❖ Uniform groups will also complete this task with their members.
- ❖ Confirmation group will be approached pre – confirmation for contributions.
- ❖ The children's playgroup have agreed to use some of their time to encourage parents to write prayers with their children and would also like their standard prayer included.
- ❖ Each church group – 'Who Does What' will be leafleted and sent family prayer contribution sheets. (Pre May).
- ❖ Any other suggestions?