



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 8

July 2009

The summer term moves rapidly towards the end and we are beginning to cast an eye towards the summer break. There are still a number of enjoyable end of term events to come which always round the year off nicely, putting the stress of getting them organised into perspective. Please note the following dates:-

Family Disco: Saturday 11th July at 7.30 pm onwards (details issued separately but you can pay on the door)

Leavers' Mass: 7.30 pm Tuesday 14th July at St Andrew's (All welcome)

Leavers' Assembly: 10.00 am Thursday 16th July (for the families of Year 6 children)

Final Assembly: 10.00 am Friday 17th July (All welcome)

School closes at 2 pm on Friday 17th July and we re-open on Thursday 4th September 2009. Nursery children's start dates have been notified separately. Reception children start on Monday 7th September and will be part-time for the first week. They will go full time on Monday 14th September and will stay for school dinners from 14th to 25th September.

Please remember the Friends Association Seaside Trips in the holidays:-

1. Littlehampton on 21st July
2. Brighton on 23rd July
3. Hastings on 27th August
4. Margate on 1st September

Details have been issued separately.

Whilst we try to ensure as wide a range of coverage of items that go on in school, occasionally in such a busy school things get omitted accidentally. We have, for example, taken part in events such as a sporting competition at the Oasis Academy that saw us come away overall winners. Well done to the winning team: Eric Dweben, Mark Houlihan, Mickela Hylton, Thomas Larkin, Freddie Mezzela, Sophie Michael, Brendan O'Donovan, Richard Paul, Cassian Thomas and Benjamin Vassallo.

QUIZ CLUB TEAMS - SCIENCE

Well done to our two teams who entered this event: Antonio Adu-Asante, Daniel Fernandes, Larissa Kennedy, Kirsty Shunmoogum, Callum Dias, Samuel Dinssa, John De Zoysa and Mark Szymaniak. One team achieved a highly creditable third place in a closely fought competition with some very tough questions.

We look forward to hosting again next year and will be entering both the General Knowledge and Science competitions.



The school holds an Intermediate International Schools Award.
WINDSOR ROAD · THORNTON HEATH · SURREY CR7 8HJ
TEL: 020 8771 3424 (2 Lines) · FAX: 020 8771 00

O2 CONCERT

Congratulations to our choir children who took part in this concert last week. It was a great charity event and our group did us proud. Thanks to Mrs Williams for organising this and to the staff who lent support: Mrs Scott Cree, Mrs Forward, Miss Jackson, Miss Sweeney, Mrs Spinks and Mrs Lopeman.

FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL

Thanks are due to all of the Saturday football coaches who arranged a great day for all of the children who took part in this event. Malcolm Wicks, our local MP, paid a visit and, as always, was impressed by the support our dedicated group of parents give to the weekly football training sessions. Football provision at St James the Great is greatly enhanced by the dedication of this willing band of parents. We look forward to another successful season on our return in September.

OFSTED - MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

I am pleased to confirm that this inspection went very well. We felt the two points for development were totally appropriate, planning more fully for progression over Years 3 to 6 and further developing the role of the Co-ordinator of this subject. We will be working on these over the next academic year to improve our provision further. Thanks again to all who had input into this day. The full inspection letter can be viewed via our website or the Ofsted website.

STAFFING

I am aware that everyone is keen to know which teacher will be in which classes next year. My apologies that this has been a little later than usual due to appointments being made. I am pleased to be able to confirm the allocations as follows.

CLASS	TEACHER	SUPPORT STAFF
Nursery	Mrs Anna Rodrigues	Miss Natasha Campbell Mrs Geraldine Grabiec Miss Sarah Church (1 day)
R1	Miss Nicola Hudson	Mrs Pat Chambers Miss Clare Sweeney (1 day)
R2	Mrs Donna Shoulder	Miss Clare Sweeney (3 days) Miss Sarah Church (2 days)
1.1	Mr Johan Allen	Mrs Sue Tracey
1.2	Mrs Leah Mascarenhas	Mrs Anna Pollock
2.1	Miss Ellen Jackson	Mrs Donna Sullivan
2.2	Miss Karima Bekir	Mrs Breda Wentworth (3 days) Mrs Kathy McGuire (2 days)
3.1	Miss Laura O'Brien	Mrs Geraldine Daly
3.2	Mr Mark Kenny	
4.1	Mrs Debbie Lawless	Mrs Cathy Melody (3 days)
4.2	Miss Maria McGrath	Mrs Bella D'Aranjo (2 days)
5.1	Miss Tracey O'Connor	Mrs Gill McGowan
5.2	Miss Orla Redmond	
6.1	Mrs Tammy Scott Cree	Mrs Sue Reynolds
6.2	Mr James Stewart	
Acting Deputy	Mrs Rebecca Williams	
Inclusion/EAL/EMA and cover	Mrs Genevieve Pillay	
Music Support	Mr Andrew Brown and Ms Eleanor Jones	
Maternity Leave (Sept 09)	Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong	
GTP	Miss Kelly Dennis (Year 6 Autumn Term/Year 2 Spring Term)	

We are pleased to welcome to the above team the following new staff: Mrs Anna Rodrigues and Miss Nicola Hudson who will be joining the Foundation Stage team, Miss Orla Redmond, Miss Maria McGrath and Mr James Stewart who will be joining our Key Stage 2 team. We look forward to welcoming them all in September.

I am also very pleased to confirm that the Governors have made the following internal appointments for September that will see: Mrs Rebecca Williams taking on the role of Acting Deputy Headteacher; Mrs Tamryn Scott Cree covering the role of Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator during Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong's maternity leave; Miss Karima Bekir – Acting Key Stage 1 Co-ordinator and Mrs Donna Shoulder – Acting Foundation Stage Co-ordinator.

AST

Special mention of Mrs Scott Cree who, following an intensive assessment day, was accredited as an Advanced Skills Teacher (AST). This further recognises the strength of our staff team and was well deserved.

THANK YOU

We record our thanks to Mr Michael Robinson who successfully completed his teacher training with us in the Graduate Teacher Programme. Congratulations to him on his appointment to a permanent post at Woodside Junior School.

OPEN EVENINGS

Once again these have been very well attended and thanks to those of you who have provided helpful and supportive comments in the parent comment section of the children's reports. We will collate these and give feedback through our Autumn Term Newsletter.

SPORTS EVENTS

SPORTS DAY: Well done to all the teams for what turned out to be an excellent day once again. We were lucky with the weather and this year Red team triumphed. The results were as follows:-

1 st : Red:	813	2 nd : Green:	805
3 rd : Yellow:	746	4 th : Blue:	599

CATHOLIC SPORTS DAY: After a break of 3 years we regained the Catholic Sports Trophy in a very close competition. Well done to all the competitors.

CROYDON SPORTS: Both our boys' and girls' teams performed well with a number reaching the finals. This event takes place over three evenings and is greatly helped by the support provided by St James the Great School staff. Thanks to all of them for their work in this event.

Special thanks to Mrs Berekeley-Agyepong for all her input and organisation into these events, making them run so smoothly.

For our own events thanks to the Friends Association for all their help and support and to Mrs Sheila Williams and her staff for all the catering arrangements.

GARDENING CLUB

If there are any parents who are willing and able to offer some time to help with the weeding and maintenance of the school's Garden please contact Mrs Lawless. Help is appreciated at any time including during the school day.

MILK ORDERS

These were due in by Wednesday 8th July but we believe a number are still outstanding. We have to place the order for the start of next term before we break up and any requests received after Thursday 16th July may not receive milk before the Autumn Term half term.

MESSAGE FROM MRS SHARRON SHAKESPEARE

Mrs Shakespeare has asked me to extend her sincere thanks to all of you who contributed to her farewell gift and/or attended her farewell evening. She enjoyed catching up and reminiscing with current and ex-pupils, parents and staff. She was very appreciative of the book she received containing the children's memories which she says she will always treasure. Thank you to everyone for making this a fitting tribute to mark her many years as our Nursery Manager.

REMINDER PHOTOGRAPH MONEY

Thank you for the very prompt response we have received to the recent school photographs. A few remain outstanding and to enable Mrs Mowbray to close these accounts by the end of term we would ask those who have not yet responded to do so as soon as possible.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT REQUEST

We have received an enquiry from a new parent whose child will be starting in Nursery in September. This family are looking for someone to look after their child prior to coming to Nursery and to drop them off. If you think you may be interested but without any obligation in helping please drop a note to the school office and we will pass this to the parent concerned to liaise with you in regard to actual arrangements and remuneration. They will then contact you directly.

26TH CROYDON SCOUT GROUP

Raid your cupboards! Get rid of those unwanted items! Make some cash! The Scout Groups is holding their annual Car Boot Sale on Sunday 20th September 2009. Cars £5, Vans and MPVS £7. Ring Kathy on 020 8653 1702 to book a space. Come along on the day to grab some bargains and have some fun.

SUMMER HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

Children will be issued with a small amount of tasks to complete over the summer holiday in order to keep them "ticking over". There are two tasks that all children are asked to undertake as follows:-

1. **POST CARDS:** They are requested to send a post card from somewhere they visit, home or abroad, to their new class. These should be addressed to Class ____, St James the Great School, Windsor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HJ. These are then used for discussion purposes and displays either in the classroom or in a central area.
2. **BOOK TRAIL:** We also ask them to join the summer holiday book trail which supports ongoing reading in addition to providing them with opportunities to collect badges. All children who sign up for the scheme will also get a certificate which will be given out next term. Any Year 6 children taking part can register as a St James the Great pupil if they prefer and we will forward the certificates on to them. Due to the closure of Thornton Heath Library children can participate at any Croydon Library or at the following book trail centres:-
 - i) Parchmore Centre, 53-55 Parchmore Road, Thornton Heath – **only on Mondays** between 10 am and 4 pm starting Monday 20th July to Monday 24th August inclusive.
 - ii) Thornton Heath Recreation Ground (in the play area) – **only on Wednesdays** between 10 am and 4 pm starting Wednesday 22nd July to Wednesday 26th August inclusive.

We would urge you to encourage your child to take part in book trail and we would welcome post cards from near and far.

CHARITY COLLECTION – ADVANCE NOTICE

Miss Jackson is arranging for our school to take part in the "Mary's Meals" charity that aims to provide food for children in poverty stricken countries. We will be running this for approximately two weeks in the Autumn term and are giving you advance notice. The project involves us filling old backpacks with things such as pencils, rulers, erasers, notebooks, tennis balls, clothes etc. which are then sent where needed along the lines of previous shoebox appeals we have supported. We would welcome in the new school year old backpacks that you may have that we can then fill. Further information will be sent next term.

PARENT GOVERNOR

I would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr Alan Willis whose term of office as a Parent Governor comes to an end on 31st August 2009. His willingness to represent the Governors at a range of events, including accreditation assessments the school has had, has been much appreciated. He has also undertaken the role of Responsible Officer and his oversight of financial matters in this role has likewise been of great benefit to the school.

I am giving advance notice, therefore, that we will be conducting a Parent Governor election at the start of the new term and I would ask you to give serious consideration to putting your name forward to serve the school in this capacity when nominations are sought next term.

SUMMER CONCERT PERFORMANCES

The feedback received from this year's four summer concert performances by Years 4 and 5 has been exceptional. I believe this was the first occasion where one of the concerts ended with a standing ovation. Well done to all of the children concerned and the staff for the enormous amount of work that went into producing such memorable performances. Your support for this year's nominate charity "Winston's Wish" which supports bereaved children was greatly appreciated and we will be sending a cheque for £225 as a result of your generous donations.

YEAR 5 PARENTS – RESIDENTIAL VISIT 2010

Year 5 parents have received information regarding the planned residential visit next year. The Standing Order form that should have been included with this information has been issued separately (apologies). We can also confirm that the parents' meeting in connection with this visit will be held on Wednesday 30th September at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room. Please note the date in your diary.