



St. James The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC (VA) PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



No 9

July 2007

As we come to the end of another school year we ask ‘Where did it go?’. I think this reflects just how busy the year has been and I must record my thanks to our excellent team of staff, teaching and non-teaching, for all the time and effort they have put in over the year and particularly in the second half of the summer term, which is always one of the busiest of the year. Those who attended our summer concert performances were effusive in their praise. All credit to the children and staff of Years 4 and 5, not forgetting Mr Brown.

Our Year 6 children commenced their farewells to us at St Bartholomew’s Church last night at their Leavers’ Mass. They marked this celebration in style and I thank them for the work they put into what I commented was a very appropriate start to their final week with us. We look forward to their “Leavers’ Assembly”.

For the first time I was unable to attend the traditional end of year family disco organised by the Friends Association due to other commitments. Whilst numbers were, I believe, a little down (perhaps weather concerns?, lack of food?) the event was a success and enjoyed by all attending. Opinions on this are welcome. My thanks to the Association for all their work over the year which has indeed been an excellent one. Why not give some thought over the summer to joining the committee? Many of you will have missed Bridie Willis, Chair of the Friends, at this final event of the year. She has chaired the Association superbly over the year but due to a recent spell in hospital was unable to attend the family disco. I am pleased to report she is making a speedy recovery and we look forward to having her back to 100% for her “swansong” in the autumn term.

My thanks to all families linked to the school for the marvellous support you have given us over the year. This is greatly appreciated by us all, as are the children’s contributions to the daily life of St James the Great.

Finally on behalf of the staff and myself we extend our very best wishes to you all for an enjoyable summer break be it at home or abroad. With luck summer will arrive at your destination and the St Swithun’s day (last Sunday) prediction that rain on 15th July will herald another 40 days of rain will not prevail!!

POSTCARDS PLEASE: It is nice to enjoy a display of postcards on our return in September from places visited by the children during the summer break. If time permits please allow your child to send a postcard addressed to their new class number at the school from one place visited in the holiday. Thank you.



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CONGRATULATIONS

Whilst Sarah Church, our Deputy Nursery Manager, will be back with us for the autumn term she will be going on maternity leave at the end of the term. We extend our very best wishes to her for a relaxing summer break and forthcoming confinement.

BASIC SKILLS AWARD

Our Basic Skills accreditation ended this term. I am pleased to report that following a visit by two external assessors we have received our third re-accreditation. Many thanks to Mrs Murphy for seeing us through this process. We very much value these assessments as part of our school self evaluation, they are nonetheless time consuming and, to a degree, stressful processes, so well done to all the staff observed, spoken to, and documented on the day. A good end to the year.

THANK YOU – NURSERY ENVIRONMENT AREA

Those of you who walk around by the Nursery playground will have noticed the development of their own environmental area. If you have not seen it yet it is well worth a look. We are hoping soon to install some additional seating to this area. Many thanks to the following who worked hard in establishing this new facility: Mrs Szymaniak, Mrs Lopeman, Ms Largie Poleon, Mrs Alban, Mrs Poulter, Mrs Greenway and Mr Fatoba, ably led by Miss Campbell. Thanks also to Les Parry for the logs. It will be interesting to watch this area develop over the next year.

ADULT ITALIAN LESSONS

One of our parents, Gabriella Gagliano, is offering to take adult Italian lessons next term with small groups of 4-6 learners in a friendly, relaxed environment. All levels can be catered for from beginners upwards and lessons are tailor made to suit individual learning styles. Gabriella holds an OCNLR level 3 qualification and will focus on conversation. These lessons will be at very reasonable rates and will be starting in September as daytime classes. For further information telephone Gabriella on 020 8689 2191 or 07932 314586 or email Gabriella.Gagliano@blueyonder.co.uk.

CONGRATULATIONS YELLOW TEAM

St David's, our yellow team, managed a clean sweep this year winning both the team points trophy and our Sports Day trophy. The results of both competitions are as follows:-

Team points:	1 st	St David's, Yellow	7715
	2 nd	St George's, Red	7069
	3 rd	St Patrick's, Green	6654
	4 th	St Andrew's, Blue	6544
Sports Day:	1 st	St David's, Yellow	821
	2 nd	St Patrick's, Green	736
	3 rd	St George's, Red	725
	4 th	St Andrew's, Blue	633

BOOK FAIR

Many thanks to Mrs Faik for all her work on our summer term Book Fair and for the significant support given to the Fair by parents and children. A total of £876 was raised which will now be put towards the purchase of additional class based book resources.

CATHOLIC SPORTS

Well done to our Catholic Sports Team on gaining second place overall. The results are as follows: 1st St Mary's Juniors (102), 2nd St James the Great (89), 3rd St Joseph's Juniors (75), 4th Thomas Becket and St Chad's (both 74), 6th Regina Coeli (72), 7th Good Shepherd, Margaret Roper and St Cyprians (all 50), 10th St Aidan's (45). The small schools' trophy was jointly won by the above three teams gaining 50 points.

SWIMMING GALA

Well done to our swimming team on our school's best result to date in this swimming competition among all of the Croydon Catholic Primary Schools.

CRICKET

Well done to Arun Butler and Jacob Berkeley-Agyepong on being selected for 2 matches for the Croydon Schools' Cricket Team and their recent gaining of 2 runner-up medals.

SCHOOL DINNERS

Tomorrow is the last chance to purchase dinner tokens at £1.50, so feel free to stock up. From September the cost of our meals rises to £1.60 which remains 10p below the Local Authority contract price. I would record my thanks for the continued hard work of our catering team with particular mention to Mrs Williams and Mrs Tomlinson. We hope you will continue to support this excellent service.

MID-DAY SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED

If you are available at lunchtimes please consider putting your name forward for employment as one of our highly valued mid-day supervisors. Whilst the remuneration is not substantial it is a rewarding opportunity to work alongside the children during their lunch break. If you feel you may be interested please drop a note to the school office and we will get in touch with you with more information.

FINAL ASSEMBLY

Our final open assembly takes place tomorrow at 9.45 am, all are welcome but should note it is likely to be of extended length.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR OUR NURSERY PUPILS.

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2 PM TOMORROW AND YOU ARE ASKED TO ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE COLLECTED PROMPTLY. PLEASE ENSURE THEY TAKE HOME WITH THEM ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ETC.

SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2007 FOR YEARS 1 TO 6 AND ON WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER FOR RECEPTION CHILDREN (PART-TIME). NURSERY PARENTS HAVE BEEN ADVISED REGARDING START DATES SEPARATELY.

GARDENING CLUB

This Club goes from strength to strength under the stewardship of Mrs Minards. They presented an assembly to the school this week at which they displayed some of the produce they have been able to harvest: potatoes, lettuces, carrots and cabbage are just some of the vegetables that were handed to Mrs Williams and formed part of today's menu. Well done to all the children for their hard work. We look forward to benefiting from the future fruits of their harvest.

SATURDAY MORNING FOOTBALL

I would like to express a big vote of thanks to the parents who organise and run our Saturday morning training sessions. They tirelessly give up their Saturday mornings to support the 80+ children who regularly attend. This dimension of our school life is appreciated and we are fortunate to have such a willing group. This year's season culminated in the recent excellent Festival of Football and I would record special thanks to Arthur Green and Francis Berkeley-Agyepong for their work. It proved a great day and was so successful that a date for next year has already been pencilled in. I trust they will enjoy their summer break and will look forward to the start of the new season.

SECONDARY TRANSFER

Current Year 5 parents are asked to note that the Local Authority have informed us that the secondary transfer booklets and transfer documentation will not be issued until the start of the autumn term. It had been hoped that primary schools would receive this information before the end of this term but regrettably they have not been able to meet this deadline.

FINAL THANK YOU

I would like to extend sincere thanks on behalf of the staff and myself for the numerous end of year gifts and cards received. You will appreciate it is often not possible to thank people individually and we would ask you to accept this note as general acknowledgement.

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

Catriona Behan
Sebastian Bukaczewski
Anjhenya Demba-Martins
Chidimma Egole
Kelly Greenaway
Maria Kavanagh
Miah Lawlor
Mario Lobo
Juliana Matovu
Rachael Menezes
Nathan Opong-Mills
Isabella Perales
Kellie-Marie Saul
Keira Spillane
Kyle Steadman
Andrew Tarbie
Nicholas Travers
Elliott Watts
Charlie Weddell

St Joseph's College

Macaulay Bennett
Brandon Charles
Curran De Braganca
Reece Grant
Julian James
Theo Perkins

Coloma Convent

Danielle Bryant
Catriona Collins
Niamh Collins
Andrea Furtado
Maria Hickland
Lucia Lanzalaco
Molly McGing
Danita Mooney
Serenna Noel
Kelly Ramos

St Philomena's

Osita Afam
Shona Annobil
Olivia Brooker
Maeve Diffley
Simone Santos

The John Fisher School

Dominic Afuwape
Joseph Brennan
Rory Doyle
Malcolm Fernandes
Paul Goswell
Joseph Kremis
Mackinlay McBride
Dylan Modeste
David Vella

The London Oratory

Benjamin Abreo
Ejiro Duvwiana
Joshua Oyeyinka
Ryan Raghoo

Thomas More

Kojo Amoah
Jerrell Gidden

Wilson's

Thomas Cole
Alexander Leggett

Virgo Fidelis

Chanel Tcheukam

Croydon High School

Rhea Dillon

Harris

Lidia Capone
Rosita Rodrigues