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No 1

September 2005

An Autumn Term welcome back to all pupils, parents and staff. It has been interesting to see the various postcards sent to school by some children as part of their holiday homework. These reflect not only travel home and abroad, but also a wide range of experiences from which much is gained by all the children as these are shared. I have heard and seen how much enjoyment children got from the football course based at St James the Great and from the Gym Club Summer School. I have also been told that we were very well represented at this year's 'Book Trail' and I am confident we will again prove to be a leading participant in this scheme. Thanks to all mums, dads, aunts, uncles and grandparents for supporting the children over the break, which, I am sure, was mutually enjoyable if tiring. Whilst memories of the break rapidly fade we look forward to another good year ahead. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Miss Laura O'Brien to the teaching staff and Mrs Leah Mascarenhas back to the teaching staff, may they both enjoy the year ahead and many more with us.

Whilst school closed for the summer break it did not, of course, shut, as those involved in the summer activities mentioned above will have noticed. Tamkin, our Premises Manager, has unfortunately been laid up since the start of August and as yet it is unclear when he will be fit enough to return. We were fortunate to maintain our summer works programme which saw:-

1. Completion of our Environmental area ready for planting this month.
2. Repainting of the school hall with special thanks to Mario Cassar for his hard work on this.
3. Storage provision and access to the reception outside area – thanks again to Ivan Larkin for this work.
4. Renovation of the infant and nursery play equipment thanks to the work of Roshan Amnath, a family friend of Mrs Pillay.
5. Delivery was received of the new classroom furniture for Year Two.
6. We suffered our almost annual summer bouts of vandalism but I am pleased that most has been rectified and thanks to Fred Taylor for his assistance in organising speedy window replacement.

7. Work has begun on the installation of CCTV to the site and the automation of our main and pedestrian gates to enhance site security and to restore the external lamps to working order.
8. Work has just commenced on the external cleaning and repainting of our building.
9. Due to delivery delays the renewal of flooring to our junior classrooms will now take place at half term.
10. We are currently tendering to refurbish the junior toilets and we would hope this work will be completed this academic year.
11. We are looking at an enclosure for our school coach for security purposes.
12. We also hope to provide external storage by the garage block for Saturday football training sessions.
13. We are also looking into the possibility of providing cover to our cycle rack/waiting area.

This reflects a busy summer break period to which I can add thanks to Mr Anthony Mills who assisted us in obtaining our replacement school coach and thanks to our Friends Association for their support in securing a new Mini Bus to replace our current vehicle. The coach is already with us and delivery of the Mini Bus is expected just before or after Christmas.

PARENT HELPERS

We are very grateful to those of you who already offer a regular slot of voluntary help for the school. If you are available to help with any of the following please let the staff member concerned know, either personally or via a note into school.

1. Guided reading in Year 2 on Wednesday afternoons. (Mrs Lawlor would be very grateful.)
2. General reading support at anytime. (Again contact Mrs Lawlor.)
3. Supervisory help for Ice Skating groups on Tuesday mornings. (Please contact Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong.)

N.B. MINI BUS DRIVERS: If you are over 25 and have this category on your driving licence and would be willing to be contacted to take (sometimes stay) and collect children on educational visits, please let the school office know. There is no commitment only an agreement to be approached to check availability when a driver is required.

PAID POSTS

1. **Lunchtime Supervisors**: urgently needed. Consideration would be given to applicants wanting less than 5 days a week although those offering to do 5 lunchtime sessions a week will be given priority.
2. **Special Needs Support (PSA's)**: If you feel you might like to undertake some pupil support in this way please contact Mrs Pillay for further details.
3. **Cleaners**: We currently have a vacancy commencing after half term for 16 hours cleaning time. We would be willing to consider splitting these hours or covering them with two people on a part week basis. If you are interested please contact either Mr Beck or Mrs Spinks.

START OF SCHOOL DAY – REMINDER

1. A member of staff is on duty from 9 am and Key Stage 2 pupils can be left on the playground from this time.
2. Key Stage 1 (Reception and Years 1 and 2) should be under the supervision of a parent/carer until the whistle is blown at 9.15 am.

WET WEATHER DAYS (N.B. ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS)

1. Children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should be taken to the library area. A member of staff will attend the library area at 9.00 am and assume responsibility for the children. Parents are then requested to leave the building as congestion on wet days is proving a safety risk.
2. Key Stage 2 pupils should go to the main hall where at 9 am a teacher will be on duty.
3. Nursery children are always delivered to Nursery staff by an adult at the start of session times 9.15 am and 1 pm.

Your help and co-operation in regard to making the start of the day smoother by abiding by the above is appreciated.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you for getting your children off to the new term appropriately kitted out. There have been two excusable breaches of the dress code in regard to haircuts on which I have received assurances that there will be no reoccurrence. (N.B. A No. 3 minimum.)

GIRLS' HAIR

Please ensure hair extensions and fancy colourful accessories are kept for holiday times only. Hair accessories should be school uniform scrunchies or dark blue/black. The end of this week is the deadline.

PLAYTIME FRUIT

As you are aware Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 all receive a free portion of fruit a day as part of a Government initiative. The children clearly enjoy this and as a result we want to give the same opportunity to juniors. Unfortunately, we cannot provide this free, but:-

1. The children may bring a piece of fruit to school for consumption at playtime.
2. They may purchase fruit from the kitchen at a cost of 20p per day.

These arrangements are already in operation and are proving very successful and my thanks to our School Council members and Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong for getting this underway as a very smooth venture. This could not run without the help of Sheila Williams and Linda Tomlinson in the kitchen and my thanks to them also.

WATER – REMINDER

Children may bring a bottle of water to school for consumption during the day. Plastic bottles with sports tops essential.

SALAD BAR LUNCHTIME

The 40p tokens are here, the bowls are here, but sadly delivery of the salad bar has been beset by continually moving delivery dates from the supplier. As soon as it arrives we will get this enhancement to our lunchtime provision underway. Children taking a school dinner will be able to obtain a bowl of

self served salad from the salad bar which will be located in the Hall. Packed lunch children will need to purchase salad bar tokens from the office for 40p each, which should be placed in their packed lunch box on the days they want salad. I think once this is up and running it will prove both popular and will enhance our excellent meals provision further. Again I would commend Sheila Williams and Linda Tomlinson for taking on another new initiative.

BOOKSHOP

Our school bookshop continues to be well used by the children and we would thank you for your support of the bookshop, commission from which supports the purchase of books for classroom use. We have a good team of parents who work on a rota basis to enable the bookshop to open each week. If you feel you may be able to offer your time on a Monday afternoon please let Mrs Stock know. The more volunteers the less demands on this group. It would be good to get the commitment down to once a month so please consider offering your services.

ATTACHMENTS

1. RE Newsletter.
2. Up to date Holiday Date List. - *all staff in-service dates for this year are now included*
3. Annual programme date list – *we will make every endeavour to keep to these dates which will only be altered as a result of circumstances beyond our control.*
4. Class Service and assembly date list – *all welcome.*
5. Extra Curricular Activity List. - *the dates of these sessions will be advised to the children by the staff concerned.*

INFORMATION ALREADY CIRCULATED

1. Parent Governor Elections.
2. Secondary School transfer information to Years 5 and 6.
3. Trip/Workshop letter:-
 - a) A Storyteller – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
 - b) Victoria and Albert Museum – Year 5.
 - c) African Drumming Workshop – whole school excluding Nursery.

BINGO – REMINDER

You will have received the recent note from our Friends Association advising you of their Bingo Night this coming Saturday, 1st October. This is a fun night for adults and children of junior age and above. Bar facilities are provided. Please support this event if you can.

CHARTER MARK

I am pleased to confirm that the school was recommended for renewal of our Charter Mark. We were asked to maintain a record of comments, compliments and complaints for review at the time of our next assessment in a year's time. We are, therefore, establishing in the office a ring-binder in which to maintain such correspondence. Should you communicate with the school at any time under the above categories and not wish such correspondence to be so stored please advise us accordingly.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

Congratulations to all the staff and to Mrs Cefai for their efforts resulting in confirmation that St James the Great School has been awarded an Intermediate International School Award by the DfES. Our target is to work towards achieving the full award.

REMINDER

Parents and children who cycle to school are reminded that they MUST dismount from their bicycles at the school gate and walk into school. At no time should bicycles be ridden on the school site apart from periods of official cycle training. I am sure it will be appreciated that this is a reasonable requirement on health and safety grounds.
Date List 2005/2006

ST JAMES THE GREAT SCHOOL, WINDSOR ROAD, THORNTON HEATH

HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2005

OPEN: Tuesday 6 September
OPEN: Monday 31 October
CLOSED: Monday 5 September (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 21 October
CLOSED: Friday 9 December (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 16 December

SPRING TERM 2006

OPEN: Thursday 5 January
OPEN: Monday 20 February
CLOSED: Wednesday 4 January (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 10 February
CLOSE: Thursday 13 April

SUMMER TERM 2006

OPEN: Wednesday 26 April
OPEN: Monday 5 June
CLOSED: Monday 1 May (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)
CLOSE: Thursday 25 May
CLOSED: Friday 26 May (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 21 July
CLOSED: Monday 24 July (Staff In-Service Day)

AUTUMN TERM 2006

OPEN: Tuesday 5 September
OPEN: Monday 30 October
CLOSED: Monday 4 September (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 20 October
CLOSE: Wednesday 20 December

SPRING TERM 2007

OPEN: Monday 8 January
OPEN; Monday 26 February
CLOSED: Thursday 4 & Friday 5 January (Staff In-Service Days)
CLOSE: Friday 16 February
CLOSE: Thursday 5 April

SUMMER TERM 2007

OPEN: Thursday 19 April
OPEN: Tuesday 5 June
CLOSED: Monday 7 May (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)
CLOSE: Friday 25 May
CLOSED: Monday 4 June (Staff In-Service Day)
CLOSE: Friday 20 July

For your information:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Good Friday	25 March	14 April	6 April	21 March	10 April	2 April
Easter Sunday	27 March	16 April	8 April	23 March	12 April	4 April
Christmas Day	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

***FIVE STAFF IN-SERVICE DAYS PER ACADEMIC YEAR HAVE TO BE FIXED
YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF THOSE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE AS THEY ARE AGREED***

(September 2005)

ANNUAL DATE LIST 2005/2006

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday 5 September		<i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i>
Tuesday 6 September		School Re-opens
Monday 12 September	2.15 pm	Whole School Mass
Tuesday 20 September	4.00 pm	Catholic Schools Staff Mass – St Joseph’s College
Monday 10 October		Open Evening Key Stage 2
Thursday 13 October		Year 3 CAFOD Harvest Lunch
Friday 14 October	2.45 pm	Harvest Assembly
Monday 17 October		Open Evening Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2 only)
Wednesday 19 October	7.30 pm	Year 4 & 5 Residential Visit Meeting for Parents & children (Music Room)
Friday 21 October		School closes for Half Term
Monday 31 October		School re-opens Closing date for receipt of Reception applications 2006/07
Friday 4 November		Friends Association Grand Firework Display
Monday 14 November	6-8 pm	Exhibition of Children’s Art and Cheese and Wine Evening
Tuesday 15 November	2-4.30 pm	Exhibition of Children’s Art
Thursday 17 November	7.30 pm	Governor Parent AGM
W/b 28 November		Book Fair
Thursday 1 December		Open Evening – Reception
Sunday 4 December	12-4 pm	Friends Association Christmas Craft Fayre
Monday 5 December	2 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants
Tuesday 6 December	7.00 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants
Wednesday 7 December	7.00 pm	Christmas Concert – All Infants
Thursday 8 December	2.30 pm	Nursery Concert
Friday 9 December		<i>In-Service Day – School Closed</i>
Monday 12 December	7.30 pm	Carol Service at St Andrew’s – All Juniors
Tuesday 13 December		Christmas Dinner Day – Nursery Class Party Day
Wednesday 14 December		Christmas Dinner Day – Whole School
Thursday 15 December		Nursery closes for Christmas Break
Friday 16 December	2 pm	School closes for Christmas Break Closing date for Nursery applications 2006/07
Sunday 18 December		Friends Association Film Event
Wednesday 4 January		<i>In-Service Day – School Closed</i>
Thursday 5 January	9.15 am	School re-opens
Friday 6 January	3.00 pm 2.15 pm	Non-Eucharistic Service – Nursery to Year 1 Feast of the Epiphany – Mass in School Years 2 - 6
Thursday 2 February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Tuesday 7 February		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Wednesday 1 March		Ash Wednesday – Distribution of Ashes Key Stage 1 and 2 pm
Friday 10 February		School closes for Half Term.
Monday 20 February		School re-opens

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 16 March	A.m. 7.00 pm	Catholic Schools' Cross Country Yr 6 UKSA Residential Visit meeting for parents and children (Music Room)
W/b 27 March		<i>Penitential Week – Years 4, 5 and 6</i>
Friday 31 March		All Croydon Primary Schools September 2006 admission offers.
Friday 7 April	7.00 pm	Year 6 to lead Stations of the Cross – St Bartholomew's
Sunday 9 – Thursday 13 April		Easter Residential Visit – Years 4 and 5
Wednesday 12 April		Nursery closes for Easter Brreak
Thursday 13 April	9.45 am	School-based Easter Liturgy led by Year 3 Nursery close for Easter Break School closes for Easter Break
Wednesday 26 April	9.15 am	School re-opens
Monday 1 May		School closed – May Day Bank Holiday
Saturday 20 May	A.m.	Croydon Catholic Schools Football and Netball Tournaments at Margaret Roper School
Thursday 25 May	1.45 pm 2.30 pm	<i>Feast of the Ascension</i> Non-Eucharistic Service for Key Stage 1 and Nursery Mass in school for Key Stage 2
Monday 8 May- Friday 12 May		Year 6 – SATs
Monday 22 – Friday 26 May		UKSA – Year 6 Residential Visit
Thursday 25 May		School closes for half term break
Friday 26 May		<i>In-Service Training Day - School Closed</i>
Monday 5 June	9.15 am	School re-opens
Thursday 8 June	Pm	School Sports – field events
Monday 12 June		School Sports Day – track events
Tuesday 13 June	7.30 pm	New Nursery Parents' Meeting
Thursday 15 June	10 am 2.15 pm	<i>Feast of Corpus Christi</i> Mass for Key Stage 2 at St Bartholomew's Non-Eucharistic Service for Key Stage 1 School closes for Half Term
Friday 16 June		Catholic Schools' Swimming Gala
Tuesday 20 June		New Reception Visits
Thursday 22 June	A.m.	Croydon Catholic Schools' Sports Day at St James the Great
Tuesday 27 June		Reception Parents' Meeting am and pm New Reception Visits
Wednesday 28 June		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Thursday 29 June	10 am 2.15 pm	<i>Feast of Ss Peter and Paul</i> Mass for Key Stage 2 and Year 2 at St Andrew's Non-Eucharistic Service for Nursery – Year 1
Wednesday 5 July		Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Monday 10 July	2 pm	School Concert
Tuesday 11 July	7.30 pm	School Concert
Wednesday 12 July	7.30 pm	School Concert
Monday 17 July	7.30 pm	<i>Leavers' Mass – St Andrew's</i>
Wednesday 19 July	1.45 pm	Children visiting new classes – including new children
Thursday 20 July	9.45 am	<i>Leavers' Assembly</i>

		Nursery closes for Summer Break
Friday 21 July	9.45 am 2 pm	Final Assembly School closes for Summer Break
Monday 24 July		<i>In-Service Training Day - School Closed</i>
Monday 5 September		<i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i>
Tuesday 6 September		School re-opens

Class Assembly, Prayer Service and Mass Schedule

Class	Thursday Assembly – 3.05 pm	Prayer Service – 9.45 am	10 o'clock Parish Mass
R1	11 th May 2006	Tuesday 31 st January 2006	Tuesday 4 th July 2006 – St Andrew's
R2	6 th April 2006	Wednesday 1 st February 2006	Thursday 6 th July 2006 – St Andrew's
1.1	30 th March 2006	Wednesday 23 rd November 2005	Tuesday 20 th June 2006 – St Bartholomew's
1.2	18 th May 2006	Wednesday 5 th April 2006	Thursday 22 nd June 2006 – St Bartholomew's
2.1	16 th March 2006	Friday 27 th January 2006	Friday 21 st April 2006 – St Bartholomew's
2.2	23 rd March 2006	Tuesday 7 th February 2006	Tuesday 6 th June 2006 – St Bartholomew's
3.1	10 th November 2005	Wednesday 8 th March 2006	Tuesday 6 th December 2005 – St Andrew's
3.2	29 th September 2005	Tuesday 7 th March 2006	Wednesday 7 th December 2005 – St Andrew's
4.1	9 th February 2006	Thursday 4 th May 2006	Thursday 8 th December 2005 – St Andrew's
4.2	2 nd February 2006	Friday 5 th May 2006	Monday 5 th December 2005 – St Andrew's
5.1	19 th January 2006	Wednesday 5 th October 2005 (3.00 pm)	Thursday 27 th April 2006 – St Andrew's
5.2	26 th January 2006	Wednesday 5 th October 2005	Friday 28 th April 2006 – St Andrew's
6.1	2 nd March 2006	Wednesday 21 st June 2006	Thursday 20 th October 2005 – St Bartholomew's
6.2	23 rd February 2006	Thursday 22 nd June 2006	Wednesday 19 th October 2005 – St Andrew's

Please note classes will be attending the parish Masses listed above as part of the normal congregation, not in a lead capacity. All are welcome to the above celebrations.

Extra Curricular Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Venue			
Monday	8.30-9.00 am	Drama (BH) Yrs 5 & 6	Hall	<u>Spring Term</u> Y5 Dance Infant Dance KS1 and KS2 Music Festival		
	8.30-9.00 am	Yr 3 Recorder (JD)	Class 3.2			
	8.30-9.00 am	Yr 4 Recorder (SF)	Oratory			
	12.30-1.00 pm	Steel Pans (BH) Yr 5	Music Room			
	3.30-4.30 pm	Chess (VB)	Class 4.2			
	3.30-4.30 pm	Netball (MBA SC) Yrs 5&6	Playground/ Hall			
	3.45-4.20 pm	Yr 4 ICT (TC)	ICT Room			
	4.40-6.40 pm	Keyboard	Music Room			
	4.30-6.30 pm	Gym	Hall			
Tuesday	8.30-9.00 am	Y6 Recorder (SF)	Oratory	<u>Summer Term</u> Athletics Art Club		
	8.30-9.00 am	Drama (ZB) – Years 3 and 4	Hall			
	3.40-4.30 pm	Newspaper Club(CM) Yrs 5 & 6 (after Oct half term)				
	3.45-4.20 pm	Yr 5 ICT (TC)	ICT Room			
	4.40-6.40 pm	Keyboard	Music Room			
	5.00-6.15 pm	Rainbows	Hall			
	6.30-8.30 pm	Irish Dancing	Hall			
Wednesday	8.30-9.00 am	History/Poetry (TL or VB)	Class 3.1			
	8.30-9.00 am	Y6 ICT (TC)	ICT Room			
	3.05 pm	School Council (MBA)				
	3.40-4.40 pm	French Yrs 5 and 6	Class 3.2			
	3.45-7.00 pm	Italian (2 classes)(all ages)	Class 4.1			
	3.40-6.40 pm	Keyboard	Music Room			
	3.30-7.45 pm	Gym	Hall			
	Thursday	8.30-9.00 am	Yr 6 Recorder (SF)		Oratory	
		12.30-1.00 pm	Steel Pans (BH) Yr 4		Music Room	
3.30-4.30 pm		Y6 Self Defence	Hall			
3.45-4.20 pm		Yr 6 ICT (TC)	ICT Room			
3.45- 4.30 pm		Y6 Scientists (MBA)				
7.00-8.30 pm		Cubs (DL)	Hall			
Friday	8.30-9.00 am	Y4 Recorder (JD)	Class 2.1			
	8.30-9.00 am	Junior Choir (RS MB AW)	Hall			
	9.30-10.30 am	ICT for Parents	ICT Room			
	3.30-4.30 pm	Netball (MBA SC) Yrs 5&6	Playground/Hall			
	6.30-7.45 pm	Brownies	Hall			
Saturday	9.30-12.00 pm	Gym	Hall			
	9.45-11.15 pm	Football	Field			

(September 2005)