

WISHING YOU ALL EVERY BLESSING AND HAPPINESS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THROUGHOUT 2005



The phrase "our loss is their gain" comes straight to mind when I give you the news that our Deputy Head, Mrs Isobel Vassallo, has been appointed to the post of Headteacher of St Mary's RC Primary School, Beckenham. She takes up her post at the start of the Summer Term 2005 and we extend our congratulations to her on her promotion.

It was interesting to read the opening paragraph from last year's December Newsletter; in many respects the same items could be repeated. We had had an Assessor in for the NAACE mark recognition and as we close this year we are awaiting results of our Leading Aspect assessments in PE and Music about which I hope to be able to report early in the New Year.

It is quite appropriate, however, to repeat our sincerely expressed thanks to all members of our school community for the continued efforts they make in supporting the school. The numbers are too numerous to mention but I would extend my personal thanks to one and all in whatever capacity they serve the school. This extends to all staff, teaching and non-teaching, our school Governors, the Friends Association, the Priests of our Parishes, the pupils and you, the parents. Thanks to you all.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Infant Concert - We very much appreciated the numerous comments received from parents commending us on this year's Infant Concert. The phrase "one of the best ever" was repeated on several occasions. Clearly our Key Stage 1 children, following their efforts, can look forward to a visit from Father Christmas. Your generous contributions to the charity collection at the end of the Concerts totalled £400 and will be shared between the two charities nominated.

Nursery Concert - Sadly I was unable to be present for this year's Nursery Concert, but again the reports were all good. Well done to all and especially to Miss Church in charge of her first Nursery production..

Junior Carol Service - I think all those present at St Bartholomew's for this service felt that it provided an appropriate opportunity for reflection and preparation for Christmas. The children did us proud and I would thank the staff for all their work in putting the programme together. Well done Key Stage 2.

Friends Association Craft Fayre

Our new Friends Committee, albeit with some longer serving members, got off to an excellent start with two very successful events. Firstly, the annual Craft Fayre which had more stalls than ever. Extending the area to the Year 2 classrooms and staff room appeared to ease some of the crowding problems. Special thanks to Father Christmas who managed to see 120 children during his time with us. Apologies if anyone was disappointed.

Continuing Collections

Toner Cartridges: Thanks to a bumper donation from Mr Goswell we have been able to recycle a total of 30 full cartons of cartridges this term. We would welcome further supplies and if you individually or any company you know is willing to donate cartridges to us this would be appreciated. It is likely that the return on this year's efforts will exceed £1,000.

Box Tops: Please keep your eyes out for these tokens which are worth 10p each to the school.

Persil Stars: This collection continues into next year. All stars would be welcome.

Multi Cultural Resources

Mrs Pillay is in the process of setting up a permanent school resource base to support the teaching of multi cultural aspects of the curriculum. We would welcome in the New Year donations to our resources to build up our range of artefacts (statues, models, sculptures etc.) fabrics depicting traditional prints, traditional costumes/clothing, posters and pictures, story books and resource books. If you are able to help with this collection details in

connection with any donations of origin, history, age, meaning, purpose, etc. would be appreciated. Thank you for any support you can give. Please feel free to liaise directly with Mrs Pillay in regard to this request.

Book Fair

Best ever. Thank you for your support for the Christmas Book Fair. There was a general view that the selection of books was better, if marginally more expensive. As a result of your support the school will be receiving £1,300 worth of books. I would record my appreciation of the work in organising the Fair undertaken by Mrs Faik and Mrs Lawless. They always say it's the last one they'll do, but I am hoping to persuade them come the Summer!

School Photographs

Thanks to Mrs Mowbray for the great job she does in organising school photograph sessions. The proof system went well and I think was liked by the majority. We will continue this in regard to individual and group photographs, although the class photographs will be continued under the previous system. The commission received from school photographs is a welcome source of revenue.

Infant and Nursery Concert Photographs

The photographs taken by the Croydon Advertiser of individuals and groups taking part in the above productions are on display on the wall opposite the Staff Room. These can be ordered directly from the Advertiser. Order forms are available on the carousel in the Reception area. The photographs will be left up until the end of January in case you wish to place an order in the New Year. Please note the school has no involvement with this process and any queries will have to be referred directly to the Newspaper.

Thank you on behalf of all staff for the numerous gifts and cards received. These are much appreciated and if personal thanks have not been received please accept this general note of sincere appreciation. Have a very enjoyable Christmas and from all at St James the Great every good wish for 2005.

