

What a fantastic year 2003/04 has been and somewhat hectic to the end. Whilst we may have preferred a rather slower pace this has been compensated by the considerable achievements recorded.

All of this is only made possible due to the input of all members of our school community. At the risk of missing someone out I would like to record thanks to the school's staff who consistently give well over and above any call of duty; to our Governors who work tirelessly for the school; our Friends Association who make so many extras possible; you, the parents, for your outstanding support and, in particular over the last term, for your generosity; and, lastly, the children who constantly rise to every occasion and prove to be credits to us all.

On a more personal note, I would wish to acknowledge the highly significant contribution my Deputy, Mrs Vassallo, makes to the success achieved by St James the Great. As always this term sees changes occurring and we have, as the term closes, said farewell to: Fr Michael Jones, who moves on to a new parish in Bexleyheath and as I said at the Leavers' Mass he will be greatly missed in his Governor role and as a friend of the school. We gave a memorable farewell to Mrs Bell whose 24 years service to our school will leave both a lasting mark and provide a firm basis on which to continue development, particularly in the area of music. It is with a soupçon of envy that we wish Mrs Bell future health and happiness in retirement as she relocates to France. Miss Nichols is also moving to a new Nursery Nurse post after 9 years at St James the Great. We wish her every success in the challenges of her new post.

We were pleased to have the opportunity at the Leavers' Assembly to extend our good wishes to Mrs Janet Miles who retires from her role in the local authority as a school inspector. She became our link inspector some 14 years ago and has served as a great "critical friend" and been a strong advocate of our school in various contexts. Her advice and counsel have been greatly valued by myself, staff and Governors during her term as our link inspector. We will miss her and the continuity she has provided and wish her well for the future. We learnt only this week that we will also be losing Fr Peter Norris from St Andrew's at Christmas as he moves to pastures new.

Whilst changes, particularly in personnel, can be unsettling we look forward to welcoming new faces to our staff team. I appreciate we are somewhat late this year in releasing details of staffing allocations for the 2004/05 academic year. This has been delayed due to both staff changes and the already mentioned extremely full end of term programme. Your children visited their new classes yesterday and will undoubtedly have informed you but I can now confirm class allocations next term are as follows:-

Class Teacher

Miss Zofia Zbarawska	Class 6.1
Mrs Terry Cefai	Class 6.2
Miss Melissa Balzan	Class 5.1
Mrs Tammy Scott Cree	Class 5.2
Mrs Claire Murphy	Class 4.1)
Miss Victoria Berry	Class 4.2)
Mrs Isobel Vassallo	Class 3.1
Mr Johan Allen	Class 3.2
Mrs Jane Day	Class 2.1
Mrs Maggie Minnards	Class 2.2
Miss Alison Walne	Class 1.1
Mrs Sue Forward	Class 1.2
Miss Rebecca Hughes	Class R1
Miss Elizabeth Pedder	Class R2

Support Staff

Mrs Sue Reynolds, Year 6
Mrs Ramona Faik, Year 5
Mrs Maria Smith/Mrs Kathy Melody, Year 4
Mrs Debbie Lawless, Year 3
Mrs Kathy McGuire
Mrs Theresa Kearney
Mrs Anna Pollock
Mrs Geraldine Grabiec
Mrs Margaret Douch
Mrs Sue Tracey

I am confident in the strength of this revised team and look forward to another successful year ahead. I am sure you will share my view that they deserve a well earned break and wish them happy holidays.

We also look forward to welcoming Fr Tom Cooper as parish priest to St Bartholomew's, although he is not scheduled to take up his new post until Christmas time.

As we begin to look to the new school year I would like to acknowledge some of the more recent highlights from the last academic year. Years 4 and 5 did us proud in their Summer Production with their mammoth Lion King adaptation; their performance was superb with some very notable individual performances. Well done to each and every one of them and all the staff involved.

Year 6 likewise said their farewells in style both in the context of the Leavers' Mass and their Leavers' Assembly. They too will be missed individually and as a year group. Year 6 are moving on to the following fourteen secondary schools:-

Bishop Thomas Grant School

Denice Antwiwaa-Koduah
Elizabeth Asomaning-Bimpong
Sherlynna Auguiste-Ernest
Amy Kavanagh
Natalie Laurencine
Nigel Laurencine
Evelyn Matovu
Ann-Marie Tarbie

St Joseph's College

Baafour Ababio
Joshua Bushell-Auguste
Jason Crowe
Connor Greenaway

The Tiffin School for Girls

Nicole Mascarenhas

Whitgift

Joshua Persaud-Walters

Coloma Convent

Vanessa Agyei Asante
Aishling Bennett
Lauren Byrne
Jessica de Ruyter
Katherine Foad
Catherine Hickland
Amelia Holmes
Rachel Humphries
Rachel Ivens
Georgia Jasper
Rebecca McGowan
Ajua Mensah
Fiona Travers
Maria Vassallo
Lauren Waldron

Thomas More

Afeisha Alleyne

Wilsons

Christian Leggett

St Philomena's

Annette Bodunrin
Kimberley Burgess
Hannah Cobb
Jessica Cutajar
Nicolle D'Aranjo
Joanna D'Cruz
Zoe Faircloth
Francesca Ferrari
Nicola Goldsmith
Roisin Kelly
Holly McDonagh
Michaela Newsome
Bianca Wilson-Flanders

The London Oratory

Gregory Campbell
Joshua Swaby

Wallington

Yannick Li Tai Leong

The John Fisher School

John Barrett
Elliot Cameron
Conor Clarke
James Diffley
Samuel Madigan
Liam Melody

Mark Mikhaeel
St Gregory's
Sam Weddell

Norbury Manor
Philippa James

The Becket School

Sorcha Nestor

The school continues to receive recognition under a range of local and national awards. Recently this has included renewal of our Basic Skills Quality Mark and a Charter Mark including a Best Practice award for Community Links. A look at our school web site at www.stjamesthegreat.org will detail our award recognition. We are currently considering seeking a Healthy School Award and a Leading Aspects Award and will keep you posted accordingly in the New Year.

Sports Day ran particularly well and I would thank all staff and especially Mrs Mary Berkeley-Agyepong for her organisation of the event. Well done to the Yellow Team. Unfortunately, we will have to wait another year for a chance for the Green Team to get their name on the cup. The final results were as follows:-

Yellow Team: 729, Blue Team: 707, Green Team: 596, Red Team: 594

Thank you to the Friends Association for rounding their events off with a much enjoyed annual family disco, which managed to remain an outdoor event and catered for well over 300. The revised layout of the seating area and location of the disco etc. appeared to provide an even greater atmosphere than usual. Thanks to all of you who were able to support this event. As you may already have heard their mile of 10p's challenge managed a third of a mile and raised £2,100. Again many thanks for all your support. This was a superb result.

YEAR 5 SECONDARY TRANSFER

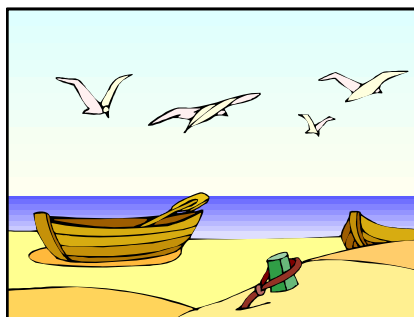
All Year 5 pupils have been issued with the paperwork relating to secondary transfer in September 2005. An updated list of secondary school open evenings will be issued in September to the current Year 4 and 5 families and whilst current Year 4 children have another year to go we would strongly urge parents to take the opportunity to visit prospective secondary schools. Further information will be given at the autumn term open evenings.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Whether you are at home or abroad we extend our very best wishes to you all for a restful break. On behalf of the staff please accept our sincere thanks for the many thank you gifts that have been received.

SEASIDE TRIPS

Both of the Friends Association Seaside trips were fully sold out. Slips were issued confirming places on the trips and I would remind those joining these outings on 5th August to Hastings and 24th August to Margate that the coach will depart from St James the Great School at 8.30 am, returning at approximately 7.30 pm.



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