

**A**s the school year progresses notable events occur which recently has included:-

1. Year 3's Harvest Lunch. Not only was this a great practical educational experience that the children clearly enjoyed but it also raised £165 for CAFOD. Many thanks to all the parents and friends who supported this. Visitors appeared to enjoy both the food and the company. Well done to all of Year 3.
2. Good news also on curriculum issues. Our school has been included as one of only 100 primary schools nationally on the newly compiled National ICT register. This is a great accolade that recognises St James the Great as a reference point for schools nationally for this curriculum area.
3. Our school is through to the second stage leading towards recognition as a Leading Aspect School in the areas of Physical Education and Music. We will now be subject to a visit by an external moderator before a final decision on this recognition is made. If successful we will be the first Croydon school to be so recognised. We will keep you informed accordingly.
4. We are also well on the way to recognition as a 'Healthy School' having been registered on the first stage with the initial assessment due this term. Thanks to Miss Berry and Mrs Lawlor for their work on this scheme.

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#### **OTHER NEWS**

Welcome back to Mrs Cefai and Mrs Murphy following their half term study visit to China under the auspices of the British Council. It is very much hoped that we will be able to set up some class to class links with China following this visit and possibly some video conferencing in due course. Exciting developments ahead?

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#### **GOVERNOR PARENT & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION AGMS – MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2004**

##### **WILL YOU BE THERE?**

Hopefully you will endeavour to attend these annual meetings. Please support them if you can. You will have received the Governors' report and details of the meetings and will appreciate considerable effort and work goes into the production of the report which is made more worthwhile if the meeting is well attended. It also provides an annual opportunity to meet both the Governors and our Friends Association Committee. Refreshments at the end of the meetings are always well received. The meetings start at 7.30 pm and are normally concluded by 9 pm. We look forward to seeing you. Please note this event is not suitable for children and they should not, therefore, be in attendance.

**FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FIREWORK DISPLAY – FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2004**

I can assure you this year will be an even GRANDER display – our best ever. There are a number of safety requirements in regard to this type of event and we would advise you that parents will need to monitor their children at all times and that no unaccompanied children will be permitted to attend.

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**BOOKSHOP**

Reminder that bookshop opening is now Monday afternoons. Our school bookshop receives a good level of support and we hope you will encourage your child to make use of this facility, e.g. collecting saving stamps towards the purchase of a book. CAN YOU HELP? Mrs Stock is looking for some additional volunteers to man the bookshop on a Monday afternoon 1.30-3.15 pm. This would be approximately a once a month commitment. If you can help please let Mrs Stock know.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

We are trialling a new system for this year’s individual and family group photographs. You will receive a proof copy of the photograph(s) by the end of this week. You are then free to decide whether you wish to place an order. Please note if delivery of any photographs is required for Christmas then the order with payment must be received by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November in order to guarantee delivery. No further orders will be accepted after the end of November. It would be interesting to know whether parents feel the receipt of a proof copy is preferable to the previous arrangement whereby the photograph was supplied.

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**FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

At their first meeting following the AGM the Association Committee will be programming their events for the forthcoming year. Clearly the Summer Fete on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May will be the major event of the year. The Committee would, however, welcome suggestions for other functions that parents would like included in the programme. Suggestions can be made directly to Committee members, via the school office or through the suggestion box on the office counter.

The Friends Association very much hope you will support their Calendar venture about which a separate letter has been issued. All the children have been involved and will be identifiable on the calendar through their pictures. We are confident this will make a nice Christmas gift. Pre-ordering is required.

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**CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**

I trust parents will have noted from the Date List issued at the start of term that our Christmas Concert evenings involving Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December and that **ALL** children in these year groups are required to attend on **BOTH** evenings.

Likewise, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking part in our annual Carol Service at St Bartholomew’s in Norbury on the evening of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December and **ALL** children in these year groups are required to attend this service.

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**DATA CHECKING SHEETS**

All pupils will have received a copy of the data the school currently holds on them for checking by the end of this week. Please can you ensure that all sheets are returned by the end of next week regardless of whether any amendments are required. Any amendments should be entered on the sheets to enable us to update our records. We are only able to undertake this checking exercise on an annual basis so it is very important any changes that take place during the course of the year are notified to the school office as soon as possible.

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**CHILD BEHAVIOUR STUDY**

Many thanks to the parents who have already returned the survey form that was sent home in connection with a study being undertaken by Kings College London. This is an important study that is dependent upon good levels of response from those surveyed. One of the reasons we were selected was as a result of recognition that we have a good track record in responding to requests of this nature. We do keep such requests to a minimum so it would be appreciated if you would take the time to return the form by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November please.