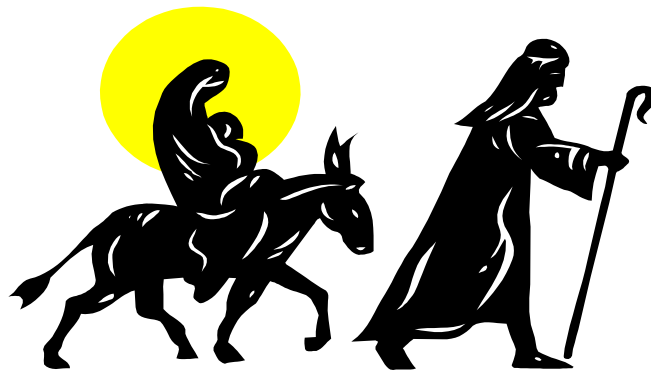


**BEST WISHES
FOR A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND EVERY BLESSING FOR THE YEAR 2002**



My thanks to everyone, staff, Governors, parents and children for getting this academic year off to such a resounding start. We moved from the 25th Anniversary Celebrations at the start of the term, through a range of activities including school visits, extra curricular activities, hosting teachers from other schools, Friends Association events, in addition to staff and pupils working hard with the day to day curriculum. Fitted in to this programme has been a superb reminder of the meaning of Christmas from our Infant concerts, Nursery concert and the Junior Carol Service at St Andrew's. Thanks to your generosity the three sponsored charities will each receive £100 from the Infant concerts and the St Andrew's Organ Fund will be £202.93 better off following the Carol Service. The New Year will be off to a flying start with the traditional New Year's Eve Family event including a midnight New Year toast and fireworks. Do join us if you can – very few tickets remain and will only be available until the end of term. Contact the school office if you would like tickets. I hope to see you there? I would conclude the introduction to this Newsletter by expressing my appreciation to all staff – teaching, classroom support, administrative, catering, cleaning and premises for all they do in school. They give 150+% to the school and I trust they will have an enjoyable and at least in some part relaxing Christmas and New Year break. My thanks also to parents and Governors for their ongoing support of the school and, last but not least, to all our pupils for their contributions to the life of the school.

Key Stage 2 SATs Results 2001

Whilst acknowledging the league tables of these results must be treated with great caution the success of last year's Year 6 pupils should not go unmentioned. I am sure you shared a touch of pride in seeing St James the Great in Croydon's top ten and as the top Croydon Catholic Primary in this year's results. Whilst this will change year by year I would congratulate this cohort and all their teachers on their achievements. Well done to all.

Book Fair

Thanks you all for your support of our Chirstmas Book Fair well organised again by Mrs Lawless and Mrs Faik. Again £1,000 worth of books were earned for the school.

Book Shop Prize Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our Book Shop's free Christmas Draw: Philippa James, Anastasia Falzon, Matthew Csepregghi and Jordan Rudland. I hope they enjoy their prizes. My thanks to Mrs Stock and her team of Mrs Burgess, Mrs Sullivan, Mrs McGowan, Mrs Daly, Mrs Parfitt and Mrs Rogers, for their work running the Book Shop which goes from strength to strength.

Parental Request regarding Smoking on the School Site

I have been approached by a parent regarding the issue of parents bringing and collecting children from school smoking around the children at this time. Whilst we are not a no smoking site, smoking by staff is confined to two areas out of the sight of pupils. I would, therefore, request parents to be mindful of this issue and respect the wishes of those parents who do not wish their children to be exposed to cigarette smoke. Thank you for your co-operation.

Finally on behalf of myself and all members of staff I would register our very grateful thanks for your and your children's kindness for the numerous cards and gifts received. These are very much appreciated and whilst we try to thank people personally where we can, this is often not possible. We would ask you, therefore, to accept this sincere albeit general note of appreciation. Thank you to you all. Have a very enjoyable Christmas. We extend every good wish to you all for 2002.

