

**WE ALL SEND OUR SINCERE WISHES TO YOU ALL FOR A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND EVERY BLESSING IN THE NEW YEAR**



Parents will have noted from the first two Newsletters of the year that the first term of the academic year has been as busy as ever. This Christmas term is always particularly special and I am confident you will agree that the staff can rightly look forward to the Christmas break. The term has concluded on a number of high notes including our Carol Concert and Infant performances which raised £500 which will be donated to the Royal Marsden Hospital at the start of next term in memory of Mrs Keaveney. There have been a range of other items previously reported but it has been particularly rewarding to see the term conclude with the installation of the stained glass windows to our Oratory. This means that we can now proceed with the refurbishment of this area which is on course to be operational by the February half term.

The busy life of our school is a reflection of the many demands faced by the school staff and I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of them in whatever capacity they serve the school for their highly appreciated contributions to the life of the school and the staff team. I would extend this thanks to our school Governors, Friends Association and you, the parents. I believe the true meaning of Christmas has again shone through at St James the Great and we would accordingly wish you all a holy and happy Christmas season.

Friends Association New Year's Eve Dance - CANCELLED

Sadly I have to advise parents that the planned Friends Association New Year's Eve Dance, which has been running from some 18 years, "will not this year take place". With only 32 adult tickets having been applied for it was clearly not going to provide a viable atmosphere for such a function, even taking account of a number of people who had indicated they planned to attend but had not formally applied for tickets. I believe it is the right decision not to proceed on this occasion but I am confident that the Association will review this event, its format and cost with a view to putting forward a new formula for an event next year. I know they would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Film Afternoon

It was pleasing that this function was so well attended with over 130 children attending. They seemed to enjoy the afternoon and consideration is now being given to running this event on a more regular basis, perhaps half termly. We will keep you informed.

Congratulations to Mrs Berkeley Agyepong on her recognition following external assessment as an Advanced Skills Teacher. In addition she has also been appointed by the local authority as a Leading Mathematics Teacher. This brings our complement of AST teachers to three (Mrs Murphy and Mrs Cefai) and LMTs to two (Mrs Lawlor).

Parents may be aware that both Mrs Day and Miss Berry have recently been absent. We look forward to welcoming them both back in the new term following these short periods of illness.

Key Stage 2 SATs Results 2002

I must once again acknowledge the success of last year's Year 6 pupils. They maintained for us a position in Croydon's top ten primary schools and whilst reiterating the caution with which these results must be taken it is only right to congratulate this cohort and all their teachers on their achievements. Well done to all.

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 2003.

