

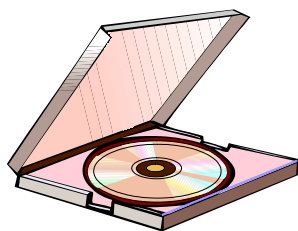
With us entering the second half of the academic year, without wanting to wish the year away, during this period of Lent we start to look towards Easter, the summer term and, hopefully, some fine weather. Looking back one wonders where the time has gone? Clearly the time has been profitable if your generally very positive comments at the recent open evenings are a measure. My thanks to all parents for making the effort to attend these consultation sessions. I know some of you experienced some lengthy waits to see your children's teachers. We will keep the process under review and will endeavour to keep such waits to a minimum. These evenings make for very long days for the staff and I would thank them for their preparation and input into these meetings.

MUSIC EVENING – DATE CHANGE – PLEASE NOTE

Due to the in-service day and half term break it has been decided to provisionally reschedule this event for Saturday 23rd March 2002. There is still time to register an interest in performing. We have an interesting programme formulated but could accommodate one or two more if anyone is interested. Just drop in a note to school. Further details to follow.

THANK YOU

On a personal note my family and I would like to express very sincere thanks to so many of you who sent us Mass and Sympathy Cards and or verbally expressed sympathy following the recent death of my mother, Eileen Beck. This was a difficult time but your very kind thoughts were a great support to us all. The wreath on behalf of the school and representation through Mrs Lawless attending the funeral in North London was likewise a great support.



PRE-ORDER YOUR EASTER CD

You are probably aware that two recording sessions have taken place to compile a CD of music sung and played by the children of St James the Great School. I am confident you will be pleased with the results. The CD would, as I told the children, be an excellent Easter gift especially for those trying to stay away from chocolate!! These CDs are being supplied to order. All children have taken part and their names are all recorded on the CD sleeve. If you would like to order a CD please return the slip at the end of this Newsletter with payment - £8.50 each or two for £15.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to Mrs Cefai who has been selected by the University of Surrey from a very long list of candidates to participate in a two week study visit to Silicon Valley in the USA. She will be visiting an American school in addition to IT companies in the area. She will be away for two weeks beginning Monday 11th March 2002. I am pleased to advise parents that her class will be taken by Mrs Vassallo during this period and Class 5.1 will be taken by Mrs Leggett. My thanks to these two staff members for their help in facilitating Mrs Cefai’s visit and thereby minimising any disruption for the children. We look forward to a report on her trip in our next Newsletter.

BOOKBAGS/RUCKSACKS AND SCHOOL COATS

Parents may well have seen the new St James the Great rucksacks which are selling like “hot cakes”. It is proposed that these will become the normal bag for Junior pupils. Sample bags we trialled have shown them to be very durable and of a good size, without being too large, able to accommodate books, lunchboxes, etc. They are good value at £8 each and we would suggest that as pupils in Year 2 need their bookbags replaced they move to the rucksacks. These carry the school logo so complement the school coat well. **ALL** pupils must now have the school coat and I would request parents to ensure this aspect of our dress code is now complied with.

DATE LIST

An up-to-date holiday list is attached to this Newsletter. Please discard old lists as there are some amendments to previous lists. I would ask you to amend your current events list noting a **CHANGE OF DATE** for the Leavers’ Mass which will now take place on Wednesday 10th July rather than Monday 15th July. This, unfortunately, is necessary due to Fr Bill’s departure from St Andrew’s in the summer. Please also note that the Stations of the Cross on Friday 22nd March at St Bartholomew’s will be at 7.30 pm and not 8.00 pm as listed on the date list.

COMMUNION DRESSES

We will be hosting the now annual visit by “Simply Perfect” Holy Communion dress suppliers on Monday 11th March. The sale will take place in the school hall between 3.30 and 4.30 pm. All are welcome to view with no obligation to purchase. Please access this service if you feel it would be helpful.

ORATORY PROJECT

You may be interested to note that whilst it may appear nothing has been happening in this area since the 25th anniversary celebrations much has been going on behind the scenes. The next stage is the installation of stained glass in the four front windows. The children’s designs have been worked on by Teresa and John Barber, the consultants working on the project with us. These are at final design stage and should be in place by the summer mid-term. We will then proceed to carpet, paint and furnish the area and bring it into use.

CAR PARK

Problems are still arising with unauthorised use of the school car park. Parents are reminded that no unauthorised access is permitted between 8 am and 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday. **FOR SAFETY’S SAKE PLEASE OBSERVE THESE RESTRICTIONS.**

There have also been two near misses with children being brought into school by walking through the car park – please use the pedestrian entrance which is designed to keep pedestrians and vehicles apart!!

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL

We would remind parents that in order to ensure the correct allocation of monies sent into school, it is essential that:-

- Monies are sent in envelopes.
- Envelopes are marked with your child’s name and class.
- Details are placed on the envelope as to what the payment is for.

This process is both helpful to office staff and avoids errors and the time involved in correcting them. Thank you for your co-operation.

PUPIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Please keep the office informed of any changes in your contact details. It is very difficult for staff when your child is taken ill or has an accident at school if we do not have up to date contact details.

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

All children not collected promptly are **required** to report to Mrs Faik in the Assistant Head's room so that we know who remains on site and to secure their safety. This also means parents know where to find their children should they be delayed. Some children are receiving contrary instructions from parents. We would ask you not to do this as this places the children in an invidious position as children not adhering to this requirement may find themselves in trouble for not doing as requested and reporting to Mrs Faik.

TOKEN COLLECTION/RECYCLING

Many thanks for the support you have given to our collection of used toner cartridges for recycling. This is an ongoing collection so please encourage friends and relatives to gather these cartridges from work places etc. Current collections include Tesco's tokens, Box Tops for Schools and Walkers 'Books for Schools'.

If you hold a Sainsburys Reward Card and have not registered the school please consider doing so using the registration form attached. Additional copies are available from the school office although registration on-line is possible using the following email address: www.sainsburys.co.uk/equipmentforschools. On-line registration gains bonus points for the school. Please encourage friends and relatives to also register as the scheme in no way affects personal benefits of the scheme.

NEWSPAPER RECYCLING

We would encourage you to make use of the paper recycling bin located at the top end of the school car park. The collection bin has been recently replaced as a result of vandalism whereby the bins have been set on fire. As a result the company are reconsidering our site as a location and it will accordingly be affected by level of use.

MILK ORDER

Please find attached to this Newsletter the Summer Term Milk Order Form. Please return this form with payment by Friday 22nd March 2002.

FOR SALE

Full St Joseph's College uniform (brand new), including PE kit, for sale. Size 34/36. Contact Mrs Lawless.

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ORDER FOR CD

Child's Name: Class:

Please can I order CD(s) and enclose £..... in full payment.

Signed: (Parent/Guardian)