

We are now well into the final half term of the academic year and no doubt many of you are asking the same question as us, namely, where did the year go!!! As always this end of the year consists of a very full programme of events and I will attempt to bring you up to date.

Having mentioned the end of this academic year minds are already turning to the next. I am pleased to be able to confirm that following recent interviews the school Governors have been able to make high quality appointments to the school's staff that ensures we are in the enviable position of being fully staffed for September. We will be very sorry to lose from the teaching staff the services of Mrs Davis and Mrs Alley (Class Teachers 1.1) who have decided to move on at the end of the year although hopefully they will remain in contact. Congratulations are due to Ms McGillycuddy who will be leaving us early in the new term to go on maternity leave. We wish her well and look forward to her return in due course. The appointment of Miss Michelle Cleary and Miss Stephanie Hughes to the teaching complement of the school is particularly pleasing as both of them are known to the school following placements with us. In addition we will be welcoming our new SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) teacher in September. Mrs Genevieve Pillay joins us from Margaret Roper School and will be working as a member of the full time teaching staff with a part time responsibility for special needs. In addition the school will be welcoming Mrs Pat Chambers to the Nursery staff as a Nursery Nurse and Mr Tamkin Riaz as our new Premises Manager in late August. We will now have two Reception class teachers named Miss Hughes which may or may not make things easy for the children and parents? I can now confirm the teaching staffing arrangements for September 2002 as follows.

Class	Teacher	Support Staff
R1	Miss Becky Hughes	Mrs Margaret Douch
R2	Miss Stephanie Hughes	Miss Sally Nichols
1.1	Mrs Jane Day	Mrs Anna Pollock
1.2	Mrs Sue Forward	Mrs Geraldine Grabiec
2.1	Miss Victoria Berry	Mrs Kathy McGuire (0.5)
2.2	Mrs Leah Mascarenhas	Mrs Sue Sierra (0.5)
3.1	Mrs Tamsyn Lawlor	Mrs Verina Gill (0.5)
3.2	Mrs Pat Bell	Mrs Isabel D'Aranjo (0.5)
4.1	Mrs Terry Cefai	Mrs Debbie Lawless
4.2	Miss Michelle Cleary	
5.1	Mrs Isobel Vassallo	Mrs Sue Reynolds
5.2	Mrs Mary Berkeley-Agyepong	
6.1	Mrs Claire Murphy	Mrs Mo Faik
6.2	Mrs Tamryn Scott Cree	
Nursery	Miss Sharron Kelsall	Miss Sarah Church Mrs Pat Chambers
SENCO	Mrs Genevieve Pillay	

I am sure you will be pleased to see such a strong staff team and share with me hopes for a further successful year ahead.

SATS RESULTS

I am aware that parents share our view that SATs results are only one indicator in regard to children's progress. Education covers a much broader spectrum than just the academic. I feel it appropriate, however, to extend my congratulations to your children and all of their teachers for the excellent results they have achieved this year. I know Mrs Mascarenhas and Mrs Day in Year 2 see Key Stage 1 SATs as the culmination of the work done throughout that Key Stage and, likewise, Mrs Cefai and Mrs Murphy acknowledge that they are building on five to six years of previous work. That said, I would acknowledge the work done by all four of these staff in bringing it together and achieving the following:-

Key Stage 1: Mathematics:	100% at Level 2 with 69% at Level 3
Reading Comprehension:	100% at Level 2 with 60% at Level 3
Writing:	96% at Level 2 with 27% at Level 3
Spelling:	98% at Level 2 with 66% at Level 3
Science (Teacher Assessment):	2% at Level 1, 98% Level 2 and 47% at L3
Key Stage 2: English:	100% at Level 4 with 70% at Level 5
Science:	96% at Level 4 with 42% at Level 5
Mathematics:	89% at Level 4 with 46% at Level 5

I would also wish to acknowledge the contribution made to be the above results by the support given by parents.

PARENTS ICT CLUB

Mrs Cefai is planning a morning ICT club for parents running a parallel course to the ICAA accredited course currently worked on by pupils. If you would be interested in participating in this programme which may help to put you one step ahead of your child!!, please complete the slip at the end of this Newsletter. Facilities mean places will have to be limited and will in the first instance be offered to parents on a first come, first served basis in the order Year 6 to Nursery. Classes will run on a Friday morning between 9.30 and 10.30 am.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION – MANY THANKS

Some parents may have noticed the brand new Peugeot Boxer Minibus that has just been delivered. Our previous LDV vehicle was over three years old and it proved to be an optimum time to trade the vehicle in, in order to maximise its second hand value. I would acknowledge with thanks the agreement of the Friends Association to fund the balance for the new acquisition. It is a fine example of the benefits your children receive from their sterling work. Thanks to them all.

BINGO NIGHT

Whilst appreciating there are many demands on people's time, it was noticeable that numbers were down for this event last Saturday. Nonetheless the just under 70 present had an enjoyable evening and I would thank the adults and the good representation of junior pupils for entering the spirit of the evening and making it such a success. The evening raised in excess of £200. Well done to the Friends Committee.

PLEASE SUPPORT FUNDRAISING EVENTS WHENEVER YOU CAN.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:-

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (DETAILS ISSUED SEPARATELY)

FAMILY DISCO – SATURDAY 13TH JULY (ANYONE ABLE TO HELP WITH THE SETTING UP OF THIS EVENT AT 2 PM, ESPECIALLY DADS ABLE TO ASSIST WITH THE MARQUEE PLEASE TURN UP)

SUMMER HOLIDAY SEASIDE TRIPS – WEDNESDAY 7TH AUGUST TO HASTINGS AND THURSDAY 29TH AUGUST TO MARGATE – LETTER ATTACHED

ALSO – DO NOT FORGET THE 200 CLUB – this provides essential regular income to the Association – see form attached. Can you recruit some additional members from friends, relatives, neighbours etc? Just complete the slip and return it to school – still time to be in the two Summer Draws!!!

Thanks to Stella Gumley and Kathy Goldsmith for the work they have done setting up in competition with the Ice Cream seller at the main gate. To date they have raised over £800 on behalf of the Friends Association funds. Well done to them for spotting this entrepreneurial opportunity. They would welcome help from any parents willing to assist with these sales. The commitment would be as frequent as you wanted on a rota basis. Sales are only planned to operate between Easter and the October half term, 3.15-4.30 pm approximately. See Stella Gumley or Kathy Goldsmith if you can help.

ADMISSION WAITING LIST

We have lists for each year group of pupils wishing to join the school. Please ensure the school office knows before the end of term should you be moving away in the Summer in order that we can ensure as much notice as possible is given to prospective new families. Thank you.

MILK ORDERS

Late requests are always received but these cost significant administrative time and we would ask you, therefore, to adhere to the closing date of **FRIDAY 12th JULY** and ensure orders for next term are received by then. Order forms are available from the office.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE – NURSERY TOKEN PROMOTION

Do you have any of these tokens following purchases made from the ELC? If you make any purchases please request the tokens. Our school's Nursery is registered to this scheme which offers equipment in return for the tokens. Help us to collect as many as possible. Thank you.

PROMOTIONS – MANY THANKS

BOX TOPS

We collected 746 tokens and received a cheque for £74.60. This was an excellent result. If any tokens still remain at home please send them in as they can be credited to next year's repeat promotion.

SAINSBURYS REWARD POINTS

Again an excellent result. We notched up 3,289 points and will be claiming equipment against these points from the catalogue.

TESCO TOKENS

Superb result – we have collected 22,800 tokens to date and we are still counting. Our claim will be submitted by the end of July. Further information in September. Please send in any tokens found at home.

BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

As always a tremendous response. We have 5,200 tokens to date and are still counting. Please keep them coming in as the claim will be submitted after the end of term. Again more details later.

We really appreciate the support you give these promotions which offer “good extras” to the school. Thank you one and all. Please do not discard out of date tokens as these are normally redeemable the following year and we are, therefore, happy to receive them at any time.

ADVERTISING

Parents may have noted the two advertising posters, one in the servery and one in the link corridor between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. These have current film advertisements and bring an income to the school. I would assure parents we have full control over advertisements posted and accept we must be sensitive in this issue.

REG DODD

Reg has asked me through a note sent to school to express his enormous thanks to all parents, staff and pupils for the send off he received. He was very moved by the kindness shown and was overwhelmed by the gifts he received and generosity shown. We raised a joint total of £460 which enabled us to purchase a K’Archer and a wall clock, with an engraved plaque, which were presented to him at an assembly on his last day along with a cheque for £200. Thank you again.

BOOK FAIR

Please support our Summer Book Fair running from Monday 1st July to Friday 5th July. An excellent variety of books are available. The commission from the sales secure an average of £1,000 worth of books for the school.

BOOK CLUB

Please note Book Club will not operate this week, this is an excellent service and the ladies involved deserve a week off. Book shop will open one more time this academic year on Thursday 11th July. On this final week stationary items will also be available.

CROYDON SPORTS

Thanks to Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong for her sterling work in connection with our entries to Croydon Sports this year. Well done to all who took part. We had some notable results and will report these in the next Newsletter.

OTHER SPORTING ISSUES

Well done to our football and netball teams who brought home a Croydon Catholic Schools’ Winners Trophy each. Well done to team members:-

Football

Thomas Byrne
Gavin Da Silva
Mathew Edgerton
Carl Gopy
Aaron McDonagh
Justin Sonny
Joseph Wentworth

Netball

Sarah Clarke-McDermott
Emily Marchant
Manuela Marfo-Mensah
Jessica McGowan
Yolanda Newsome
Hannah Walsh
Natalie Zenao
April Zoil

END OF TERM DATES

My apologies again for any inconvenience caused by date changes we have occasionally had to make. We do endeavour to maintain our annual programme as published and date changes are never made lightly. Please note the following:-

Concert Dates: Wednesday 3rd July and Thursday 4th July
Open Evening Dates: Thursday 11th July and Tuesday 16th July (sorry there was a mistake in the Open Evening letter that went home to parents which said Thursday 9th July and Tuesday 16th July on the slip at the bottom of the letter).

JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Our date to conclude these celebrations is Friday 5th July. Please note parents are invited to join in for a choir led sing along at the end of the day at 3 pm. Our children certainly enjoyed the first half of these celebrations and will hopefully enjoy the second half.

LEAVERS' MASS: Wednesday 10th July at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's, Thornton Heath (all welcome)

CATHOLIC SPORTS DAY: Thursday 11th July at 10 am – 12 .30 pm approximately (all welcome)

SPORTS DAY: Monday 15th July (all welcome)

LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY: Thursday 18th July at 9.45 am (all welcome)

FINAL ASSEMBLY: Friday 19th July at 9.45 am (all welcome but please note this is an extended assembly of some length).

YEAR 5 PARENTS

I would ask parents of children in Year 5 to note that pupils in this year group will be working on the first unit of the school's EPR programme dealing with sex education next week.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note the class photographs issued today are available at a cost of £6.00. Please send the money into school or return the photograph by Friday 12th July. We would ask for any other outstanding photograph monies to be settled by this date also.

SIX TERM YEAR CONSULTATION LETTER

Croydon local education authority have asked me to circulate their six term year consultation, responses to which are due by 19th July 2002. There are arguments for and against these proposals, although teacher associations have taken the view that whilst these proposals are an improvement on the previous five term year proposals it is doubtful that any real benefits will be gained from this change. Please take the opportunity to make your views known by returning the response form.

MEGA MAGAZINE

Croydon's Mega Magazine is being issued through the school prior to the end of term. This is a useful magazine that publicises community activities over the summer holiday period and we hope you will find it helpful.

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP

I have been advised by two parents of their proposal to set up an informal support group for parents of children with special needs to share information, advice and experiences. If you are interested please contact either Linda on 8764 1518 or Zita on 8684 0938.

ELSIE ATKINS R.I.P. AND CAFOD

Elsie had very generously asked, in a note left with her close friends, to have the contents of her home sold in aid of CAFOD. There any many new and gift items. Her friends and the CAFOD group have chosen to hold a Coffee Morning Sale to enable this to happen on Saturday 20th July in St Andrew’s Parish hall after the 9.30 am Mass. Everyone is warmly welcome.

N.B. This Newsletter and all future Newsletters will be included on our website – www.stjamesthegreat.org. We will be looking in the new school year to alter the format slightly to make it more web friendly. Watch this space.

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ICT CLASS FOR PARENTS

I would like to attend the ICT class. My name is: (please print)

My child will be in Class in the next academic year.