

The issue of our first Newsletter of the new academic year arrives with the first half term break upon us, where does the time go? The year has got off to a very good start and my thanks again to parents for their support in this process. Your children returned ready for the challenges of the new school year smartly attired in uniform eager to report their enjoyment of the Summer Break. Many of you, of course, seemed to quite enjoy their return to school! Reception children, following a short spell part time, have quickly adapted to full time attendance and coped superbly with school dinners. As always I would ask all parents to support our excellent school meal provision by allowing children to take school meals as often as possible as the meal standards achieved and service as a whole is largely dependent on take up.

This may be a good time to remind parents of the now well known element of an introductory talk by the Headteacher at one secondary school to which some of our pupils transfer, namely the 3 H's which are equally applicable to St James the Great pupils i.e. Holidays, Haircuts and Homework. Parents are requested to avoid taking children on holiday during term time other than for very exceptional circumstances. A reminder that haircuts are part of the uniform dress code and it is expected that hair will be of a reasonable length avoiding unusual or extreme styles, accordingly closely cropped hair and patterns or lines cut into the hair, for example, are not acceptable.

The school's Homework Policy, copies of which have been widely circulated, was approved following an extended consultation. Parents are asked to encourage and support their children in this regard.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATE

Monday 4th November 7.30 pm in the main school hall **Governor, Parents and Friends Association AGMs**. We very much hope you will pencil this date in your diary and join us for these two meetings which are usually well attended and provide a forum for discussion. It is expected that the formal proceedings will conclude at approximately 9.00 pm and will be followed by a buffet reception. A licensed bar will be available. Documentation for these meetings will be issued immediately after half term.

PARENT HELPERS

Reading Helpers

We greatly value the support we receive from a significant number of parents who make a regular commitment to hearing children read. If you would be willing to undertake this task please either complete the slip at the end of the Newsletter and return by the end of the first week after half term or contact Mrs Mascarenhas directly. N.B. The policy of not linking parents offering such support in their own child's class will be applied without exception.

Library Helpers

Again another group of parents have staunchly manned the library for use in class time to enable greater use of the library throughout the day. We would welcome this support again and if you can help please complete the slip at the end of the Newsletter and return it to school by half term or contact our new Library Co-ordinator, Miss Rebecca Hughes (R1).

Congratulations and thank you to Samuel Abreo on winning a recent McDonalds/Croydon Advertiser competition which sees the school receiving £250 towards new books for the library and his class being offered a McDonalds party – details soon.

SCHOOL WEB SITE

If you have visited our web site recently you will note there have been some changes and updating. Maintenance of this site is a significant task and is quite time consuming. As proof reading and checking can only be cursory we would appreciate feedback on any errors, omissions or suggested amendments.

UNIFORM

I am pleased to advise parents that our Uniform Shop is now able to supply clothing name labels by return as they are now in possession of their own label making machine. The labels are £4.50 for 6 dozen and £8 for 12 dozen. This offers me a timely opportunity to remind parents of the need to ensure that their children’s clothes are marked with a name label. We currently have six new coats in the office, unnamed and unclaimed!!

DATE LISTS

Please find attached this year’s annual calendar of dates and a list of school and class service dates fixed to date. Some of the service dates are still subject to confirmation. We will make every endeavour to maintain this programme of dates.

RE NEWSLETTER

Please find attached to this Newsletter a copy of our RE Newsletter for the Autumn Term.

MASS LINEN

If you are willing and able to help with the laundering of the Mass linen (about once a term) please contact Mrs Day or give your name and telephone number in to the school office. Thank you.

REQUEST FROM A PARENT FOR HELP WITH TRANSPORT

A parent is looking for help to transport their younger child to and from Norbury to Virgo Fidelis Nursery. The Nursery starts at 9 am and finishes at 12 noon. Terms to be agreed directly. For further information contact the school office.

Reading Helpers

Child’s Name: Class:

I can offer regular help with hearing readers on (please specify which days and times you are available):

Signed:

Library Helpers

Child’s Name: Class:

I can offer regular help in the Library on (please specify which days and times you are available):

Signed: