

With the Summer Term now well underway this Newsletter is being penned with an ever increasing amount of news to report. Having now recovered from the busiest weekend of the year this seems to be the best point at which to begin this Newsletter.

GRAND SUMMER FETE

This can only be described as an excellent event. So many people to thank so apologies in advance for any omissions.

- **THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE** for all their work before, during and after the event. The Fete is a mammoth task and they rallied to make it the great success it was. The team was encouraged, driven, bullied and cajoled by the good offices of our Fete Co-ordinator, Stella Gumley, who whilst no doubt glad it is over will be flushed with the success of £9,000+ profit raised, at least matching the total of the last Fete in somewhat less favourable weather conditions.
- **YOU, THE PARENTS** for your great generosity in responding to the regular Fete collections providing well for all our stalls. Also to the many helpers before, during and after the event. The 7 am start to set up was well supported, ensuring all was ready on time. Clearing up was done in record time between showers that had thankfully held off until the very end of the day. A special thank you to Mr Crowe who responded to our last minute plea for scaffolding for the Abseiling Tower thereby ensuring this established prominent attraction was able to proceed.
- **SCHOOL STAFF** for their tremendous support on the day and for their forbearance of disruption and collections leading up to the event.

Well done to everyone – the atmosphere, positive comments and community spirit on the day served to put the icing on the cake. The Friends Association will issue more information on the results of this event separately. Thank you for your continued support for their programme of events. Still to come before the end of term – Summer Ball, Fashion Show, Theatre Trip and Family Disco – something for everyone!

CATHOLIC FOOTBALL AND NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

Those present will, I am sure, have talked at some length about this very exciting competition. Our A and B netball teams were highly sporting and competitive and acquitted themselves well. The A team returned home victors – returning the Netball Trophy to St James the Great once again. Thanks especially to Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong and Miss Church for their time in coaching the teams.

Our Football A and B teams can likewise be proud of their achievements. Both teams reached the semi final to play each other. This nail-biting game went to penalties from the team, goalkeepers and substitutes with the 'B' team eventually making the final against St Aidan's. This game proved equally nail-biting eventually being decided against us through a "golden goal" in extra time. As this year's runners up they have vowed to return for the title next year. Thanks to Chris Hart, Steve Pollock and the training team.

GIRLS' 5-A-SIDE – This Tournament took place at the same time at Monks Orchard and again we proved to have fielded a strong team that were only knocked out on points (1 point, in fact) on goal difference. Well done to all concerned.

Netballers: A Team: Jessica Badu, Amilia Csepregi, Chenel Marshall, Sierah Mansaray, Chloe Payen, Nanette Turkson and Ego Uche.

B Team: Denice Antwiwaa Koduah, Aishling Bennett, Leisha Boreland, Nicola Goldsmith, Sophie McElhinney, Becky McGowan and Grace Muteba. Reserve: Sherlynna Auguiste-Ernest.

Footballers: A Team: Lawrence Amajuoyi, Diarmuid Collins, Jordan Liard, Ross O'Brien, Robert Pollock, Aaron Robertson and Sean Rooney.

B Team: Sam Elliot, Joseph Grech, Adrian Lemince, Alexander Love, Samuel Madigan, Joshua Persaud-Walters and Alexander Stevenson.

5-a-side girls: Kimberley Burgess, Lauren Byrne, Catherine Campbell, Nicolle D'Aranjo, Zoe Faircloth, Catherine Hickland, Philippa James and Amy Kavanagh.

FROM THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOL STANDARDS – DAVID MILIBAND MP

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

"I am writing to congratulate you and your staff on winning a School Achievement Award. These are for schools that substantially improved their results between 1999 and 2002 . . . or achieved better results in 2002 than most schools in similar circumstances.

The hard work and dedication of teaching and support staff are crucial to a school's success. School Achievement Awards are intended to celebrate and reward these efforts Congratulations and best wishes."

I am sure all parents will be pleased that the work of our school's staff has once again been recognised through this award and I would add my own congratulations and thanks to all St James the Great staff.

RESIDENTIAL WEEK – EASTER 2003

I must extend congratulations to all those children who participated in this visit. We had great weather all week, good food and accommodation with a great range of activities. The week was, however, made exceptional by the superb way in which the children conducted themselves – and supported each other. The centre so impressed us that we plan to return next year and we have already invited the current Year 3 and 4 children to register their interest, which a significant number already have. For transport reasons we will cap the number so do register if you are interested. I would like to record my thanks to Miss Berry, Mrs Cefai, Mrs Grabiec, Mrs Lawless, Mrs McGuire and Mrs Spinks from the staff for making this year's trip possible and to Mrs Beck, Mr Goldsmith, Mr Anoff and Miss Cefai for joining this trip as support staff.

DATE LIST – SUMMER TERM EVENTS

Please take particular note of the date list for end of term events. Some minor changes have had to be made for reasons beyond our control and I would ask you to amend your calendars accordingly. See date list attached.

STAFFING 2003/2004

As we start to look towards the next academic year I am able to advise you regarding some known staff changes. It is hoped to be able to confirm actual staff to class allocations towards the end of next month.

MRS LEAH MASCARENHAS

It is with much regret that I have to inform you that Mrs Mascarenhas has, after 23 years at St James the Great, decided to take early retirement at the end of this academic year. I know we will greatly miss her and the significant contribution she makes to the day to day life of our school and to all the children she teaches. I will personally miss her support and loyalty but will certainly be a little envious of her move to retirement, which I have no doubt will see her taking on challenges outside of teaching. It is not our intention to allow her to leave without marking her tremendous service to education and our school and we will therefore be:-

1. Celebrating a thanksgiving Mass in the school hall on Friday 11th July at 7.30 pm followed by a Buffet Reception. Due to anticipated numbers this celebration is for past pupils and their families and current parents (not current pupils). Current pupils will participate in our Leavers' Assembly on 17th July 2003.
2. We are setting up a testimonial fund for Mrs Mascarenhas and if you would like to contribute to this and/or attend the evening celebration please complete the slip at the end of the Newsletter.

MS IMELDA MCGILLYCUDDY

I am also sorry that Ms McGillicuddy has decided not to return to the school following her maternity leave. She is undertaking a home move out of the area and as a result a return to work would prove impractical. She has asked me to relay her good wishes to all. She says she will very much miss St James the Great and its supportive community. I am hopeful she will visit the school again prior to the end of term.

MRS TAMRYN SCOTT CREE

Congratulations are in order following Mrs Scott Cree's announcement that she will be taking maternity leave after the Autumn Term half term. We wish her well and look forward to her return later in the next academic year.

WELCOME

I am able to advise parents that:-

MISS MELISSA BALZAN has accepted a post at St James the Great. She will be known to some parents and pupils following a placement she undertook at this school with Mrs Scott Cree. I am pleased she has agreed to join this year's Year 6 residential visit and look forward to formally welcoming her to the school in September.

MR JOHANN ALLEN

Mr Allen will be known to Year One parents as he has covered Mrs Day's recent period of illness. I am pleased that he has accepted a position here at St James the Great for the forthcoming year.

These two appointments will understandably serve to maintain our very high quality staffing complement.

Keep these tokens coming in:-

BOX TOPS – any remaining tokens should be sent in as these will be redeemable next year. I have just received a cheque for £69.30 for this year’s collection. Thank you.

TESCO’S – please search for any outstanding tokens you may have. We are soon to redeem this year’s total which currently stands at 22,300.

BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS – these have got off to a slow start this year due to availability, but there is still time for us to use these, so all contributions will be welcome.

PERSIL STARS – we have nearly completed two collection sheets (950 tokens), so please check your Persil packets.

CADBURY’S – new promotion. No encouragement to increase consumption but if you are a chocoholic please watch out for the tokens.

SCHOOL FUNDING ISSUES

Many thanks to those parents who wrote to councillors, MPs and attended the rally of Croydon Council at the start of term. Copies of this correspondence have been forwarded to me by a number of you. Please keep the pressure on wherever and whenever possible as the situation is not yet resolved and “behind the scenes” negotiations are still going on. The pressure has certainly been felt by both local councillors and our MPs – although both groups appear to want to blame the other. Schools, however, just want the situation resolved. There continues to be a significant amount of double counting of funding and the extra money from the Government will provide approximately £10,000 extra for each school. For St James the Great there remains great concern particularly for next year if this year’s issues are not resolved. Thank you for your help in maintaining this issue as a priority for Croydon Council. I will keep you informed of any developments.

CELEBRATION FOR MRS MASCARENHAS

Child’s Name: Class:

- Please find enclosed a donation towards the testimonial fund for Mrs Mascarenhas.
- I/we would like to attend the evening celebration.

Signed: (Parent/Guardian)

DATE LIST

Thursday 22 nd May:	Break up for Half Term
Friday 23 rd May:	Staff In-Service Day
W/B Monday 2 nd June:	Cycling Proficiency Course – Year 6
Thursday 5 th June:	Class Group Photographs Year 5 Mass – 2.30 pm
Saturday 7 th June:	Friends Association Summer Ball
W/B Monday 16 th June:	Book Fair
Monday 16 th June:	New Nursery Parents' Evening – 7.30 pm
23 rd , 24 th , 25 th June:	Croydon Sports Evenings
Thursday 26 th June:	Catholic Sports Day at St James the Great School Friends Association Fashion Show
W/B 30 th June:	Year 6 Residential Visit to UKSA
Tuesday 1 st July:	New Reception Parents' Meetings
Thursday 3 rd July:	Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Monday 7 th July:	School Concert – 2 pm Friends Association Theatre Trip to Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang
Wednesday 9 th July:	School Concert – 7.30 pm
Thursday 10 th July:	St James the Great Sports Field Events pm School Concert – 7.30 pm
Friday 11 th July:	Mrs Mascarenhas's Celebration Mass
Saturday 12 th July:	Friends Association Summer Disco
Monday 14 th July:	St James the Great School Sports Day – all day
Tuesday 15 th July:	Open Evening – Nursery to Year 6
Wednesday 16 th July:	St James the Great School Sports Day (Contingency) Year 6 Leavers' Mass at St Bartholomew's – 7.30 pm
Thursday 17 th July:	Leavers' Assembly – 9.45 am Nursery closes for Summer Break Year 6 Barbecue – 4-6 pm
Friday 18 th July:	Final Assembly (Extended) – 9.45 am School closes for Summer Break – 2.00 pm
Date to be advised:	Year 4 Mass

Monday 21st July: Friends Association Seaside Trip to Hastings – Depart: 8.30 am,
Return: 7.30 pm

Thursday 28th August: Friends Association Seaside Trip to Margate - Depart: 8.30 am,
Return: 7.30 pm

Wednesday 3rd September: Staff In-Service Day

Thursday 4th September: School re-opens for Years 1 – 6

Monday 8th September: School opens for Reception (as advised)

Monday 22nd September: School opens for Nursery (as advised)