

Welcome back to everyone. It has been good to see so many smiling faces on our return to school, not least the children following enjoyable times on holiday both at home and in some more exotic places; parents – possibly as a result of returning their offspring to school and staff, of course, happy to respond to your children's holiday tales knowing that we clearly have another very busy year ahead with never enough time to fit everything in. Nonetheless, the year starts with renewed vigour!

The holiday period was busy as always and my thanks to the premises staff for getting things ship-shape following the completion of the painting works in the junior classrooms and the building work to provide a covered area and outdoor curriculum area for our Reception children. I am pleased that the Friends Association have agreed to provide some funding for equipment for this area and some additional play equipment for other year groups. I will report further on this in due course. I would record a special welcome to our new staff Miss Melissa Balzan, Miss Brigitte Beignet, Miss Elizabeth Pedder and to Mr Johan Allen who returns to us for another year after his time with us last year. They are all very welcome and we hope they will enjoy their time at St James the Great.

OFSTED INSPECTION – LEAD INSPECTOR'S MEETING WITH PARENTS

TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2003 AT 7.30 PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL (followed by light refreshments provided by the Friends Association)

This meeting plays a very important part in the Inspection process. I would urge as many parents as possible to note the date in their diary. Previously 100+ parents have attended and it would be marvellous if we could match this number this time!

PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRES

Parents have been issued with the inspection questionnaire (one per child) with an envelope attached for its confidential return. The lead inspector has requested I forward these to her by the end of the month. Please take the opportunity to support the school and express your views by returning the questionnaire either by post or by placing them in the collection box in the main entrance. The envelopes may be sent back via your child or their teacher who will ensure they are forwarded on. Many thanks also to all those who have already returned these – **a gentle reminder to those who still have to do so!** The number of returns is reported in the inspection report.

GOVERNOR/PARENT AGM

In the light of the Ofsted parents’ meeting it has been decided to move the Governor/Parent AGM to the Spring Term – Wednesday 21st January. This will also facilitate feedback to parents following the inspection in addition to reporting on the past academic year. We are confident this will maximise the benefits of the meeting. In order to lessen the demands on your time the Friends Association have likewise agreed to move their AGM to the same date.

SCHOOL MEALS – PRICE INCREASE

Parents are advised that due to general inflationary pressure it has become necessary to increase the price of school meals by 5p to £1.30 after half term. This remains very good value and remains 10p below the LEA price for which a price rise is pending. Tokens purchased before half term will be honoured at £1.25. Whilst the price rise is regretted I am confident you will continue to view the excellent menu choice, portion servings and high catering standard as very good value at £1.30. The service, however, is dependent on your support and we hope you will continue to give it every support.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free school meal entitlement has changed. Please note children are entitled to free school meals if their parents are in receipt of Income Support, Jobseeker’s Allowance (income based) or Child Tax Credit (i.e. CTC – annual income not exceeding £13,230 and NOT also receiving Working Tax Credit). If in doubt please enquire at the school office.

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.**

PARENT HELPERS

Mrs Lawlor, Class 2.1, is now co-ordinating offers of help in classrooms and the Library. Any parents who are able to offer time on a regular basis are asked to let Mrs Lawlor know.

Please find attached:-

- 1. RE Newsletter.
- 2. Annual calendar of events (these are those known at this time and we will make every effort to avoid changes).
- 3. Up-to-date holiday list

Thank you for the tremendous support given to help one of our families last term. The total raised was £1,502.20 and this will make a tremendous difference to the family. The Grandmother has written to me indicating that she cannot put into words the gratitude she feels for the enormous support she has received. Thank you again.

THANK YOU – SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

Old toner/ink cartridges/mobile phones – this ongoing promotion has just seen the school receive a cheque for £511. Please keep those old toner and ink jet cartridges coming in.

Box Tops – this promotion has now generated nearly £100 for the school. Tokens are still redeemable so if you have any or come across any please send them in – each one is worth 10p.

Free Books for Schools – A good response again and our order has gone off for books. Thank you again.

Tescos Tokens – some 23,800 tokens were received and we have placed an order for a range of software and science equipment.

Ongoing

We are still collecting Persil Stars, Get Active Tokens, Box Tops and toner cartridges.

FRENCH CLUB

I would like to advise parents with children in the French Club or who may wish their children to join this Club that you will be receiving information by separate notification. I do, however, wish to record my thanks to Mrs Jones, who will not be continuing with the Club this year, for her work with the Club over many years.

SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER

All boys should be wearing grey shorts with the exception of Year 6 boys who are permitted to wear long grey trousers. **All children (including Year 6)** should now be wearing the regulation school coats and regulation PE kits. Year 6 pupils are expected to maintain the wearing of regular uniform **throughout their final year**. Parents are reminded that our uniform regulations include a dress code that extends to appropriate haircuts and the wearing of jewellery.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance and punctuality records at St James the Great have always been commended. There are, however, one or two children who are currently regularly late and we would ask you to endeavour to ensure children arrive at school between 9 and 9.15 am ready for a prompt start. Unless attending a pre-school activity children should not be unattended on the site before 9 am. Parents are reminded that infant pupils should remain under the supervision of an adult until their class is called into school.

JUNIOR CHOIR

There is a change this year. Friday choir and Wednesday choir will be merged into one school choir. The main weekly choir practice, for years 3, 4, 5 and 6, will still be on Friday mornings 8.30-9.00 am but will now be held in the Main Hall. From time to time and, where necessary, choir members will also be asked to attend extra rehearsals on a Wednesday morning, also 8.30-9.00 am. All are welcome to come to the first practice of the year on Friday 19th September.

SCHOOL BOOK SHOP

School Book Shop reopens next Thursday, 25th September. Reception parents will receive separate information in regard to access to the Book Shop for Reception pupils. If any parent would like to help on a rota basis please contact Mrs Stock in the office.

THE CARROLL SINGERS ARE COMING TO ST ANDREW'S!

An evening of songs and light music from one of Croydon's best choirs led by Norma Carroll at St Andrew's Church on Wednesday 1st October 2003 at 8 pm. A collection will take place on behalf of Fr Anto's Tabora Water Fund. Refreshments will be available in the church hall after the concert.

THOMAS MORE SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Please note that the times of these open days have changed. They are on Tuesday 23rd September and Wednesday 1st October at 9.00 am to 10.30 am and not 9.00 am to 12.45 pm as previously notified.

ADULT ICT CLUB

The Friday morning class for adults will re-commence on Friday 19th September. It will start at 9.30 am and run until coffee at about 10.20 am. Everyone is welcome. Please fill in the form below if you wish to attend.

Name: My child is in class:

- I wish to return to the Friday class
- I wish to attend the Friday class as a new student.
