

**H**appy New Year and welcome back. The children have settled back quickly and clearly had a very enjoyable break. No doubt in some respects you are pleased to see them back at school although it does seem that many of us felt the break went by very quickly and are asking where the time went to? We look forward to a good solid term which has already got off to a good start with the receipt of our Ofsted Report and confirmation of:-

#### **NAACE MARK**

The school was awarded the NAACE mark following last term's external assessor's visit. We are pleased to be one of the first Croydon schools to receive recognition under this national accreditation for ICT. Mrs Cefai and I were presented with the award at London's BETT exhibition and I would record my appreciation to all the staff for their hard work towards this achievement.

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#### **AGM MEETING REMINDER**

The Governors/Parents and Friends Association AGMs are this evening at 7.30 pm in the school hall. Hopefully all families will be represented. Refreshments will be available at the end of the meeting, which it is anticipated will conclude no later than 9 pm.

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#### **CROYDON SCHOOLS MUSIC SERVICE**

I would like to correct some misinformation that has been given to parents in regard to peripatetic music provision provided at St James the Great by the above organisation. The decision to institute direct billing was entirely theirs and my understanding is that we were the last Croydon School still billing directly. This became impossible to continue once the service decided to insist upon direct billing for supplementary services such as the hire of instruments and their inability to operate what, we felt, was a fair subsidy system. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused parents although colleague Headteachers have advised me their schools have faced similar difficulties. As a result of the new system there has been a significant drop in take up for some instruments, a situation we indicated to the service was likely to occur. We will keep the situation under review and where it seems appropriate we will look into the possibility of directly employing peripatetic staff as we currently do in the case of flute tuition.

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#### **YEAR 3 SOUNDSTART MUSIC PROGRAMME 2002/03**

The current Year 4 children who took part in this programme last year were part of a pilot programme being monitored by the DfES. During the year the children were filmed in lessons as part of this programme. I have now been approached by the DfES who are putting together a CD Rom to be circulated to all schools in the country as part of their wish to extend this excellent programme. It will be assumed that you have no objections should your child appear on this CD unless I hear from you to the contrary by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Clearly this is a great accolade for the school and I hope you will support it accordingly.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM SURVEY

Thank you to all parents who responded to our survey. Whilst both options were supported, a clear majority have expressed a preference for a winter uniform for boys that permits the wearing of long trousers. Our new uniform regulations will, therefore, be amended to state:

‘The winter uniform for boys is long charcoal grey trousers to be worn between the October half term and the Easter holidays. For the remainder of the year short charcoal grey trousers must be worn. Year 6 boys may continue to wear long trousers in the summer term. For those who prefer short trousers may be worn throughout the year.’

## REMINDER

Please make sure that all your child’s clothing is clearly labelled (preferably with a name tape) with your child’s name. We are having significant problems at the moment reuniting children with their coats due to the absence of name labels!

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## REMINDER – SCHOOL RULES

We would make a safety plea again that parents abide by the no parking signs on the zig-zag lines to the main gates and the rule that cars are not driven on to the school site any time up to 5.30 pm. This is for the safety of all children but is clearly being disregarded at present.

Children should not be on the school site prior to 9 am unless they are participating in a pre-school activity. **No** infant child should be left unattended on the site and should be supervised by an adult until called in by their class teacher.

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## CLASS ASSEMBLIES/PRAYER SERVICES

All are welcome to the following class assemblies/prayer services that have been programmed for this half term:-

- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Year 5 at 9.45 am.
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Class 2.2 at 2.45 pm (Prayer Service) in the Oratory.
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Class 2.1 at 2.45 pm (Prayer Service) in the Oratory.
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Year 3 at 9.45 am.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1 at 9.45 am.

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## CURRENT SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

We are currently collecting Kingsmill ‘Free Kits for Clubs’, Persil Stars, Cadburys ‘Free Sports 4 Schools’, Toner Cartridges, Mobile Phones and Box Tops.

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## KEEP FIT CLASS

Get fit in 2004 – Join Lizzie’s exercise to music class every Monday 7.00-8.00 pm in the Hall. Only £3 per class. **Why not give it a try!** Pay on the door.

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## THANK YOU

Mrs Lanzalaco would like to thank everyone for all their help and support after her recent bereavement.

The Fox family would also like to extend their sincere thanks for the support they have received.

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## BOOK SHOP

Book Shop reopens this Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, for the sale of books and stamps.

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**Crystal Palace Discounted Tickets** – please remember the 14 day advance deadline for requesting these tickets. Please request a copy letter about these tickets should you be interested.