



# St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER



No 4



March 2014

**W**ith half of the school year behind us we start to wonder where time went and how we are going to fit in all that is left to do! Whilst we would all like a quieter life at times I think this just reflects what a busy place St James the Great is thanks to the efforts of everyone to provide our children with as wide a range of experiences and opportunities as possible. We had not realised the gap since the last Newsletter so there is plenty to report.

**BINGO NIGHT LAST SATURDAY:** Well done to our Friends Association for organising what I understand was a most enjoyable evening. Ticket sales were initially slow but in the end many of you responded resulting in very strong numbers on the night. Thank you for your support.

**NEW SCHOOL COACH:** Again thanks to your support and the hard work of our Friends Association we have taken delivery of our replacement 57 seater school coach. Initial feedback has been very positive as has the children’s delight at the ‘video’ facilities on board. The signwriting on the vehicle has certainly branded it as ours and we look forward to a good few years of trouble-free travel. I am sure the children will endeavour to look after the vehicle to keep it spic and span. The support of you all in the fundraising drive to make the purchase possible is much appreciated.

**QUIZ CLUB GENERAL KNOWLEDGE COMPETITION:** Well done to Team 1: Gabriella Berkeley-Agyepong, Joe Harries, Keane Puvirajasinghe, Shaun Gomes and Team 2: Shay Balsekar, Debbyca Puvirajasinghe, Craig Lobo and Lorcan Rodrigues who made up our two teams for this competition. They all did exceptionally well in this inter-school event facing some very tough questions and tactical play. In a ‘nail biting’ finish which went up to the final question Team 1 successfully achieved first place and go in to the next round. We wish them every success. Thanks are due to Mrs Lawless for organising and preparing our teams.

**BUILDING WORKS:** These are beginning to take shape with the builders working hard to achieve a handover by the end of the month albeit several weeks late. We look forward to being able to utilise these extra facilities and are sure you will feel the benefit of this development soon. We will be taking an urgent look at the play opportunities for Years 1 and 2 once “normal service” is resumed.

**LENTEN SEASON:**  
We were very grateful to Fr Kurt who came to school on Ash Wednesday for distribution of Ashes. Parents may remember that historically we have had an early morning Mass on Tuesdays in Lent and



The school is an Intermediate International Schools Award holder  
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both Fr Chima and Fr Kurt were willing to celebrate Masses for us. Unfortunately, the delayed building works and resulting restricted space issues mean we have not been able to organise this. It is hoped, however, to reinstate the tradition next year.

#### **MISS SPONG'S SECONDMENT TO REGINA COELI**

Whilst we have been pleased to be in a position to assist another school by 'lending' Miss Spong, our Deputy, to them as Interim Headteacher, she is however missed. She is retaining as much contact with us as she can but cannot be expected to run "two jobs". I am very pleased to be able to advise you that the Governors have supported me and my leadership team by appointing Miss Ellen Jackson and Mrs Donna Shoulder to the temporary posts of Assistant Headteachers on a role share basis to cover Miss Spong's absence. They will continue to hold responsibility for their classes and any disruption will be kept to a minimum. Any change to current arrangements will be notified to the parents of their classes. I would like to congratulate them on their appointments and thank them for taking on these additional responsibilities.

**SCHOOL MEALS:** Thank you for the increased support that has been given to our school meals service. Lunchtimes have certainly been improved by the introduction of new systems, replacement of the airline trays with plates and an extended menu. We are continuing to refine the arrangements and are taking feedback from pupils. We are also looking into the possibility of a second dining area to ensure pupils have more time to eat over the break.

#### **DATES FOR THIS TERM**

Important **ALL JUNIORS** are expected to attend Stations of the Cross at St Andrew's Church, Brook Road, Thornton Heath at 7 pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Other pupils may attend with their parents. Please also bring along family members to this service which helps us all to reflect on the Lenten season.

Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Croydon Schools' Music Festival - Infants
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Croydon Schools' Music Festival - Juniors
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	7.00 pm	Year 6 to lead Stations of the Cross – St Andrew's
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Croydon Schools' Dance Festival
Week 07 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> April		<i>Penitential Week – Years 4, 5 and 6</i>
Week 14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> April		Easter Residential Visit – Years 4 and 5
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April		Nursery closes for Easter Break Reception offer date
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	9.45 am <b>2:00 pm</b>	School-based Easter Liturgy led by Year 3 <b>School closes for Easter Break</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May		School re-opens

**MISSION TOGETHER COLLECTION BOXES:** These have now been issued at the request of the Diocese. Please support this charity that benefits greatly from these school collections. We have taken this on in place of the traditional Cabrini/Catholic Children's Society boxes which has been suspended this year as the organisation undergoes a review of its activities.

**EMILY (5.2) AND WILL (R2)** would just like to say a very big 'Thank you' to everyone who gave a donation to their sister Lily's CAFOD Candlelight Fund at the Christmas Concerts and Carol Service collections. The money donated will enable CAFOD to make a huge difference to the lives of boys and girls less fortunate than ourselves around the world. For more information about Lily's fund please visit [www.cafod.org.uk/candlelight](http://www.cafod.org.uk/candlelight).

**ANTHONY MENEZES** has written to express his thanks for the support many of you gave to his Valentine's Cake Day Sale to support his fundraising campaign in connection with the work he will be undertaking with deprived children and on environmental issues abroad. This raised over £200. He will be undertaking a second cake sale for this project on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March. I know he and his family will welcome any support you can give to enable him to reach his target, details of which were provided in an earlier letter.

**REGINA COELI SCHOOL TEACHING VACANCIES:** Miss Spong has asked us to draw your attention to two teaching posts available at Regina Coeli. They are seeking to appoint a Lower Key Stage Phase Leader with a responsibility for Key Stage 2 Literacy tenable from September. They also wish to appoint a Key Stage 2 Class Teacher full time although a 0.6 appointment would be considered. This would be on a fixed term contact until July 2014. Further details can be obtained via the Regina Coeli school office on 020 8688 4582.

**LIBERA CHOIR:** This renowned boys' choir is seeking new recruits, details of which can be found on the flyer attached to this Newsletter.

**DATA COLLECTION SHEETS:** We have had a good return of the Data Collection sheets. Please can any outstanding sheets be returned as soon as possible.

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS REGARDING YOUNG CARERS:** A young carer is someone under 18 years of age who provides regular and ongoing care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.

**MORNING ARRANGEMENTS:** Thank you to you all for your co-operation at the start of the day keeping the areas outside of the junior classrooms by moving back to the waiting circle. This has greatly reduced congestion and enabled infant parents who have to use that route to exit to do so more easily.

**SCOOTERS/BICYCLES:** There have been a couple of recent incidents of scooter and bicycles being ridden on the school site at the end of the day. This got much better and parents are asked to ensure that in line with school rules children wait until they are off site before using scooters or bicycles. Thank you.

**WELCOME BACK:** We are pleased to welcome back Miss Victoria Berry to the teaching staff on a temporary basis for class cover purposes. We hope she will enjoy her time with us.

**WORLD BOOK DAY LIBRARY DONATION:** Many thanks to those of you who sent in £1 donation towards purchasing books for our new library on world book day. For those of you who forgot it is not too late to send in a donation.

**THE LIGHTHOUSE:** As part of our provision to support children in the areas of emotional and social well-being, we are offering a drop-in facility for children where they can talk about concerns or worries to a trusted adult. Called 'The Lighthouse', this facility is run by Mrs McElhinney, an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant, and is managed by Mrs Wellington. The Lighthouse is currently open on Thursday lunchtimes. Please contact Mrs Wellington if you would like more information.

A young carer may undertake some or all of the following:-

- Practical tasks e.g. housework
- Physical care e.g. helping up the stairs
- Personal care e.g. dressing
- Emotional support e.g. listening
- Household management e.g. managing finances
- Looking after siblings e.g. putting to bed
- Interpretation e.g. for hearing/speech impairment
- Administering medication e.g. preparing daily tablets.

The Young Carers Support Project in Croydon offers children from 7 years old, a wide range of free services including trips and activities, emotional support and counselling, educational support (including a weekly learning support club) and support for parents.

If you feel you have a child who may be a young carer and would like to take advantage of this free service, then please see Mr Beck in confidence.

# Libera

Is looking for

## New Boy Singers



The sound of LIBERA has become familiar to many over recent years following the choir's successful recordings and appearances on stage, TV and radio. The group has had several successful albums in the mainstream and classical charts all over the world, and gives concerts around the country and abroad. Recently Libera has toured in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, the US, Singapore, Taiwan and Ireland. In the UK they have sung concerts and mass in churches including Arundel, Edinburgh, Belfast and Westminster Cathedrals and Buckfast Abbey. The choir won one of the Saturday evening 'When will I be famous' shows on BBC1, appeared as guests on 'Last Choir Standing', and had a whole documentary devoted to them on BBC 'Songs of Praise'. Libera have sung in major concert venues and events across the world including the Kennedy Centre in Washington, the Crystal Cathedral and Disneyland in LA and they sang at the Papal Mass at the Yankee stadium in New York for 65,000 at the climax of Pope Benedict XVI's first visit to the USA.



The choir is currently recruiting new members and would like to hear from any youngsters who might enjoy the challenging and varied activities of this versatile musical group.

Boys normally join between the ages of 7 and 11 and do not necessarily need to have had any previous musical experience. Membership is subject to an audition and there is a no-obligation trial period. Older boys who have sung elsewhere or have a special interest are also considered.

The choir sings services at churches in South London and welcomes boys of all denominations or none. Membership need not conflict with other church obligations. Boys are not only taught to sing and read music, but in their concert and recording work are also given stage and media experience.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHOIR SECRETARY

BARBARA GERAGHTY

Telephone: 01883 334777 or 07788 602019

[www.libera.org.uk](http://www.libera.org.uk)