



St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



No 6



May 2014

Welcome back to everyone following the Easter break and to a very short half term which quickly gets us into the programme for the summer term. We have already taken part in the Catholic Schools Netball and Football tournaments, our Quiz Club team's next round and SATs this week as we get into the full range of activities. The term's calendar is given later in this Newsletter.

We hope you managed to benefit from our somewhat different holiday dates which will not happen to the same extent again for a number of years as Easter falls much earlier.

As usual the break period provided for works to be undertaken in school. This saw new flooring in the Reception corridor and office making a significant improvement. The new Library area and refurbished Nursery and Reception areas have been handed over and the builders are now off site with only a few snagging items remaining. We will gradually move back into these areas between now and the end of half term. Once the pathway to Nursery is opened up, this will provide entry into the Nursery and infant playground for Nursery and Reception classes. To avoid congestion Years 1 and 2 will be asked to continue, as now, going round the building. With a single entrance into school we feel this will be the best approach but will keep this under review. We did experience, as a result of the building works, some water leaks in Reception and Year 1 classrooms due to increased pressure on our old pipework. I would like to record our thanks to the school's cleaning team for their work at the end of the holiday to get us ready for a return to a clean school following the departure of the builders and the workmen upgrading our school alarm system. Finally before moving onto other business I wish to thank the 56 Year 4 and 5 pupils who took part in the residential visit in the week before school broke for Easter. The trip to Gurnard Pines on the Isle of Wight was a great success and they proved an excellent group to be with. We were blessed with good weather that made it all the better. The children received numerous compliments throughout the week for their manners, participation levels and excellent behaviour. They did us proud. Special thanks go to the staff who made this possible which this year included Mrs Lawless, Miss Eaton, Miss O'Connor, Mrs Grabiec, Mrs Marchant and Miss Sweeney. Thanks also to Joe for driving and his support during the week and Ricky Lawless for joining us having given up a week of leave from work. Mrs McGuire, who usually joins us, was unable to do so this year and was greatly missed by the team. She returns to work this term following a period of sick leave so we hope she will be joining next year's party! Details of next year's residential will be issued shortly to provide as much payment time as possible. We are fortunate as a school to be able to run such visits which in a number of schools do not now take place at all. Please consider letting your children access these opportunities as they really get a lot from



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them. We appreciated the Orange Wednesday codes sent in for the party which helps reduce costs. Thanks to everyone who was able to help with this request.

SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Sadly during the break we received the sad news of the loss of baby Jamie Fernandes and we have extended our deepest sympathies to Savio, Lynette and children, Kirsten and Nathan. Likewise to the Lopeman family on the loss of Maria's mother, Mary Durkin. They all remain in our prayers.

MISSION BOXES

Please could these charity collection boxes be returned as soon as possible. We have already had a good response and would like to close this collection by half term. Thank you.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOOTBALL AND NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

Well done to both our Football and Netball teams who did us proud at this event. Commiseration to our girls who dropped only one match which meant they lost at the semi-final stage. However, the independent umpires awarded the girls the Sportsmanship Trophy. They said not only were they great sports throughout the competition but that they also showed real potential. We are hopeful that the umpires may come and work with our girls and that some of them will take this sport further forward. It is also commiseration to the boys who progressed right through the competition to the finals against Regina Coeli. They were robbed by a single penalty in the shoot-out following full time play and extra golden goal time seeing a nil nil score after 25 minutes of play. It made for an excellent competition. Well done to them all and here's to next year!!

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Class photographs are being taken on the last day of this half term, Friday 23rd May. Please ensure your children are in full **SUMMER UNIFORM** by this date. This is summer dresses and socks (**NOT TIGHTS**) for the girls and short trousers for the boys. Pupils were expected to go into summer uniform after the Easter break. Many thanks.

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL

I am sure you will appreciate in a school of our size a significant number of payments are made through the school office for a range of events etc. on a daily basis. Office staff log this as quickly as possible and reconciling such monies is made much easier when payments are sent into school in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, amount of money enclosed and designation of the payment. Office staff endeavour to be as helpful as possible but it can prove quite frustrating when children try to give in loose change without the relevant slip and no envelope. It is quite in order to use recycled envelopes if they are appropriately sealed. Again your co-operation in regard to this matter is appreciated.

PUNCTUALITY

Parents can be proud of the school's record on attendance. However, there has been a marked deterioration in regard to punctuality recently. It is noticeable that a number of children are arriving late to school and making no effort to hurry themselves in. Please stress the importance of being on time and make sure you allow sufficient time to park cars etc. to ensure your child is on the playground by 9.10 am.

SCHOOL START TIME

Parents are reminded that children should not be on the school site before 9 am other than for supervised pre-school clubs. It has been noted that individual pupils and siblings of children going on trips or attending clubs have been left on the site as early as 8.10 am unsupervised. This does present a safety risk and we will have no alternative but to place such children into the care of the breakfast club and levy a charge accordingly.

WOODCOTE NURSERY VOUCHERS:

This has been historically a very productive promotion that has supported our Gardening Club. If you are able to use the Garden Centre you will gain a voucher for every £15 spent. We will be collecting these vouchers up until September.

DATE LIST

Friday 23 rd May		School closes for half term break
HALF TERM		
Monday 02 nd June		<i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i>
Tuesday 03 rd June		School re-opens
Thursday 05 th June		Sports Day – field events
Friday 06 th June		Sports Day – Track Events
Tuesday 17 th June	a.m. 7.30 pm	New Reception Visits New Nursery Parents' Meeting
Friday 13 th June	am	Catholic Schools' Swimming Gala
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th June		Book Fair week
Monday 23 rd June	4.00 pm	Croydon Sports (Boys)
Tuesday 24 th June	4.00 pm	Croydon Sports (Girls)
Wednesday 25 th June	4.00 pm	Croydon Sports (Finals Boys and Girls)
Wednesday 25 th June	7.30 pm	New Reception Visits (am and pm) Reception Parents' Meeting
Thursday 26 th June	9.30 am	Croydon Catholic Schools' Sports Day at St James the Great
Thursday 03 rd July		Croydon Catholic Schools' Infant Sports at St Thomas Becket
Thursday 03 rd July		Open Evening – Nursery and Years 1 to 5
Tuesday 08 th July		Open Evening – Nursery and Years 1 to 5
Friday 11 th July	10:00	Concert performance for the school
Monday 14 th July	2 pm	School Concert Open Evening – Reception only
Tuesday 15 th July	7.30 pm	School Concert
Wednesday 16 th July	7.30 pm	School Concert (Guest Night)
Thursday 17 th July		Open Evening – Reception and Year 6
Monday 21 st July	7.30 pm	Leavers' Mass – St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 22 nd July	10 am 1.45 pm 4:00 pm	Leavers' Assembly and Year 6 Science Fair Children to new classes – including new children until 2:30 pm Nursery closes for Summer Break Leavers' Barbecue
Wednesday 23 rd July	10 am 2 pm	Final Assembly <i>School closes for Summer Break</i>
2014 Autumn Term		
Monday 01 st September		<i>In-Service Training Day – School Closed</i>
Tuesday 02 nd September		School re-opens