



# St. James The Great



ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER



National Standard for Enterprise Education

No 5



April 2014



*We extend every blessing to you all for Easter*

**T**his Newsletter is being compiled as we prepare to wish our Year 4 and 5 residential group of 57 children and 8 staff joined by Ricky Lawless an enjoyable week away on the Isle of Wight. The weather looks promising and we will look forward to their “tales” on their return.

The other focus currently is our building works which are very near to sign off. It is always difficult to visualise the final outcome from plans but the Nursery and Reception areas are looking very spacious and of a high standard of design and finish. The Library area space also looks fabulous and it will be good once we can get the areas into use, hopefully over the first half of the summer term.

**LOUD AND PROUD:** Well done to Celine McCready and Molly Murphy, our two representatives at this year’s National Women’s Day Public Speaking competition. Both girls did us proud, Celine getting us into the top three for the third year running against stiff competition this year from 17 other schools. Thank you girls.

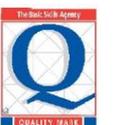
Thanks are due to Fr Chima, Fr Kurt and Fr Mahan from St Andrew’s and Fr Deo from St Bartholomew’s for giving their time to come into school to offer pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Well done also to the large number of pupils who availed themselves of the opportunity given to them.

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The cycle of Nursery and Reception admissions for this year are nearly completed and the school remains heavily over-subscribed. Please remind any parents you know wishing to register their children for places to do so as early as possible and remind them of the importance of a priest’s reference when admission time arrives.



The school is an Intermediate International Schools Award holder  
WINDSOR ROAD · THORNTON HEATH · SURREY CR7 8HJ  
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The Government Standard

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**LUNCHTIME PLAY AREAS:** We are in the process of organising lunchtime play areas and are looking to receive donations of the following items:-

1. Basic board games (complete) e.g. snakes and ladders, ludo, draughts.
2. Jigsaw puzzles (intact).
3. Sand play toys (plastic only).
4. Comics.
5. Storage boxes.

We are also planning to organise a day of preparation which will include some sorting and gardening. We will be looking for adults willing to give an hour or part of a day to help us and will be in touch nearer the time.

**EASTER LITURGY:** Year 3 will be leading our annual Easter Liturgy service on the morning of the last day of term, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April, at 9.45 am and all are welcome.

**SECONDARY TRANSFER:** This year has gone extremely well with a large number of very pleased families who have gained their first preference of school, no mean feat with 14 different secondary schools involved. None of our pupils were without an offer of a school place and I understand there are only a very small number of people planning to appeal their offer. Well done to all concerned.

**PARKING ISSUES:** Following recent reports from a number of local residents regarding obstructions to their driveways this issue was discussed at Governors. I have been asked to once again request parents to be considerate when parking cars locally to avoid obstructing local residents' driveways. It is often better to park on Parchmore Road and walk the remaining short distance to school.

There is also an issue in regard to parking alongside the bollards on the corner of Apostle Way where there are also yellow lines. I have been advised by the Highways Department that a programme of enforcement is planned for the area around school.

**SUPERVISION:** Parents are respectfully requested to ensure pupils are supervised after being dismissed from class at the end of the day. There have been some recent instances of children putting themselves at risk due to non-supervision. Parents who are remaining on site are asked to do so on the small field side of the building. Thank you for your co-operation in regard to this issue.

**NURSERY TIMES:** Whilst we strongly encourage punctuality, some of the afternoon Nursery pupils are arriving on site for the 12.45 pm start very early, prior to 12.30 pm, which is during the main school's lunch break. Please endeavour to arrive no more than 10 minutes before the start of the session. Thank you.

**ICE CREAMS:** Our Friends Association are planning again during the summer term to sell Ice Creams. This facility has generally been welcomed as prices are significantly cheaper than the Ice Cream van and in addition are an excellent fundraiser for the Association. Offering this service does, however, require parents to volunteer to undertake the sales between 3.30 and 4.15 pm. Traditionally a rota is put together and the more volunteers we have lessens the frequency of occasions for the volunteers. If you are willing to offer help please complete the slip at the end of the Newsletter and return it to school as soon as possible indicating the day of the week and number of times per month you are able to undertake these sales. We will pair volunteers so no-one is asked to do this on their own.

#### **VOUCHER COLLECTIONS**

**Sainsburys Vouchers:** We have always done well from this scheme and would ask you to send in any tokens you may have as soon as possible to enable us to redeem them by the closing date.

**Boxtops:** We continue to collect Nestle Bixtops tokens which are worth 10p each to the school.

**GYM CLUB:** Gill, our Gym Coach, has confirmed that it is proposed to re-open the Gym Club in the early part of the summer term and further details will be issued after Easter.

**CAN YOU HELP?** A family living off Green Lane are looking for someone to bring their reception aged child to and from school on a daily basis. Competitive rates will be paid. Please forward your details (name and contact telephone number) to the school office if you are interested.

**CIRCUIT TRAINING:** We would remind parents that a Circuit Training class runs every Monday in the School Hall from 7 – 8 pm at £5 a session run by Mr Thornton. He would welcome more participants and the class is open to parents, relatives and friends. Just come along if you would like to give it a try.

**EASTER BREAK:** Parents are reminded that school closes at 2 pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and you are requested to ensure your child is collected promptly.

Nursery closes on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at the normal end of session pm.

School re-opens for all classes on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**PARENTAL USE OF IPADS:** Parents have approached me following recent events in school where they feel their enjoyment has been marred by other parents obstructing their view by using I pads to take photographs of the events. I can understand their view but am reluctant to ban their use. I would request parents to be thoughtful in regard to this matter and if taking photographs to do so from the back row to avoid obstructing other parents' view. Wherever possible, as appropriate, we will provide opportunities for parents to come forward at the end of events to take closer shots. I do hope it will not become necessary to place a ban as this impacts on those who wish a photographic record of events.

**LAWRENCE HYDE BOYS HOME CAKE SALE:** Many thanks to our Eco Council and the parents led by Mrs Lara for yesterday's very successful cake sale which raised just over £200 for this charity. Well done to everyone and thank you to all who were able to support the sale by providing cakes or making purchases. This sum of money will make a real difference for the boys.

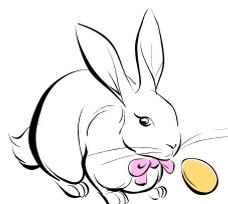
**THANK YOU:** The generosity of our school community is very humbling. To date we have raised £1,660 towards the Natalie Frempong funeral expenses appeal against cost of just over £2,500. Thank you does not really say enough but I know this has already taken a considerable weight off the family. We will make a final payment to them and close the appeal at the end of the first week back after Easter.

**MISSION TOGETHER COLLECTION BOXES:** Thank you for not sending these in yet as previously advised we would be grateful if you would send them in during the first week of the summer term.

Orange Wednesday Phone codes: As advised by text if you are an Orange or 4G EE phone user and can let us have an Orange Wednesday code for next Wednesday this would be appreciated by the Year 4 and 5 residential group.

**MENU:** A list of next term's menu dates are attached.

**FINALLY:** We take this opportunity to wish all families a Happy Easter and to those availing themselves of the cheaper holiday opportunities, as a result of our holiday dates, a happy holiday



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**ICE CREAM SALES**

Child's Name: ..... Class: .....

I am happy to help on ..... and am able of help ..... times a month.

Signed: ..... (Parent/Guardian)