



St James the Great Newsletter

@STJGreat

5th January
2018

January

19th Girls U11
Surrey cup qtr
final 1.30 kick off

Boys U10 Surrey
cup qtr final 2.30
kick off

26th Boys U11
Surrey cup qtr
final 2.00 kick off

February

6th Safer Internet
Day

8th Chinese
Roadshow

9th School Closed –
INSED

12-16 Half term

19-23 Penitential
week

March

9th Mothers Day
Tea

29th Break up at 2
pm

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Christmas came and flew by in the blink of an eye, but I hope you were all able to enjoy time with your families and friends. Thank you all for your kind words, cards and gifts to the staff and myself, they are always very much appreciated.

This week's assembly focused on gifts as we reflected on The Epiphany and what it means to us as a Catholic school. I will be encouraging the children to explore their many gifts and encourage them to make the most of their God given talents this term.

Our INSET was based on our whole school area for development, which is writing. All of the staff were in attendance and we will see further development of our use of Alan Peat sentences. Ask your children over the coming weeks which type of sentences they have been learning about...

Our Nursery has successfully started running full day sessions for 14 children. They have settled in beautifully and are having a great time. We took this decision in response to a need expressed by parents in conjunction with the government introducing the 30-hour free childcare offer. This policy has had a significant impact as less people want to use school nurseries, so schools have seen a big reduction in numbers, which has had a huge impact upon funding, with many nurseries no longer being financially viable. St Joseph's now only run a morning nursery. St Andrew's have recently announced that they will be closing their nursery in July. Rather than go down these routes, we are hoping that by being able to offer full time places, this will enable us to keep this valuable resource available to our community.

Some of you will have noticed that Mrs Marchant has been absent from the office for a significant period of time prior to Christmas. Sadly, her father died after a short illness. She requested that our choir perform at his funeral today. We took 24 children and they were an absolute credit to the school and to their parents. Incredibly mature and responsible, they sang beautifully, which we hope provided the family with some comfort.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Spinks who has been our Finance Officer at the school for 21 years. She leaves us next Friday for a role as an admin officer at Bishop Thomas Grant School. Our loss will certainly be their gain. She is one of those people who work incredibly hard behind the scenes to make sure things happen; we are certainly going to miss her. I know that you will join me in thanking her for all the dedication, love and service that she has given over the last 21 years and in wishing her well in her next role.

Several people have asked regarding holiday dates for next year – I will endeavour to have them published by next Friday. I am waiting on some dates from secondary schools that our siblings go to, as I am keen to make it as easy as possible for families to match holidays!

