



DISCERE CUM DEI AMORE

# St James the Great Newsletter

## @STJGreat

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

Issue 18

### February

4<sup>th</sup> Bingo Evening

7<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> School closes for Half Term

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
*Catholic Schools In-Service Training Day*  
- School Closed

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> School re-opens

23<sup>rd</sup> Curriculum Evening for parents  
Rec - Y2

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Pancake Races

28<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening

### March

Weds 1<sup>st</sup> Ash Wednesday

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> World Book Day

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Penitential Week

6<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening

16<sup>th</sup> Finance and Resources Governor Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> Science Week

24<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

28<sup>th</sup> Full Governors Meeting

Firstly, thank you for your cooperation regarding the unfortunate situation with our electrics and heating – this came about through an issue with our suppliers EDF having an external problem, which triggered further internal issues. We have been working on a plan to upgrade our capacity (we need to double our current wattage in order to future proof the school as it develops over time) and are awaiting quotes and timings to do this; the works will obviously need to be completed during school holidays. In the meantime, we are continuing to manage all our appliances on a very cautious basis in order to avoid more power cuts. I apologise if information was coming through too slowly for parents to make decisions, but I was away, so we were having four-way phone calls trying to develop strategies that would enable the school to remain open if at all possible and were reliant on advice from our suppliers and taking the time to stress test the system.

Well done to all of the sports teams in action over the last couple of weeks, we are developing nicely. The boys swim team won the Croydon gala, and the girls came third overall, which is the highest placing ever for St James the Great. Thank you for your hard work in training and well done, we're very proud of you. The football team won 7-1 (still no clean sheet boys!) The netball team beat Rockmount in both of their games - 1-0 and 5-1. In the Croydon High 5 netball festival we came third, missing out on top place by 1 point, which would have seen us representing Croydon at the London Youth Games. I know that the team were disappointed, but this is a really good effort and sometimes small margins are the difference. Well done to all of you.

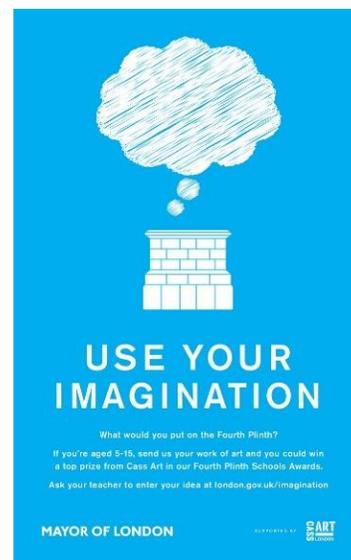
Letters have gone out regarding the exciting fourth plinth art competition – please ensure your child's entry is submitted to your child's class teacher by 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Bingo – the Friend's Association will be running a bingo evening on the 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm – please support this if you can.

Lost property – please can we ask that the name labels on the children's uniform are checked and if your child has accidentally brought home something belonging to another child, please can this be returned to school asap.

Year 4 visited the National Portrait Gallery this week to see the Picasso Exhibition. They had a fabulous time and I am looking forward to seeing the resultant work!

Next week is the final one before half term – it is amazing how quickly the time is going. A reminder that the school is closed on Friday for teacher training as part of our Catholic School Umbrella Trust, which will be hosted here. The Trust is beginning to bear fruit, teachers from each school have been meeting in their year groups after school to develop assessment and put together portfolios of evidence as to what writing might look like at



## April

13<sup>th</sup> Easter Liturgy  
9.45

Stations of the Cross  
TBC

Break up for Holidays

## May

2<sup>nd</sup> Return to school

8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> KS2 SATs

## June\*

\*Please note that these dates are provisional, but I hope to have them confirmed within the next two weeks.

7<sup>th</sup> New Reception  
Parents visits

8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Sports Day

11<sup>th</sup> Car Boot Sale

12<sup>th</sup> Book Week

19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Croydon  
Schools Sports Days

28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> CCS  
Sports

## July

2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Fair

7<sup>th</sup> Reports to  
Parents

11<sup>th</sup> Y6 Concert

the end of year for each year. We have statements given to us as guidance by the government, but no exemplars for most year groups, so we have taken steps to be proactive in this.

I am looking at redeveloping the homework diaries for next year, so if anyone has a good example from elsewhere, please feel free to draw it to my attention.

I am aware that we have a number of families that have children who are adopted. You may be interested to know that the school can claim extra funding for these pupils, information can be found [here](#). We spend the pupil premium money in a variety of ways, from 1:1 work, support, uniform, subsidising trips, music lessons, drumming and paying for administration of allocating support.

Gentle reminder: we operate a school fund for monthly donations from parents which we can claim back tax through Gift Aid. We would greatly appreciate parents continuing with this or indeed starting this up, please ask at the office for more information. I was at a conference yesterday with Headteachers from around the country trying to resolve key issues in education, one of which was funding. Governments will always say that funding is protected. Simply put, it isn't in real terms a fact supported by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. If the lack of funding continues at this rate, by 2018 we will have the lowest proportional funding since the 1960s. The School Fund is just one way that we can help to continue to develop as a school in a time when funding is difficult. Many thanks for your continued support.



## Team Points

	Overall	Week
St George	1506	372
St Patrick	1786	592
St David	1485	372
St Andrew	1380	321

