



St James the Great Newsletter

@STJGreat

**2nd March
2018**

March

1st World Book Day to be rearranged

9th Mothers' Day Tea

29th Break up at 2 pm

April

16th School reopens

May

12th Catholic Schools' Football and Netball Tournament

June

6th Infant field events

7th Junior events

8th Track Sports Day

15th Fathers' Day Breakfast

26th Catholic schools Sports day

28th/29th Year 5 French Trip

I'm sure that we will all be glad to see the back of the wind and snow...although looking out of my window, it looks like we're likely to have quite a lot more before the "Beast from the East" is finished with us! I very reluctantly took the step of closing the school on Thursday and Friday. This decision was not reached easily, but a range of factors were considered: many staff now live a considerable distance from school so were not always able to come in, or if they did, would struggle to get home if forecasts were accurate; The staff often go well above and beyond what is expected of them and I know that had I asked them to try to come in, all would have done their best, but in this case I need to consider their safety and well being, alongside the children's safety as conditions became more icy; other factors such as whether food deliveries could be made, so that we could offer lunches. Thursday's forecasts made the decision simpler, but Friday was harder until I saw the state of the roads around the school and how difficult it would have been to make the site safe for children and families dropping them off or picking up, combined with snow forecast for 9am and from 12pm. I decided to risk making the decision early in order to enable parents to arrange childcare. I hope the children enjoyed their time in the snow and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, all being well.

Despite the weather closing in, plenty of learning was happening in school Monday to Wednesday! I saw some wonderful writing from Year 6 children: that bodes well for the future of writing in the school. I covered Mrs Parry in Year 5 for the three days and enjoyed watching the children slowly develop their writing based on The Princess Blankets. I'm hoping that they can finish this unit and show their talents to a wider audience.

Unfortunately World Book Day had to be postponed and we will get a letter out on Monday to let you know the new date. The Year 6 public speaking competition Loud and Proud was also cancelled, but we hope that this will also be rescheduled.

Thank you to all who voted in the Parent Governor elections and thanks also go to all three candidates who stood for the post. It is an important role and I know that any one of you would have made a valuable contribution. The successful candidate was Bernadette Menezes and I look forward to welcoming her on to the Governing Body.

Thank you to everyone who made their parent evening appointments. Y5 meetings are rescheduled for Monday - if you have not been able to meet the class teacher yet, please contact them to make an appointment.

Congratulations to our Football and Netball teams - it has been confirmed that both are going to be representing Croydon at the London Youth Games, which is an indication of the high sporting standards we are striving for at St James the Great.

Next week we have a Mother's Day gift shop open on Thursday and Friday mornings. This will be followed by the Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at 2.30pm.

Mrs Wellington has drawn my attention to a link to a parents' resource page for ideas and book suggestions for teaching character.

<http://jubileecentre.ac.uk/1764/character-education/parent-resources>

This links well with our Catholic ethos and our focus on excellence.

Autumn Term 2018

First Day for staff: Monday 3rd September 2018

First day for pupils: Wednesday 5th September 2018

Half Term: Monday 22nd October - Friday 26th October 2018 (inclusive)

Last Day: Friday 21st December 2018

INSET Day 1: Monday 3rd September 2018,

INSET Day 2: Tuesday 4th September 2018.

Spring Term 2019

First day for staff and students: Monday 7th January 2019

Half Term: Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February 2019 (inclusive)

Last Day: Friday 5th April 2019

INSET Day 3: Friday 15th February 2019

Good Friday: Friday 19th April 2019

Easter Monday: Monday 22nd April 2019

Summer Term 2019

First day for staff and students: Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2019 (inclusive)

Last Day for Students: Friday 19th July 2019

Last Day for Staff: Tuesday 23rd July 2019

INSET Day 4: Monday 22nd July 2019

INSET Day 5: Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2019