



DISCERE CUM DEI AMORE

St James the Great Newsletter @STJGreat

22nd September
2017

September

21st World Peace
Day

25th Friends
Association
Meeting 7pm

October

1st Car Boot Sale

18th Harvest
Lunch

19th Harvest
Assembly
(parents
required)

9th to 13th Y6
Residential Trip

13th Harvest
Assembly

20th Insed
30th Faith Week

November

3rd Firework Display
7/8th Parent Evenings
12th Anti Bullying Week

Ethos for Excellence

Faith

Love

Respect

Self Belief

Determination and Resilience

Today, we held a special assembly. The children learnt about the idea behind UN backed organisation <http://www.peaceday.org/>

Our diocesan advisor was greatly impressed by the ethos of the school and direction in which we are moving. The teaching and learning that we saw, without exception was excellent. My favourite comment was a child who responded to the question whether Hitler would be in Heaven: "God can untie the tightest of knots."

Thank you to the parents who have attended the various meetings this week regarding the curriculum, routines etc.

Funding update - I had a shortfall of £60,000 in the budget this year, but have worked hard to balance the books, hopefully with as little disruption to the school as possible. This has come about by real terms increases in wages, pensions, cost of resources, services etc. The DFE has announced a boost to funding of £1.3 billion – but this is not new funding. I was at a Westminster Briefing this week and the DFE Director could not tell us where the money came from, but shrugged. This is not acceptable. It comes from Education funding. It is not new funding! We have to pay for many more services, particularly those in local services or NHS elements, because their funding has been cut. We are currently funded at a rate of £1.7 million for the year... a school less than 10 minutes down the road gets £2.3 million because they are inner London. The money is being spread thinner, with cash being taken from these schools to fund increases for schools like us – this is a very slow process... capped at 3% at best – it means £200 per pupil per year for us - realistically we can expect under 1% after Croydon Council redistributes some money... not even the cost of a teacher. I do not want money taken from other schools to supplement us. Funding should be adequate wherever the school is. Please, please challenge your local politicians on this, call them, write to them, make them voice your concerns.

School Fund: If you are not currently contributing to our school fund scheme, please consider doing so if at all possible as any amount you are able to contribute greatly helps the school. The suggested amount at the moment is £50 per family but any amount that you are able to afford would be greatly appreciated. This can be paid yearly, quarterly or monthly and if you require a Standing Order form please contact Mrs Marchant in the school office.

We have some brilliant volunteers, who spend their Saturdays coaching football to children from the school - I greatly appreciate their efforts, but they need help and they need members – come along because they really know what they are about and there are real

opportunities to develop. The different age groups have been entered into county competitions. More information will be forthcoming. But the key thing is to get as many children down to the training sessions as possible and to have some more volunteers... There is also an opportunity for us to enter an U11 Girls team for the first time ever – if you are in Year 5 or 6 and want to try this out, please come along to the training session tomorrow – don't worry about boots if you don't have them, we can work around this.

The school day has changed...we start at 9am. Anyone arriving after 9am is late - please get your children into school in time.

The Hall is developing nicely, albeit slower than we would like...we have a partial completion date for next Friday, with groundworks and clean up continuing for the next two weeks. We are hoping to have a grand opening on the 12th, but this date is provisional.

I am very aware of the abandoned car outside the school and have contacted Croydon Council asking for its removal.

Over the summer I worked on an Emergency Action Plan and a Lock Down policy – this has got initial approval from Governors and will be ratified at this terms meetings, so I am able implement this with immediate effect. The Emergency Action Plan will be posted on the website following this, but advice has been received that the Lock Down Policy should remain private to school staff and regular visitors. Next week, we will have a practice run through with the children so that we can identify any potential flaws that only ever come to light after an event. We will also work with the children so that they understand the likelihood of this being needed to be used is negligible.



Well done for all of your hard work this week!