



St James the Great Newsletter

@STJGreat

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Issue: 32

Summer is here! We are saying goodbye to some valued members of staff and welcoming three new ones. We wish Mrs Stock and Mrs Lawless all the very best in their retirement and thank them for their hard work and dedication over the years, we will miss them greatly. We also say goodbye to Mr Hughes who after 7 years of working at the school he came to as a boy, leaves us for Dulwich Prep. Miss Ryzop is heading to the West London Free School where she will experience a very different type of school. I know that you will join with me in thanking them for their passionate approach to teaching and instilling in the children a desire for excellence. We wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Congratulations to Miss Callahan and Miss Bushell who have successfully completed their NQT year.

We have 57 children leaving to go onto their next stage of school. They have been a lovely Year 6 and are a talented bunch. The readings at their Leavers' Mass were particularly appropriate and talked about love, using their gifts and fulfilling their potential. I know that they will be hugely successful in the future and should never let anyone tell them that their dreams are impossible.

Many thanks are due to Mrs Fowler and her helpers who have made the flower beds and hanging baskets which make the school a much more attractive place to be.

The Year 5 girls won the Emma Wallace Netball Competition at BTG and as I knew Emma well, this means a great deal to me.

I am aware that some parents are anxious about the amount of homework that some year groups have for the summer. Please attempt what you can, some of it is preparation for the new topics, some less essential, please use your judgement on what is achievable for your child. What I would say is that it is key that children read regularly over the summer.

So, the last day is here. I have completed a second year at St James the Great and feel blessed to have such a supportive school community. We have a strong base to start from and with your continued support we can build an even better school for the children. The Friends as ever have been amazing raising over money and putting on some brilliant community events, this enables us to do so much more at a time when budgets are shrinking.

It is a challenging time to be a head teacher; but I love it nevertheless and your support has been crucial in this. I have had to set 3 year budgets despite the DFE not telling me what pay awards will happen and whether central government will fund it or not – I expect the bad news to be buried next week once everyone is on holiday. It was also announced that the much awaited National Fair Funding Formula has been delayed another year. This means we will continue to be funded almost ½ million pounds less than a school 5 minutes down the road simply because of location. In light of this a rally and petition will be handed to Downing Street by 1000 head teachers in September – I will be there, being a voice and advocate for your children and will continue to be so for as long as I have to in order to make a difference for them.

It has been a busy year and we have had some very successful moments. Academically, we have made good progress in the end of Key Stage areas and in EYFS. Well done to all of the children and staff for their hard work!

EYFS: 78% made a Good Level of Development which is higher than Nationally.

Phonics 87% Nationally 76%

KS1	All	
	Working at level or higher	Working at Greater Depth
Reading	68%	33.3%
Writing	70%	15%
Mathematics	70%	18%

KS 2	All	
	Expected level or higher	GDS/high score
Reading	95%	52.6%
Writing	90%	17%
GPS	91%	57.8
Mathematics	88%	35%
RWM combined	81%	17%

Our KS2 scores are the highest recorded by the school, which we are very pleased with. We will not know how they compare to national figures until September, but historically they average out at mid 70%

The sports teams have performed really well, last year I predicted this in my end of year letter! *“coming second in a host of tournaments (it will be first place next year!)”*.

Football	Netball
Football league semi-finalists. Croydon Cup winners London Youth Games gold medallists Croydon 5 a side winners Crystal Palace Foundation Winners	Croydon League Winners Croydon Youth Sports winners London Youth Games quarter finalists Emma Wallace Trophy Winners

Athletics – Catholic Cross Country Winners, some individual winners at Croydon event.

Hockey – Joint first in Croydon School Sports

Gymnastics – 3rd place

Basketball 2nd place

Kwik Cricket semi finalists

Swimming Gala – 3rd place

We have more music than ever being learnt in the school with the addition of Djembe drumming, saxophone, flutes, recorders and the steel pans.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking you on behalf of the staff, for your kind words of appreciation and generosity, (whilst not looked for) is of huge value to all of us working at the school.

The staff have worked incredibly hard this year and look forward to next year with a sense of purpose after a well earned rest!

I wish all of you a happy and restful summer with God’s blessings on all of your families