

NEWSLETTER

13 June 2008

Dear Parents

We braved a rather chilly and blustery June day last Saturday for the Friends' Summer Fête, which was a success despite the cool weather – at least it did not rain! There was an amazing array of stalls and attractions and I was delighted to see so many of our pupils, parents and grandparents enjoying the 'Wild West' theme. Once again, I would like to thank the Friends and everyone who helped out or attended the event. I am sure the occasion will also have been a financial success.

Incidentally, a sum of money was found at last Saturday's Fête. If you mislaid some cash, you will be able to claim it back by giving details to the office within the next fortnight or so – otherwise we will donate it to the theatre appeal fund!

I have recently heard from the Independent Schools Inspectorate, who plan to carry out a routine inspection of Saint Nicholas School in November this year; some of you may recall the last one in November 2002. We will be visited by the Reporting Inspector, Mrs Margaret Banks, and her team of six additional inspectors who will be scrutinising every aspect of the school throughout the 4-16 age range. We look forward to this challenge and hope that the resulting report will enable us to improve the school still further. In connection with this, a questionnaire is being sent to all parents along with this newsletter and I should be most grateful for your support in completing this – it should only take a few moments. We will also be asking pupils to complete a questionnaire for the inspectors at a later stage. The inspection should not interfere in any way with the smooth operation of the school – please let me know if you have any concerns.

Well done and congratulations to the new Form Captains for the half term, as follows:

<i>Class 3F</i>	<i>Emillie Mitchell</i>	<i>Class 6A</i>	<i>Sophia Patten</i>
<i>Class 3M</i>	<i>Amber Lench</i>	<i>Class 6BA</i>	<i>Kessia Landsman</i>
<i>Class 4H</i>	<i>Gianluca Guglielmucci</i>	<i>Class 7G</i>	<i>Fred Hall</i>
<i>Class 4W</i>	<i>Robbie Hill</i>	<i>Class 7P</i>	<i>Megan Morris</i>
<i>Class 5R</i>	<i>Megan Green</i>		
<i>Class 5T</i>	<i>Rhys Harvey</i>		

Mrs Mitchell's Ballet pupils will be presenting their annual Dancing Display on Thursday 26 June, starting at 7:00 pm. All of the children have been preparing enthusiastically towards this event. Seating, however, is limited and families will be offered a number of tickets which will be available soon.

We are looking forward once again to our Speech Day and Prizegiving Ceremony on Saturday 28 June. May I remind all parents to park on the sports field and to note the following times:

- 9:15 am Pupils arrive and register in their form rooms
- 9:45 am Parents are invited to take their seats in the Sports Hall
- 10:00 am The ceremony begins

All pupils must wear full school uniform, with their blazers, clean shoes and tidy hair. Junior and infant pupils should bring their jumpers. Please note that refreshments will be served in the Hillingdon Hall entrance area at 11:45 am for Year 11 pupils and their parents. I hope you enjoy the day!

Tickets are now on sale for our end-of-term musical extravaganza, 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', on Wednesday 2 July and Thursday 3 July. I hear the band are very good! Parents wishing to purchase tickets (£8/£5) should call in to the main office. We do hope you will be able to come!

From Mr Rodbard:

I am writing to let you know about a new activity next year. Many of the pupils are aware of my interest in photography and they have asked me if it would be possible to run a photography club for seniors, so I am proposing that we start in September a Saint Nicholas Photographic Society. The club will run on an ad-hoc basis over a number of after-school and lunchtime sessions and there will be three main areas of activity:

- taking pictures
- manipulating pictures
- looking at the work of other photographers.

I am hoping that some of the pupils involved will be able to take the GCSE Art & Design (Photography) Short Course - indeed in the first year I hope to take it myself alongside the pupils, so we will all be working together!

Of course pupils will need equipment – ideally a Digital SLR (borrowed perhaps) or a compact digital of at least 8MP, but not a camera phone. They will also need access to software editing facilities at home - Photoshop, Photoshop Elements or Paint Shop Pro - especially if they wish to take the GCSE.

Further details will be available after the summer when I have had chance to look at the GCSE courses and decide which might be best for us to start next year. I am available if parents or pupils wish to speak to me about this exciting new development.

From Dr Caddy: Well done to everyone who took part in the 2008 'Junior' (Years 7 & 8) Maths Challenge recently. We were delighted to be awarded ten certificates and congratulate the following pupils on their achievement:

Gold Certificate: Jessica Jackson, Louis Piggott

Silver Certificate: Thomas Baines

Bronze Certificate: Frazer Barnes, William Bailey, Billy Boxall, James Hedges,
Sophie Robinson, Chloe Lewis, Dylan Wheatley

Special congratulations go to Jessica Jackson, who has qualified for the Junior Maths Olympiad.

From Mrs Fitch: Wednesday afternoon's Infants Sports Day was a great success! We were blessed with good weather and good children. Well done to all the infant pupils who put so much effort into their races and thank you to all the staff and parents who helped to make it run smoothly. Thank you also to the 8 Year 5 helpers who were brilliant. The parents' races were fiercely contested! Well done to all who took part.

From Sian Raynor and Megan Morris (Year 7): We would like to thank all seniors who participated in 'Accent Day' recently. We would now like to send the funds we raised off to Cancer Research, so please collect all your sponsorship money and hand it in to the office as soon as possible. Thanks!

The final newsletter of the year will be published on Friday 27 June.

Yours sincerely

Robert Cusworth
Headmaster