

FROM THE HEADMASTER TO ALL PARENTS

FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

The start of Lent Term has been a busy one for the whole school. Form 3 pupils visited the States Chambers, as part of the Education Department's Citizenship Programme. We welcomed The Very Reverend Robert Key, Dean of Jersey, and Reverend Liz Hunter, Rector of St Helier Methodist Centre, to speak at our Senior School Assemblies. The Pre-Prep B children presented their Assemblies to the delight of their parents. The Junior and Pre-Prep Departments had a most enjoyable visit to St James' Centre, where they saw 'The Selfish Giant' presented by the Manhattan Childrens Theatre.

The Music Department welcomed Gina Saunders to school, as part of a workshop for the Chamber Choir. There was also an Informal Concert where children entertained their parents with various musical delights.

The Sports Department have been kept busy with a wide variety of matches including hosting Elizabeth College, Guernsey. Term finished with the Inter-House Cross-Country, which is always an exciting event and one of the coveted accolades in the sporting calendar.

School Day: I have noted that some children are being brought to school very early each morning. May I remind you that children should **not arrive at school before 8.30 am unless requested to do so**. Staff are not contracted to be in their classrooms until 8.30 am and therefore children would not be supervised before this time.

Parking on school grounds: I would like to remind parents to take great care entering and exiting the school grounds and particularly when parking your vehicle. For safety reasons cars parked within the main school should be reversed into marked bays. **Drivers should take great care when doing so, as there has recently been a very close 'near miss'**.

Start of Trinity Term and the Royal Wedding: As I am sure you are aware there will be an extra Bank Holiday on Friday 29th April 2011 for the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. **School will commence as normal on Thursday 28th April**, but will be closed on Friday 29th April.

Children and appropriate Video and Internet Games, Television and DVDs: I am becoming increasingly concerned that some children may be watching inappropriate age related computer / internet games, and / or DVDs / TV. Exposure to this type of material affects children's behaviour and play in the playground, and gives children a warped perception of normal acceptable behaviour. I would very much urge parents to closely monitor what games, movies or general TV children are exposed to and would refer you to the CEOPS and other E-Safety information on the school website.

ESC Parenting Information Courses: The Education Department have a number of parenting information courses currently available. For more information please follow the links via the 'Parent Information' page on the school website: www.stmichaelschool.je

Charity Donations: Dr Hima recently attended a Senior Assembly at school to accept a cheque for £800, (raised at the Festival of Lessons and Carols in December), on behalf of the Nesakarangal Childrens' Home, Southern India. Dr Hima was very grateful for your kind generosity.

School examinations for Form 6 will begin on the morning of **Monday 7th March** and finish on Wednesday 9th March. Form 6 will be given an examination timetable directly after half term.

Testing for Forms 1 and 2, and Pre-Prep C will take place during the two weeks preceding Parents' Evenings in March, that is the **weeks of Monday 7th and Monday 14th March**. Please avoid making medical or other appointments for your children during this period.

St Michael's Festival of Sport: This year's Festival of Sport will take place over four days commencing **Wednesday 9th March**. Approximately 500 children from Jersey, Guernsey and the UK will be involved competing in netball, hockey, football and rugby sevens. All spectators are welcome. For further information and timings please contact the school office.

'Hog Roast and Hay Bales': This year, in place of the Parents' Summer Ball, the Parents' Association are organising a more informal 'Hog Roast and Hay Bales' event. This will take place at the end of term, during the evening of **Saturday 16th July**. The event is for adults only. Invitations will be sent out at the end of the Lent Term and tickets will be available immediately after the Easter break. If you would like more information please contact Melanie Drummond, Yvette Jones, or Suzy Vivian via the School Office.

Second-hand School Uniform: There will be another sale of second-hand school uniform on **Wednesday 23rd March** between 3.15 and 4.15 pm in the Jubilee Entrance Hall. Please bring any items for sale to the school office as soon as possible for sorting, sizing and pricing.

Spring Concert: The Spring Concert will take place on **Tuesday 31st March, at 7.00 pm**. **All Choirs and Orchestras from Form 1 to 6** will be taking part. Further information about timings and uniform requirements are enclosed. **School will close at 4.00 pm on that day and children in Forms 1 to 6 will go home to prepare for the Spring Concert.**

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust Adoption Scheme: At the end of this term we hand over our cheque in support of the Orang-utan named "Jaya" which we sponsor and, therefore, Mrs Le Quesne, Head of Science, will be asking for a donation from each child. Further information is enclosed.

Health Matters: May I remind parents that, children **should not return to school until 48 hours have elapsed after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea**. Children with other highly contagious diseases e.g. conjunctivitis and impetigo, should not return to school before seeing their GP and having the condition treated. **Please note** that children who have had sickness and/or diarrhoea must not use the swimming pool for a period of two weeks following their illness.

Ski Trip: February 2011: We wish the ski group all the best and a very happy holiday as they head off to Switzerland. Please telephone the telephone diary [852649] for early confirmation of arrival (from 1800 on Friday 19th February) and 'topical' news during the week.

Ski Trip 2012: Application forms for the 2012 trip will be posted from school on the morning of **Monday 7th March 2011** and should reach you the following day. Completed forms should arrive at the school office as soon as possible thereafter. **Please note telephone bookings will not be accepted.**

Parents' Evenings: Pre-Prep and Forms 1 and 2 evenings will take place on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd March. **Parents' Evenings for Forms 4 and 5** will take place on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th March. Appointments will be sent out after half term. Please let the office know by **Monday 28th February at the very latest** if you cannot make a certain date.

Written Reports: Forms 3 and 6 will receive written reports only this term. These will be included in the end of term mailing.

Half-term office hours: The telephone will be answered between 9 am and 12 noon during half-term week. At other times the answer phone will operate.

Uniform Shop: May I remind you that during holiday periods the uniform shop is open by **appointment only**. Please telephone Paula **between 9.00 am and 12 noon ONLY** on **07797 841 829** to make an appointment. The uniform shop will reopen on Monday 28th February, when regular hours will resume, that is Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8.15 am to 9.00 am.