

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the last newsletter before Easter and I hope you all have a lovely break. We return on **Monday 19th April at 8:45am** as there is no training day following this holiday. Some of you will have met our new extended schools' co-ordinator Suzanne Christopher who is now organising clubs and cross school arrangements between 8 schools and children's centres in Thornton Heath. The way we have been organising our clubs in recent years is that teachers do free clubs in the autumn term, we do targeted interventions in the spring term and no clubs in the summer term as teachers are spending time doing the children's school reports. Mr Smith's football club continues all year. However, this summer Ms Christopher has organised a number of outside providers to come in and offer clubs in the summer term. She will let you know details shortly but we will have over 100 places available in these clubs. As these clubs are delivered by outside providers we intend to charge a nominal fee of £1 per session — payable in advance. This is in line with other local schools and ensures that children are committed to come to the club each week and are not allocated a space but then don't come to the sessions. Ms Christopher has also designed a 'flyer' explaining the activities that are on offer in Thornton Heath this Easter. This summer holiday we hope to be able to offer even more. You can contact Ms Christopher by calling the main school number and choosing **option '3'**.

School expansion - exciting news!!

You may be aware through the local press that because both Whitehorse junior and infant schools are so successful Croydon council have asked the schools to expand to three forms of entry—meaning another class of 30 children in each year group. The governors have agreed to this and we will be one of 15 Croydon schools to be taking extra children. This means both schools will be getting bigger and, most certainly, better with more space in our classrooms and better facilities—including an expanded school hall, new nursery, better playgrounds and reorganised office facilities. The background to this is that the population in this area has been expanding rapidly, meaning our infant school had over 300 applications for 60 places last year. We want to be able to offer another 30 children a year the chance to have the same kind of high quality, local education that your children enjoy. Obviously there will be a level of disruption to the schools as 8 large teaching spaces are added but we are working with our architect and project manager to ensure that we are well prepared and that the same high quality of teaching continues for the children already at our schools. You can also be confident that both Headteachers have the safety of the children as their highest priority. We are experienced at delivering bright, attractive new spaces, like the new infant office or the 'atrium area' in the junior school, and believe we can work with the professional design team to enhance our schools and improve the quality of education we offer. More news about a chance to see how the schools will be organised during the 18 months of the project will follow immediately after half term and we hope to organise a community exhibition on **Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th April**. The architect and project manager will be available to explain the project and answer questions. Times and venues will follow. **School uniform**

In the last 2 weeks I have noticed a few problems with school uniform. Please note the following:

- Trainers are not allowed under any circumstances. When children wear trainers to school they are asked to remove them and wear plimsolls.
- 'Hoodies' are not coats. Governors feel that 'Hoodies' bring street culture into our school and encourage children to be uncommunicative or withdrawn.
- Socks and tights should be black or grey for boys with white socks or tights allowed for girls

