



DECEMBER 2021 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Advent

The children have been taking part in many Advent activities in preparation for Christmas. All classes have Advent displays and each day they spend time reflecting and praying. We are delighted that unlike last year we are now able to organise whole school Advent assemblies. On Mrs Wilson's retirement she presented the school with a very special present, a beautiful Advent wreath holder with purple, white and pink candles. The children are really enjoying watching the candles being lit each week and it has been a lovely focus for our prayer times.



I would like to thank our Reception children and parents for the hard work and effort that went into creating their Cribs. The children were very proud of their creations and they were so pleased when they were blessed by Fr Alex. Well done everyone.

Ofsted

We were delighted to receive such a positive response since our Ofsted report was published. We were pleased to receive recognition about how hard our dedicated staff and governors work and how responsive our fantastic children are to everything that takes place in the school. I would like to thank all those parents who took the time to respond to the questionnaire and also those who spoke to the inspectors on site. We have already started to work on the action points and will share progress of these with you over the coming months.

Synod

The Catholic Church is keen too for us to be focussing on relationships as it plans for its future into the Third millennium – our relationships with one another; our relationship with the church (locally, nationally and globally) and most importantly our own relationships with God. If you have attended Mass in one of our parish churches in recent weeks, you may have received information about the world-wide 'synodal process' currently taking place within the church in the lead up to the Synod of Bishops in 2023. As part of this process, each Diocese is conducting a listening exercise in which it is seeking to hear the thoughts, reflections and experiences of members of its Catholic communities including its Catholic schools. As part of this, our school is being asked to mirror the process taking place in parishes. After Christmas we will have assemblies and RE lessons to explain the synodal process to the children.

Save the Children Charity Day



On **Wednesday 15th December** we will be raising money for a global charity - Save the Children. Children may wear their own clothes and a Christmas jumper to school in exchange for a donation towards Save the Children. Please give any donations to the class teachers in the morning. Thank you.

Mufti Day

Tuesday 21st December will be a mufti day for all children. The children may wear their own clothes to school in exchange for £1 towards school fund. Children can give their £1 to their class teacher in the morning.

Trim trails

We are currently receiving quotations for new trim trails. These will replace the current trim trails in our outside playgrounds. This is very exciting as we are aware how much the children love their outside playtimes and we feel it will enhance the opportunities for the children to take part in active play. As soon as we have dates for instalment we will inform parents as some areas may need to be cordoned off for the building work. We hope this will take place in the Spring term.

Driveway

Please continue to park safely outside the school and with respect for our neighbours. Our driveway into school must not be used for children to be dropped off or collected. This is a dangerous place to stop as parents and children are entering in/out of school and staff in cars need to enter the site safely.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **94%** from 2nd September until 3rd December. This needs to improve to reach the **96%** minimum target set by the Government.

Nursery	89%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Reception	93%	90%
Year 1	94%	95%
Year 2	93%	96%
Year 3	94%	95%
Year 4	97%	97%
Year 5	97%	96%
Year 6	96%	94%

A particular well done to **Year 4 Lisbon, Year 4 Padua and Year 5 Lisbon** who have achieved the highest class attendance during this time. Last month I met with the Herts Attendance Improvement Officer. Our last academic year's attendance was highly commended. However, this term I feel I must remind parents about the importance of good attendance to school. Too many children are taking time off from school for holiday reasons which we are not able to authorise. Research has shown that attendance has a huge impact on the progress children make in school. We have updated our Attendance Policy and below you will be able to read the new addition we have made about medical appointments:

Medical Appointments

- Please make every effort to make appointments out of school time.
- If you need to make an appointment please explain you can only attend at a time when it will not impact on your child missing education.
- If you cannot avoid a school time appointment please inform our admin staff as soon as you are notified by presenting your appointment letter, card or text to request permission to take your child out of school. Your child needs to be returned to school as soon as possible after the appointment.

- Please do not wait to inform us until the day of the appointment because it may be that you will need to wait until there is a convenient break in the lesson for your child to come out of class.

COVID 19 Update

We need to ensure that we continue to follow all the guidance we have received from Herts regarding Covid regulations.

Staff and visitors will wear face coverings when interacting with other adults within the setting, except when:

- outside on school premises
- eating or drinking
- someone is exempt from wearing face coverings.

Face coverings will not be worn when interacting with the children.

If your child has a persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell please do not send them into school until they have received a negative PCR test. Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe during these difficult times.

Congratulations

It is lovely when the children show me their medals and certificates. Our congratulations go to the following children:

Reception Lisbon

Rebecca P has been awarded a British Gymnastics certificate.

Year 1 Padua

Brayan G has achieved a Duckling 1 swimming award.

Year 1 Lisbon

Sophia H has achieved level 8 of the British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards

Year 2 Padua

Lenny S received a medal for taking part in the Cassiobury Park 1K Santa dash. Lenny also achieved a 5 m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Francesca d R received a badge from Rock Up for scaling the climbing wall.

Chanelle R received a badge from Rock Up for scaling the climbing wall.

Year 2 Lisbon

Maria A has achieved a certificate for the best performance for Kihon in a 9 Kyu exam – white/yellow grade.

Abbey K was awarded a certificate for taking part in Tapathon 2021 Performers Project for Children in Need.

Hannah M achieved a 5 m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Arthur M achieved a 15 m Rainbow distance award for swimming. Arthur has been awarded Level 8 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards

Year 3 Lisbon

Bobby N was awarded the 15m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Hanna T was awarded the 10m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Year 4 Lisbon

Lana L was awarded a 5m Swim England Award and a Bronze Fitness Award for Gymnastics.

Emily O was awarded Level 1 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards, a Level 5 Learn to Swim Award and a 25m Rainbow Swim certificate.

Natalia G received a medal for good behaviour and performance from Rising Elite Football Club.

Igor M was awarded the 10m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Kayleigh L was awarded a 5m Swim England Award and a Bronze Fitness Award for Gymnastics. Kayleigh was also awarded Cub of the month.

Aron A was awarded the 10m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Sophie A was awarded the 10m Rainbow distance award for swimming and a certificate for 7th Grade KUP for taekwondo.

Tai D-A was awarded a medal for 3rd place in a tournament for Berkhamsted Rangers FC and he also received a medal from Titans Camp for good behaviour and sportsmanship.

Daniella B was awarded the 10m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Year 4 Padua

Victor S received a medal for taking part in the Cassiobury Park 1K Santa dash. Victor also achieved a 10 m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Emma Z was awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge.

David S achieved a certificate of achievement for white/black belt for Tshin Ryu Ju Jitsu.

Year 5 Lisbon

Luca M has been awarded 'man of the match' by Cassiobury Rangers FC.

Olympia W was awarded the 25m Rainbow distance award for swimming and a Learn to Swim stage 5 Award.

Zayne T was awarded 'Man of the Match' by nascot Wood Rangers Under 10's.

Year 5 Padua

Aadhav P achieved a Learn to Swim Stage 5 Award.

Year 6 Padua

Ayron H achieved 2nd place in the Herts County 100m Butterfly

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 13 th Dec	Y1 Padua parents to watch the nativity performance - 2.30pm
Weds 15 th Dec	Save the Children Christmas jumper fundraising day.
Thurs 16 th Dec	Y3 Lisbon and Padua Egyptian Day in school.
Fri 17 th Dec	Class Christmas parties - more details to follow from class teachers in weekly updates.
Mon 20 th Dec	Y2 Lisbon and Padua Polar Express Day in school.
Tues 21 st Dec	School closes at 2.30pm for Christmas holidays. Mufti day for all children. £1 donation.
Weds 5 th Jan 2022	School resumes.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas. I hope you all get a chance to relax and spend some quality time with family during the Christmas break.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this Autumn term. Your children are the reason why St Anthony's continues to be such a special place. I hope they have a wonderful Christmas – I look forward to welcoming them all back in January 2022.

Take care and God bless,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher