



NOVEMBER 2021 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

November –All Saints and All Souls

The children have attended assemblies about All Saints and All Souls Day. Fr Alex celebrated mass with Year 5 and 6 on Thursday 4th November. This was the first time we have celebrated mass inside for many months. It was a lovely occasion. We have planned for many more masses to take place throughout the year for all classes to attend.

Remembrance Day

On Thursday 11th November, Natalie, our History co-ordinator has organised special assemblies with her History Club children to mark Remembrance Day. All children will also take part in a two minutes silence at 11am.



Staffing

We were sad to say goodbye to Gina McEvoy at the end of the Summer term. Gina has been a teaching assistant at St Anthony's for many years. Miles Habashi, our part time caretaker, has also recently left our staff team to concentrate on his apprenticeship. We wish Gina and Miles all the best in the future and would like to thank them for all their hard work.

We would like to welcome Caitlin Gorman to the staffing team. Caitlin will be working as a teaching assistant with our Key Stage 2 classes.

Black History Month

We were delighted with the interest and enthusiasm the children showed towards the activities planned for Black History month. The children also took part in a special Art Day linked to Black History Month on Wednesday 20th October. This was organised by Amy, our, Art co-ordinator. A range of artists were introduced to the children including: Alma Woodsey Thomas, William T Williams, Lubaina Himid, Wadsworth Jarrell, Carolyn Mims Lawrence and Lois Mailou Jones

Parking

Please continue to park safely outside the school and with respect for our neighbours. We have recently received comments from the Holywell community which outline some of the issues of inconsiderate parking created by some of the parents of St Anthony's which is a shame.

CAFOD

Thank you so much for contributing to our Green Day last month. We were delighted to have raised £377 for CAFOD.

Community Afternoon

Our Community afternoon was very well attended by grandparents and senior citizens from the local community/parishes. The children really enjoyed taking part in the entertainment and we received so many lovely comments from our visitors about the atmosphere in the school and the children's behaviour.

Uniform Reminders

As it is now coming into the winter months some of the girls are choosing to wear trousers to school. These need to be school trousers **not** stretchy type leggings as these are not part of our uniform list. We were very pleased to receive such generous donations towards the recent 2nd hand uniform sale at parents' evenings. These donations have been added to school fund to purchase resources for the children.

Attendance Update

If your child is absent from school please telephone **each** day to keep the school office informed. A daily return has to be given to the Department of Education; therefore we need to know the reasons why your child is absent. We will also continue to monitor lateness at the beginning and the end of the day. As I am sure you all know attendance is vital in order for the children to make good progress with their learning. The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **2nd September** until **21st October**. This needs to improve to reach the **96%** minimum target set by the Government. Lately, we have had requests for children to have time out of school to travel which we are **not** able to authorise. These days off have a big impact on attendance. We will be analysing individual attendance this week and will be meeting with the Herts Attendance Improvement Officer. Letters will be sent to families where attendance has become a concern.

The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	90%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Reception	90%	91%
Year 1	94%	96%
Year 2	94%	96%
Year 3	95%	95%
Year 4	98%	95%
Year 5	96%	96%
Year 6	95%	95%

A particular well done to **Year 4 Lisbon** who have again have achieved the highest class attendance during this time.

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

In 2022, the May bank holiday will be moved to Thursday 2nd June and an additional Platinum Jubilee Day will be on Friday 3rd June. In Hertfordshire the half term break is the week commencing Monday 30th May 2022. Therefore, this academic year, schools have been asked to remove a further day from school term time in lieu of the bank holiday. St Anthony's School will be taking this day on **Monday 6th June 2022**. We will return to school on **Tuesday 7th June 2022**.

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 15th December the children will be able to choose a Christmas lunch as one of their choices on School Grid. Please be aware on this day there will only be two options. There will not be a jacket potato or school packed lunch option. You may need to look at School Grid if you have already ordered in advance prior to the Christmas meal option being loaded on to the system. The deadline for ordering the Christmas meal is **Wednesday 24th November**.

Office Hours

For your information our school office opening hours for queries or information are Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.

COVID 19 Update

You will be aware that nationally cases of COVID-19 are currently high, and Hertfordshire is no different with the highest number of cases in children and young people. As a result, Herts are asking all schools and early-years settings to implement some additional public health measures. By acting quickly ahead of winter they want to help reduce the spread of the virus, protect others and the most vulnerable members of our communities.

In early years, primary and special schools – 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. These new measures will be reviewed regularly by Herts.

After School Club

We currently have some free spaces in our After School Club. Please contact the school office if you require a space for your child.

Parents' Courses

An email was sent to parents yesterday from Melanie to inform you of some online courses linked to 'Just Talk' week. In addition, she would like to let you know you that 'Add-Vance' also run useful parents' courses. Please use the following link for more information:

<http://www.add-vance.org/events/>

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following children:

Year 2 Padua

Jotham G received a WFC winners medal for a half-term football tournament

Year 3 Padua

Maia L was awarded Level 4 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards

Roberta K was awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge. She also completed IXL certificates of excellence

Year 4 Lisbon

Natalia G received a WFC medal for a half-term football camp participation and behaviour

Emily O was awarded Level 2 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards

Cosmin P was awarded 3 medals at a multi skills summer club

Year 4 Padua

Arunya R has been awarded the Watford Gymnastics Club badge 8

Year 5 Padua

Lotti was awarded Level 2 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards

Aadhav M P was awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Year 6 Lisbon

Perrin M was awarded with a bronze medal in the swimming regional qualifier meet for 100 metres freestyle (under 11's boys).

Joseph M has started his training as an altar server at Holy Rood Church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds 10 th Nov	Parents' workshop for school anxiety. 7pm – 8pm in the school hall. All welcome.
Mon 22 nd Nov	Year 1 Advent retreat day in school.
Tues 23 rd Nov	Year 2 Advent retreat day in school.
Fri 26 th Nov	Occasional Day – school closed
Sun 28 th Nov	First Sunday in Advent
Mon 29 th Nov	Year 5 Bikeability course begins.
Tues 30 th Nov	Year 6 Height and weight checks
Fri 3 rd Dec	Nursery and Reception classes Christmas performance for parents – 11am
Mon 6 th Dec	Reception cribs on display in the Activity Studio for parents to view – 3.30pm
Tues 7 th Dec	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play- performances at 2.30pm and 6pm
Fri 10 th Dec	Year 1 and Year 4 class mass 2.30pm. Parents of Y1 or Y4 welcome.
Weds 15 th Dec	Christmas jumper fundraising day – more details to follow.
Fri 17 th Dec	Class Christmas parties - more details to follow.
Tues 21 st Dec	School closes at 2.30pm for Christmas holidays
Weds 5 th Jan 2022	School resumes.

Thank you for your continued support. God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

