



Dear Parents/Carers,

**October – Month of Mary**

Class worship during October will focus on our Lady and the Rosary. There will be many opportunities during class worship time for the children to find out more about Mary and how to pray a decade of the Rosary. We are also introducing the children to The Angelus prayer, which they will learn to pray before lunch each day.

**The Common Good - Watford Food Bank**

As a Catholic School we are committed to the common good which is why we feel it is very important to continue with fundraising to support local, national and global charities. We would like to start to support the Watford Foodbank. They are situated in Imperial Way, Watford. The foodbank relies on goodwill and support. 90% of the food distributed is donated by the public. Each month we would like to take along donations from St Anthony's School. There will be boxes next to the main entrance door, Nursery door and St Francis building door where donations can be placed. The dates for donations are listed below. Please do not donate at other times as we do not have the storage capacity within school to keep the donations.

Date for donations
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December

If there are any parents willing to help with transporting the donations to Watford Food Bank on the days listed above we would be very grateful. Please give your names into the school office. The list of items that the foodbank most need are:

- *Long-life milk*
- *Long-life fruit juice*
- *Tinned meat + fish*
- *Jars of jam/ honey/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread*
- *Tinned fruit*
- *Instant mashed potato*
- *Tinned tomatoes*
- *Bags of sugar (especially 500g bags)*
- *Tinned rice pudding/custard*
- *Packets of jelly or sponge puddings*
- *Tinned vegetables*
- *Jars of pasta sauce*

**Support Dogs for Autism, For Epilepsy and For Disability**

Support Dogs is a national charity dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children and adults with various challenging medical conditions. They provide, train and support specialist assistance dogs to achieve this. To help this charity please start collecting your used stamps from letters, parcels and postcards, leaving a 1cm boarder around them. Send them into school in an envelope and they will be put into the Support Dogs collection box near the main entrance.

## Year 6 Leavers' Rose plant

We are very grateful to last year's Year 6 parents who organised for a beautiful rose plant to be delivered to school. The rose is called Sweet Memories and it has been placed in our prayer garden for everyone to enjoy.

## School Council

A message from Emily S in Year 5 Padua who is one of our school councillors.

*'We recently set up a stationery shop for Key Stage Two children who want to buy items for their pencil case. We worked with our teacher Catherine who helps the school council. Stationery was ordered and during break and lunch time we set up our shop in the practical room. We created price labels and receipts. Our most items were mechanical pencils as they sold out very quickly! We are going to organise another shop soon. So far we have raised £250 for school fund.'*

## Black History Month

October is Black History Month. Hannah, our History co-ordinator and Bella our new Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity co-ordinator have planned lots of interesting activities focusing on important black men and women throughout history.

## Parking

Please continue to park safely outside the school and with respect for our neighbours. We have received complaints from Local residents about parents parking with little consideration. We are now working with Nigel Bell, a local councillor to support the local residents with the on-going issue.

## Community Afternoon

We would like to invite **Grandparents** into school for our special community afternoon to watch some entertainment the children have prepared. This will include singing and dancing performed by all the classes.

This event will take place on **Wednesday 19th October at 1.45pm**. After the entertainment we will serve tea and cakes to our guests. The afternoon should finish at approx 3.15pm.

If you would like **Grandparents** in your family to attend, please telephone the school office (01923 226987) to add your name to our Community Afternoon list so we have an idea of numbers.

Parents will be invited to watch their child's class entertainment in a special assembly. Please see the dates for diary below for details.

## CAFOD

For many years now it is a tradition at St Anthony's that we raise money for CAFOD – '**Catholic Agency for Overseas Development**'. This charity reaches out to people living in hard-to-reach places, in war zones and those who are discriminated against. Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be worse than any we've lived through. This is a crisis created by other disasters: climate change, coronavirus, and conflict in Ukraine, mean food prices are skyrocketing. All around the world – including here, in the UK – families are finding it harder than ever to put food on the table. In northern Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, up to 20 million people face devastating drought and grain shortages.

**Together, as one global family, we have the power to help. It takes love – from all of us.**

On **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October** we will be organising a non-uniform day. The children may wear their own clothes to school for the day. We would ask for a donation of £1 (or more if you can spare it) to be handed into the CAFOD collection box in their classroom on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

## **Secondary Admissions**

Please note that the deadline for secondary school applications (current Year 6) is 31st October 2022.

The Open Evening for St Joan of Arc will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 6.00pm until 9.00pm. Open Morning to take place on the following morning, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00am until 11.30am.

## **Weekly Updates and Information Evenings**

The teachers continue to send out their weekly updates to all parents. These are essential reading as they contain information, reminders and pre-teaching help. I would like to thank all the parents who have attended the Class Information Evenings. The teachers have been really pleased to see such a positive response and interest. These evenings are designed to help you support your child with the learning that is taking place in school but also offers guidance of how you can help your child at home. There are still some more of these evenings scheduled – please see dates for diary below. It was also lovely to see parents attend our recent Welcome assemblies.

## **Wellbeing**

I hope you are all finding time to look after your own wellbeing. It is very important that we continue to remember the '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. Teachers are continuing to add little challenges to their weekly update to remind the children of the weekly focus. We have been very pleased when children talk to us about how they have taken part in these challenges.

## **Parents' Workshops- Wellbeing**

The Wellbeing Practitioners in Herts NHS Trust are offering workshops delivered online via Microsoft Teams. The list of workshops offered are attached to this email.

## **Annual Questionnaire**

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who took time to complete our annual questionnaire in the summer term. Children were also given an opportunity to complete a 'pupil questionnaire'. The results of both questionnaires have been analysed, discussed by the Senior Management Team and as a result the school intends to do the following:

### **Children's views**

- Maintain the focus on sport opportunities and sports clubs at school
- Maintain good teaching, providing challenge for all children
- Continue to invite Secondary school teachers into school as the children found it very useful finding out about Year 7 expectations
- Continue to have lots of school trips as these are so enjoyable.

### **Parents' views**

- Continue to provide weekly updates as these are so useful
- Regular reminders of the rules for dismounting scooters and bikes and no ball games in the morning at drop off time.
- Maintain and possibly extend the amount of after school clubs available

## 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> September** until **29<sup>th</sup> September**. A particular well done to **Year 2 Lisbon and 4 Lisbon** who achieved the highest class attendance during this time. The attendance of all classes is as follows:

		89%
	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>Padua</b>
Nursery		
Reception	96%	94%
Year 1	95%	96%
Year 2	97%	95%
Year 3	96%	93%
Year 4	97%	93%
Year 5	95%	96%
Year 6	96%	93%

A new Late Collection Policy is now available to read on our website under the Key documents tab. I have also attached a copy of the policy to this newsletter.

## All Saints Day

On **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** we celebrate the feast of All Saints. On this day we would like the children to dress up as their favourite saint. This can be something simple such as the national costume of a saint from a particular country or the clothes with the colours of the flag of the country of a saint. Please don't spend money on a costume. It would be lovely if the children knew the name of the saint they were representing and also knew a little bit of information about their saint.

## Key Stage 2 – New House names

Key Stage Two classes now have new Saints names linked to their coloured teams. These are St Teresa of Calcutta, St Hildegard, St Kizito, and St John Paul II. A former pupil, Millie Naylor, who has just completed an Art degree has very kindly agreed to draw each of these saints for us. These portraits will be placed in the Activity Studio. Photographs will be shared with you in the next newsletter.

### Dates for your Diary

Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 Lisbon retreat day – Holy Rood Church  Year 1 visit to Bekonscot Model village  Year 2 Lisbon and Year 2 Padua Information evening for parents - 5.30pm.
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 4 visit to Cassiobury Farm  St Joan of Arc Secondary School Open Evening
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 to take part in a Deanery Tournament for netball and football at St Michael's High School.
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	World Mental Health Day – children will discuss this in class.
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Reception Phonics meeting -3pm in the school hall.  Watford Foodbank drop off donation day.
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	CAFOD fundraising day - £1 donation please.
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Grandparents/Community afternoon 1.45pm. Grandparents/Senior Citizens only – parents invited to see the class assemblies in the dates listed below.
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 2 Padua and Year 2 Lisbon assembly for parents 9.15am  School finishes for half term break at 2.30pm.
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	INSET Day for staff – school closed.
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Half term
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Term begins
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	All Saints Day – Children to dress up as a chosen saint for the day.  Y2 and Y5 class mass – 2.30pm – parents are warmly invited to join us for mass.  <b>Late Parents Evening for all classes</b> – 6pm – 9pm. Emails will be sent out the week before half term to sign up for a slot.
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	<b>Early Parents Evening for all classes</b> – 3.50pm- 6.30pm.
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 6 Padua and Year 6 Lisbon assembly for parents 9.15am
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Y5 Cycling Training begins  Y3 visit Fullarians for Cross- country running.
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 4 Padua and Year 4 Lisbon assembly for parents 9.15am
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 3 Padua and Year 3 Lisbon assembly for parents 9.15am
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 1 Padua and Year 1 Lisbon assembly for parents 9.15am
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Rec Padua and Rec Lisbon assembly for parents 9.15am  Remembrance Day – 11am Silence

## **Congratulations**

Our congratulations go to the following children:

### **Rec Lisbon**

Alex C completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge and he also was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pre-school Gymnastics Award.

### **Year 1 Lisbon**

Annabelle C completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge. She also passed the 20m Rainbow distance award for swimming and the LAMDA introductory graded exam with distinction.

### **Year 1 Padua**

Maria S achieved the level 7 Gymnastics Proficiency Award.

### **Year 2 Lisbon**

Leo M achieved a Rainbow 15m award for swimming.

Sophia H achieved the level 5 Gymnastics Proficiency Award.

### **Year 2 Padua**

Zaydn H completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge.

Evelyn A-T completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge and she also was awarded a Lab rats Achievement certificate and achieved the level 5 Gymnastics Proficiency Award.

Lakees M completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge and was awarded a Duckling 2 Swimming Certificate.

Olivia M was awarded a Star Performer certificate from Xtra Time for excellent behaviour and great manners.

Yash P completed the level 1 Learn to Swim Award.

Emer H was awarded star of the day by Apex street dance.

### **Year 3 Lisbon**

Amelia G completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge.

### **Year 3 Padua**

Samanyu P won a cricket medal from Bushey Cricket Club for winning the league.

Benjamin J won a trophy from West Herts FC for Player of the Match.

### **Year 4 Lisbon**

George S completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge.

### **Year 4 Padua**

Noah O won a football trophy for a tournament in Aylesbury.

Riordon L won a football trophy for a tournament in Rickmansworth.

Lutho F received a Stage 6 certificate for swimming 25 metres.

### **Year 5 Lisbon**

Joy C completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge and she also achieved the Swim England Level 3 Award.

Henry D was awarded a Cyclo-x 2022 certificate from Watford 1<sup>st</sup>/82<sup>nd</sup> Scout pack. He also won a medal from Glen Rovers Gaelic football Club and he passed the Initial Grade for Piano from the board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Aron A was awarded a Cyclo-x 2022 certificate from Watford 1<sup>st</sup>/82<sup>nd</sup> Scout pack.

Aiden K was awarded a Cyclo-x 2022 certificate from Watford 1<sup>st</sup>/82<sup>nd</sup> Scout pack. He also won a medal from Glen Rovers Gaelic football Club for their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary All Britain competition.

### **Year 5 Padua**

Veronica J completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge.

Adeeshe C completed the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge.

Ellen L won a medal from Glen Rovers Gaelic football for 1<sup>st</sup> place in a tournament.

### **Year 6 Padua**

Meabh M won an Under 12's medal and Under 14s Shield from Glen Rovers Gaelic football.

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

*Elaine Harrold*