



DECEMBER 2022 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

December – 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 on this special time. We are delighted that unlike last year we are now able to organise whole school Advent assemblies. Stephanie, one of our EYFS Teaching Assistants kindly decorated our beautiful Advent wreath holder with purple, white and pink candles. This is placed in our main entrance and is used for assemblies during prayers with the children.

Scarlet Fever and Strep A

Please see attached to this newsletter a letter from the Director of Public health regarding the increase in Scarlet Fever and Group A Streptococcus.

RE Noticeboard

We have a new RE noticeboard which is next to the main entrance door. We will post up to date information regarding RE and will also display the latest newsletters from St Bede's and Holy Rood.

Christmas card competition

We were asked to enter the Westminster Education Service Diocese Christmas card competition. The theme for the entries was **'The Shepherds found Mary, Joseph and the baby' Luke2: 15-20**. The entry for Key Stage One which has been selected was designed by Lakees in Year 2 Padua and the entry from Key Stage Two was designed by Atiyah in Year 6 Padua. I think you'll agree we have some very talented artists in St Anthony's!



Year 5 and 6 Visit to St Joan of Arc

Recently, the Year 6 Padua and Year 5 Padua classes visited St. Joan of Arc School in Rickmansworth. As part of our commitment to outdoor learning and healthy lifestyles, our staff walked with the children across Ebury Way to St Joan of Arc. The children had a range of Music, Science and Drama experiences starting with a period of reflection in the school chapel.

Judging by the responses of our staff and the children, this was an extremely positive day. They were all very grateful for the welcoming and friendly atmosphere as they toured the school. Our Years 5 and 6 Lisbon children will get the chance to visit St. Joan of Arc School next term, most likely in March.

Royal British Legion

Many thanks to all the families who purchased poppies and poppy related stationery from our Year 6 volunteer helpers. We raised **£297.99** for the Royal British Legion.

Mini Vinnies

Congratulations to our children who became members of St. Anthony's St. Vincent de Paul group, The Mini Vinnies. It was lovely to see so many parents at their Commissioning assembly.

Our Mini Vinnies' Mission:

Mini Vinnies meet to pray, discuss and support in whatever way they can to help make a difference in their communities. Mini Vinnies truly turn concern into action as they use the simple formula of 'see, think, do' to find people in need and help them.

Watford Food Bank – Thursday 8th December.

We had another incredible response to our Foodbank donations in November. Many thanks. The donations were weighed and the amount was 131.6kg – which the Watford Foodbank were delighted with. Our next donation day is **Thursday 8th December**. Please contribute if you are able to. The boxes will be placed in the usual places. We are also very thankful to our EYFS team who have raised money for the Watford Foodbank by selling cakes after school on Fridays. They have raised **£307.87** so far which is fantastic.

Year 5 Bikeability course

Congratulations to all the Year 5 children who recently completed their Bikeability course. They were praised by the course leaders for their enthusiasm and sensible behaviour. Well done.

PFA – After school Christmas Fundraiser –Thursday 15th December 3.30pm -5pm

Many thanks to the parents who have offered to help out at the Christmas fundraiser, if you have a little bit of time to spare the staff would really appreciate your help. Please see your child's class teacher if you would like to help. **PLEASE** bring coins if you will be attending as we have limited change so notes are difficult for us to change.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from 2nd September until 2nd December. A reminder to all parents that time off school for visiting overseas relatives for a length of time will **not** be authorised.

If any parent has received a letter about their child's attendance being under 90% it is very important that they telephone the school office to report absences and not send an email. A reminder for all parents that children in Reception to Year 6 are registered at 9am so must be ready to go in their lines on the playground by 8.50am.

Nursery	88%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Reception	94%	92%
Year 1	94%	93%
Year 2	96%	96%
Year 3	96%	96%
Year 4	95%	94%
Year 5	96%	96%
Year 6	97%	96%

A particular well done to **Year 6 Lisbon** who have achieved the highest class attendance during this time.

Training day - Date for Diary

School will be closed on **Monday 20th February 2023** due to essential first aid training for all staff.

New Website

We are very excited that our new website will be ready to go live later this month. A lot of changes have been made to the site so that it is easier for parents to read using their mobile device as well as a PC. As soon as the new site is ready we will inform parents.

	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Thurs 8th Dec	Year 1 and 2 classes Christmas performance for parents – 2.30pm and 6pm.
Mon 12th Dec	Year 3 British Museum visit
Tues 13th Dec	Year 5 visit Radlett theatre for Jack and the Beanstalk
Weds 14th Dec	Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper fundraising day £1.00 for 'Raise a Smile'. Watford General Hospital Charity- please refer to letter sent on 29 th Nov.
Thurs 15th Dec	PFA After School Christmas Fundraiser 3.30pm to 5.30pm – please bring coins rather than notes.
Fri 16th Dec	Year 6 visit Bletchley Park for WWII visit. Reception parents invited to view the children's cribs after school.
Mon 19th Dec	Class parties – see Friday class updates for more details.
Weds 21st Dec	School closes at 2.30pm for the Christmas holidays
Thurs 5th Jan 2023	School resumes.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following children:

Nursery

Joshua J received a Puffin Award from Swim England

Rec Lisbon

Millie K completed a Tapathon for Children in need.

Year 2 Padua

Aadhya P received a certificate for an upgrading examination for Tang Soo Do Championships.

Aidan D received a Krav Maga Self Defence certificate for level K1.

Leonne A achieved the Water Skills level 1 certificate.

Brayan G was awarded a certificate for the Stage 1 Learn to Swim Award.

Elisha A was awarded a certificate for completing two years at the Jigsaw Performing Arts School.

Year 3 Lisbon

Amelia G was awarded with a Learn to Swim stage 2 certificate.

Abbey K completed a Tapathon for Children in Need and was awarded Level 8 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards.

Evie W was awarded Level 7 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards.

Year 4 Lisbon

Melissa M was awarded Level 6 and 7 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards.

Christina S was awarded the Gadgeteers certificate for the summer reading challenge.

Hannah T received a medal from Karate Club

Harvey A was awarded a certificate for the Stage 3 Learn to Swim Award and Water Skills level 1

Year 4 Padua

Elaina V achieved the Learn to Swim Stage 4 certificate.

Emil K received 2 gold medals and 1 bronze medal from a karate tournament.

Riordan L was awarded Man of the Match from Croxley Green FC.

Alex Z was awarded the Rainbow Swim distance award for 10 metres.

Year 4 Lisbon

Bobby N was awarded with the Golden Boot from Bushey Rangers for scoring 100 goals. Bobby was also awarded a level 3 swimming certificate.

Year 5 Lisbon

Sophie A was awarded a certificate for the Stage 3 Learn to Swim Award.

Year 6 Padua

Aadhav P received a gold and bronze medal and a certificate for participating in the 40th National Tang Soo Do Championships.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for your support throughout 2022.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold