



FEBRUARY 2023 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Journey through Lent

Today all the children received ashes for Ash Wednesday. Fr Alex held three separate services for the three different Key Stages. We will discuss the importance of prayer, alms giving and fasting as we journey together through the season of Lent.

House Saints

You may remember a while ago we shared with you that one of our former pupils, Millie Naylor, was creating some artwork for our new House Saints. Below are the results of her fantastic work. These are now hanging in our Activity Studio where they will be blessed by Fr Alex and used as a focus for Key Stage Two assemblies.



Red Cross Earthquake Appeal.

We were incredibly grateful to our generous school community for the donations made at the end of last half term during our Mufti Day. Over £1500 was sent to the Red Cross. Thank you so much.

Food Bank

Thank you to our volunteer grandparents who took all the donations of food to the Food bank from last month's appeal. The Food Bank were delighted as they have seen a decline in donations recently so were very pleased to continue to receive our monthly collection. The next collection days are:

Thursday 23rd February

Thursday 23rd March

Website

Hopefully you have all had a chance to look at our new school website. We are continuing to add to this and make adaptations but we are very pleased with the feedback we have received so far. There is a new Twitter page which is on the home page of the website. You may like to follow the school if you use Twitter. The school account is @watford_st

School Uniform

We have recently changed our school uniform suppliers. Uniform may now be purchased from **Beats School Uniform Shop**. They are based in the centre of Watford by the pond. Further information and a link to the shop can be found on the uniform section of the school website under the 'Parents' tab.

Coffee Mornings - Family Support Workers

We are delighted to be hosting several coffee mornings for parents where they will have the opportunity to meet with Rebecca and Nadia our Family Support Workers. Please see flyer attached for more information. Everyone is welcome. It is an opportunity to share any worries or concerns you may have about your child e.g. sleep difficulties, behaviour and routine, anxiety, attendance etc

Also attached to this newsletter is the latest information about parenting sessions run by a Parent Support Group. These are extremely useful - the focus for the next two sessions are Emotionally Based School Avoidance.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

I would like to thank the parents who have put their names forward to our last appeal for class reps. This new role will involve getting involved in some ideas for future fundraising, sharing ideas with other class reps and feeding back to your own class of parents. If this is something you would be interested in getting involved in please leave your name with the school office and we will be in touch with more details. It would be lovely to have a group of parents who would be interested in helping.

Parking outside the school

Please remember to show consideration to the Holywell community who live very close by to our school. It is very frustrating for them when their car is blocked in. The main entrance to the school must not be used for dropping off or collecting children. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **94%** from 1st September until 21st February. We are hoping to see this improve to meet the **96%** minimum target set by the Government. Children who considered persistent absentees (under 90%) will be getting an email over the next week advising them that they are under 90% and therefore must ring daily when their child is off – they cannot email. The County Attendance Team are also coming into school soon to discuss school attendance and individual pupil attendance.

	90%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Nursery		
Reception	94%	91%
Year 1	91%	93%
Year 2	96%	96%
Year 3	95%	95%
Year 4	95%	94%
Year 5	96%	96%
Year 6	96%	95%

A particular well done to **Year 2 Lisbon, Year 2 Padua, Year 5 Lisbon, Year 5 Padua and Year 6 Lisbon** who have achieved the highest class attendance during this time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds 22 nd Feb	Ash Wednesday
Tues 28 th Feb	Confessions with Fr Alex for KS2 children
Weds 1 st March	Year 6 Lisbon and Padua to visit Watford Mosque and then to attend mass at Holy Rood Church –details to follow.

Thurs 2 nd March	World Book Day – children to dress up as a character from a book.
Tues 7 th March	Parents' evening 6pm – 9pm.
Weds 8 th March	Year 5 and Year 6 Lisbon classes to visit St Joan of Arc School – details to follow. Parents' evening 3.50pm – 6.30pm.
Fri 10 th March	Year 5 Padua Stations of the Cross Retreat Day at St Michael's Church
13 th – 19 th March	Neurodiversity Week – children will be taking part in class activities.
Weds 15 th March	Class photographs
Thurs 16 th March	First coffee morning with Family Support Workers – see attached flyer.
Fri 17 th March	Year 5 Lisbon Stations of the Cross Retreat Day at St Michael's Church
Thurs 30 th March	Year 3 and Year 4 Performance of The Three Trees – Y3 and 4 parents welcome- details of tickets to follow.
Fri 31 st March	Year 5 L and P Stations of the Cross assembly for Year 5 parents – 9.15am End of Term – 2.30pm

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following children:

Year 1 Padua

Aiva S has achieved Stage 1 and 2 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 2 Lisbon

Evan S received a certificate from Holy Queen of the Rosary Mission for 1ST place in the Catechism annual exam.

Casper S passed the Royal Schools of Music Grade 1 Violin practical with merit.

Year 3 Lisbon

Riya P has achieved the Water Skills 2 Award.

Year 3 Padua

Benjamin J was awarded Man of the Match for Croxley Green FC.

Year 4 Lisbon

George S was awarded 'Player of the Week' from Get Set 4 Tennis.

Adriana J has achieved the Stage 3 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 5 Lisbon

Tai D-A has achieved the Water Skills 2 Award.

Year 5 Padua

Nikola K has achieved the Stage 5 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 6 Lisbon

Luca M was awarded was awarded Player of the Week for Cassiobury Rangers FC.

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

Elaine Harrold