



JANUARY 2023 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back and Thank You

It has been lovely to welcome back the children after their Christmas break. They have all settled in so well and I have received comments during the tours of prospective parents about how happy, calm and studious they all are.

We would like to thank you for the many Christmas messages, cards and gifts that all the staff received at the end of last term. Your kindness and support is **very** much appreciated.

RE

All the children enjoyed celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany, they took part in special Key Stage assemblies. Prayers were also said for the late Pope Benedict as we were very sad to hear of his passing at the end of December.

We are very fortunate to have Fr Alex as our school chaplain as he supports with the teaching of RE, organises our prayer group and supports on class outings. Thank you Fr Alex !

School Fundraising

After the Christmas Jumper Day organised by our Year 3 classes we were able to donate **£339.57** towards the Watford General Hospital 'Raise a Smile' appeal. This is very close to our hearts as we know so many of our parents work incredibly hard for the local hospital. 'Raise a Smile' funding enabled their team to purchase many gifts for the in-patients to open on Christmas Day.

I would like to thank Megan, our Year 2 Padua teacher, for organising the beautiful Christmas cards your children designed. We have just received a cheque for **£302** which is fantastic and will be put towards the improvements we are going to making to our school library this term.

Watford Foodbank

The response for the donations towards Watford Foodbank has been fantastic. In three months you have donated **317.5kg** of food. The staff of the Foodbank have passed on their thanks for all your generosity especially during these difficult times. The next dates for donations are:

Thursday 26th January

Thursday 23rd February

Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

We would like to thank all the parents and grandparents who supported the staff with the after school Christmas Fayre. Together we managed to raise **£719.30** for school resources. This money will be put towards the changes we are going to make to the school chapel and will also be used to purchase further playground games equipment for lunchtime play. We would now like to invite parents to become 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 by **1st February** and we will be in touch with more details.

World Book Day

We have received several requests from children to say they would like to dress up this year for World Book Day on **Thursday 2nd March**. There will be more information sent out next week to you about this from Corinne, our Key Stage Two English Co-ordinator.

Building Work

The steps leading to the front of the school in front of the Year 1 classrooms have now been repaired. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and consideration whilst this essential work took place.

Parking outside the school

It is very important consideration is shown 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 12th January. We are hoping to see this improve to meet the **96%** minimum target set by the Government.

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

A particular well done to **Year 2 Padua, Year 3 Lisbon, Year 5 Lisbon, Year 5 Padua and Year 6 Lisbon** who have achieved the highest class attendance during this time.

Children's Mental Health Week

During the week of the 6th - 12th February we will be taking part in activities linked to this special week. Frances, our PSHEE co-ordinator will be sharing activities with teachers for the children to take part in.

Emergency School Closure

In the event of a school closure due to severe weather, we will alert you via email on the morning of the school closure.

New Website

Our new website is nearing completion. We have worked closely with the web designer to create a website that is easy for parents to navigate and can easily be accessed by phones as well as PCs. As soon as we get the 'Go live' date we will let you know.

Reminder - Training day - Date for Diary

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

Art Project

We are very fortunate that Victoria Culf, one of our parents, is also an artist. Victoria has managed to secure an Art Grant so that she can work with Amy, our Art Co-ordinator and all classes, to create a piece of art

work. This is a very exciting opportunity for our school and we plan to involve all the children throughout the school in the creation of the piece.

Parenting Courses

We were very pleased to receive very positive feedback from parents who signed up to the workshops that were advertised in previous newsletters. We will continue to pass on information to parents about any future courses.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 12 th Jan	Year 5 L and P visit The Harry Potter Studios.
Thurs 19 th Jan	Whole School Art Project begins.
Weds 25 th Jan	Year 5 Lis and Pad to visit Holy Rood Church for 12pm mass.
Mon 30 th Jan	National storytelling Week - EYFS classes to take part in story time activities.
Weds 2 nd Feb	Candlemas - The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus. Children will attend special assemblies.
Sun 5 th Feb	Racial Justice Sunday
Mon 6 th – 12 th Feb	Children's Mental Health Week.
Tues 7 th Feb	E-Safety Day – children throughout the school to be involved in activities. Year 3 and Year 4 Valentine's Disco 5pm – 7pm. Details to follow.
Thurs 9 th Feb	Year 4 Lis and Pad visit to Northwood and Pinner Synagogue – details to follow. Year 5 and Year 6 Valentine's Disco 5pm – 7pm. Details to follow.
Fri 10 th Feb	School finishes for half term. Reception classes 2.25pm finish. Years 1- 6 2.30pm finish.
Mon 13 th Feb to Fri 17 th Feb	Half term
Mon 20 th Feb	Staff training day.
Tues 21 st Feb	Children return to school.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following children:

Year 1 Lisbon

Vikramaditya G has achieved Stage 1 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Rebecca P has achieved the Water Skills 1 Award.

Year 1 Padua

Rory K received a certificate for passing Level 1a and 1b for Junior Skiing

Year 2 Lisbon

Laurelle R received a certificate from Holy queen of the Rosary Mission for 2nd place in the Catechism annual exam.

Anah O has achieved Stage 3 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 2 Padua

Demi C was awarded a certificate for most improved in Acrotrix.

Elisha A was awarded a certificate for green belt in Martial Arts.

Aadhya P received a certificate for 8th GUP upgrading exam for Tang Soo Do.

Year 3 Lisbon

Laura B achieved Stage 3 of the Learn to Swim Awards.

Hannah M achieved a 20m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Year 4 Lisbon

Maya M achieved a 25m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Year 4 Padua

Adeeshe C was awarded a Yellow belt in Karate

Year 5 Lisbon

Joy C was awarded a Level 4 Learn to Swim Award and she has achieved Level 6 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards.

Aiden K received a medal from Fullarians Rugby Club for Player of the Week.

Daniella B received a certificate for Stage 4 Swim England.

Year 5 Padua

Adeeshe C has achieved the Orange strip in a Karate grading.

Year 6 Lisbon

Michelle B achieved a 50m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Emmanuel A achieved Stage 4 of the Swimming Awards.

Year 6 Padua

Aadhav P received a certificate for 5th GUP upgrading exam for Tang Soo Do.

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

Elaine Harrold

