



June 2023 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

Dear Parents/Carers,

St Anthony's Feast Day

St Anthony's Feast Day was celebrated with all the children on Tuesday 13th June. The children completed a trail around the school answering questions about our very special school saint, created artwork linked to St Anthony and wrote fact files about his life. We were grateful to Fr Gerard for celebrating mass with Year 4 and 5 children and parents in the morning.

Year 2 will be attending 12pm mass on **Wednesday 28th June** at Holy Rood Church. They will also be able to have a tour of the church before mass.

The next mass in school will be on **Thursday 29th June at 2.30pm** – Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul. This will be for Year 3 children and their families.

Fr Alex

As many of our Holy Rood parishioners will know Fr Alex has been called to serve a new parish in St John's Wood, London. This will be the last term with Fr Alex as our school chaplain and Governor. The staff, governors and children will miss him so much. He has been a wonderful chaplain and so incredibly supportive to all members of our school community – we will always be grateful for the time he has dedicated to supporting RE lessons and the prayer life of our school. We will stay in touch with him as he continues to 'Grow and Learn with Jesus' in his new parish.

Year 6 Residential Trip to the Isle of Wight

The Year 6 children who took part in the Isle of Wight residential trip celebrated mass with Fr Alex – in a very beautiful setting, overlooking the sea! The children had a wonderful week on the island – taking part in so many activities. The staff were very impressed by their enthusiasm, energy and polite manners. The hotel staff and coach driver were also very complimentary about the children's conduct throughout the week. We are very proud of them. Well done!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin, John, Sarah, Katy, Rachel, Jennie, Caitlin and Fr Alex for their dedication and hard work throughout the week away and to their families for releasing them for five days.

Open Day – Wednesday 28th June 3.30pm - 4.30pm

On **Wednesday 28th June** the school will be open for parents to view all the classrooms, new chapel, displays etc. This is **not** a parents' evening it is an opportunity to look at all the classrooms around the school and have a drink/refreshment in the dining room. You are all very welcome to join us.

End of year reports

At the beginning of July all families will receive their end of year report for their child. There will be a reply slip attached to the report where there will be an opportunity for parents and children to make a comment and return to school.

St Anthony's Fundraising Group -SAFG

Well done to the SAFG for organising the Father's Day gifts. £377 was raised for the school - which is fantastic! I know the children really enjoyed choosing gifts. The money raised will be used to further resource the outdoor play areas for children with lunchtime play equipment. Thank you to the SAFG for all their hard work and time.

The SAFG will be selling a range of ice-creams and lollies for £1 on **Friday 30th June, 7th July and 14th July** after school on the front and back playgrounds. If your child has any allergies, please see one of the adults selling to check the ingredients list first.

Strike Days – class closures

On **Wednesday 5th July** and **Friday 7th July** teachers' unions have planned two further strike days. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government not because of any issues at our school. Our teachers have not made this decision lightly. They are increasingly concerned about the retention and recruitment of teaching staff. Teachers also do not want any pay increases which would impact the school budget.

On **Wednesday 5th July** the following classes will be closed:

Nursery, Reception Padua, Year 1 Padua and Year 2 Lisbon.

On **Friday 7th July** the following class will be closed:

Nursery.

We understand that this situation may be frustrating but ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

Staffing Update

We are very pleased to welcome Jean Magee to our staffing team. Jean will be working as one of our School Welfare Assistants.

Below is the list of staffing for September 2024:

Nursery	- Katy Laws
Reception Lisbon	- Megan Brogan
Reception Padua	- Shannon Kelly
Year 1 Lisbon	- Frankie Wassell
Year 1 Padua	- Ann Power
Year 2 Lisbon	- Bella Fuller

Year 2 Padua	- Aimie White and Eleanor Burke
Year 3 Lisbon	- Corinne Bygrave
Year 3 Padua	- Frances Nicholson
Year 4 Lisbon	- Orla Reilly
Year 4 Padua	- Abbie Clark
Year 5 Lisbon	- Hannah Mitchell and Catherine Elliott
Year 5 Padua	- Amy McMahon
Year 6 Lisbon	- John McGinn
Year 6 Padua	- Sarah McCabe

Cover for teachers' part time days, PPA time, continuing professional development and co-ordinators' release time will be provided by Laura Sugrue, Rachel Smith and Eva Thomas

Martin McDermott, our Assistant Headteacher, will not have a class responsibility this year. He will continue to help raise standards by working closely with all classes across the school.

Melanie Brimicombe, our Assistant Headteacher, will continue in her role as Inclusion Co-ordinator (INCo).

Melanie and Martin will also continue in their roles as Designated Safeguarding Leads.

In the July newsletter I will be able to share which classes our teaching assistants will be working with.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **94%** from 2nd September until Friday 23rd June. We would like to see this increase to a minimum of 96%. Class attendance can be seen below.

Nursery	89%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Reception	94%	92%
Year 1	92%	93%
Year 2	95%	94%
Year 3	96%	94%
Year 4	94%	94%
Year 5	96%	95%
Year 6	96%	95%

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

Year 5 and Year 6 Production – Treachery at Traitors' Quay

Year 5 and 6 will be performing **Treachery at Traitors' Quay** for the parents on **Thursday 6th July**.

There will be an afternoon performance (2pm) and an evening performance (7pm). Numbers for the evening will need to be restricted so we have sent home two tickets for each family.

The afternoon performance will not be ticketed. All primary school age children will have seen the play so please do not bring them to the evening performance. Children below school age should be brought to the afternoon performance and not the evening performance.

Please organise babysitters in advance as all children who attend our school as well as pre-school children will not be able to come into the evening performance. It is very upsetting for parents to miss their child's performance because they have not made appropriate arrangements. And it is also very difficult for staff who have to turn them away.

Online safety

Please find attached a flyer about keeping children safe whilst online over the summer holidays, which includes parents' guides covering many different aspects of online safety.

DSPL9 Events and training

This link provides parents and carers with support in many different areas which may be of interest, including transition to secondary school, parenting children with SEND and free mental health workshops.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s2yoeBAm6Sv5TN6A1QeFpBPott50hhEk/view?usp=drive_link

Sports Days

Below is a list of the dates for the remaining Sports Days. We have included reserve dates in case of cancellation due to bad weather. Parents are welcome to spectate at these events. If there is bad weather and a need to cancel parents will be notified as soon as possible via email.

Fri 30th June	Nursery Sports Morning 10am – 11.30am
Thurs 6th July	Nursery reserve date 10am – 11.30am
Fri 7th July	Padua classes -Rec, Y1 and Y2 Sports Morning 10-12pm Lisbon classes – Rec, Y1 and Y2 Sports afternoon 1.30-3.30pm
Fri 14th July	Reserve date for Rec, Y1 and Y2 - same timings as above

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 26 th June	Year 3 athletics at Fullarians
Wed 28 th June	Year 2 visit Holy Rood Church for mass – 12pm Open afternoon 3.30 -4.30pm see above for details
Thursday 29 th June	Feast Day of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Year 3 Mass 2.30pm - in the Activity Studio. Parents welcome.
Friday 30 th June	Nursery Sports morning 10-11.30am
Weds 5 th July	Teachers' strike – see information above
Thursday 6 th July	Year 5 and 6 production - 2pm and 7pm See information above
Friday 7 th July	Teachers' strike – see information above Reception, Year 1 and 2 Sports morning and afternoon – see information above for timings Year 3 Padua visit to Watford Museum – information for parents to follow.
Monday 10 th July	Year 6 Leavers' mass at 2pm. Information for parents to follow. Year 2 Padua visit to Wenzel's headquarters and bakery Information for parents to follow.
Tuesday 11 th July	Year 4 visit to Aylesford Friary for their Rosary Retreat Day- Information for parents to follow. Year 2 Lisbon visit to Wenzel's headquarters and bakery Information for parents to follow.
Wednesday 12 th July	Year 3 Lisbon visit to Watford Museum - Information to follow. Year 6 disco 5.30 - 7.30pm Information to follow.
Thursday 13 th July	Year 6 Secondary transition day at new schools
Friday 14 th July	Reserve Sports morning and afternoon – see information above
Monday 17 th July	Reception Padua visit to Hudnall Park – Information to follow
Tuesday 18 th July	Reception Lisbon visit to Hudnall Park – Information to follow
Wednesday 19 th July	Leavers' assembly for Y6 children and parents -9.15am School finishes for summer Y1-Y6 2.30pm finish. Reception classes 2.25pm finish.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following children:

Reception Lisbon

Alex C was awarded Learn to Swim level 1.

Alessia C received a trophy from Garston Ladies FC

Reception Padua

India T received a Swimming achievement award

Year 1 Lisbon

Bella M received a good team player trophy from Garston Ladies FC

Year 2 Lisbon

Caelyn H passed with merit two dance exams for tap and ballet.

Year 2 Padua

Emer H received a certificate of achievement for stage 2 swimming.

Elisha A passed purple belt in martial arts

Year 3 Lisbon

Hannah M passed her Grade 1 piano practical with merit

Year 3 Padua

Nikith S passed Learn to Swim stage 3

Year 4 Lisbon

Bobby N received trophies for Players' Player and Manager's player for U9 Bushey Rangers FC

Riley B received a medal for 3rd place in the Sun Postal Youth FC tournament

Abigail A passed Stage 2 in the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 4 Padua

Noah O was an U9 tournament winner for Aylesbury Utd

Daniella U was awarded Stage 8 for Gymnastics Proficiency Award

Lutho F received a Learn to Swim Stage 6 certificate

Brandon A received a medal for running and a certificate for climbing the O2.

Year 5 Lisbon

Sophie A passed with merit a musical performance with drums

Jasper L passed Grade 5 violin from the Royal Schools of Music

Year 5 Padua

Daren CJ received a Stage 5 swimming certificate

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold