



May 2023 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

Dear Parents/Carers,

Mary Procession

We were delighted that so many parents, friends and parishioners from Holy Rood were able to join us for our May Procession last Thursday. It was lovely to see Mary honoured with flowers brought to school by the children. In the Holy Rood newsletter, it was described as “a beautiful liturgy with beautiful singing in honour of Our Blessed Mother.”



Project Ala – Year 4 Conservation fundraising day

Thank you to our Year 4 classes for organising the Project Ala Day. It was great to see such a variety of animal costumes arriving in school! Donations have totalled **£368.47**. Cassiobury Farm Conservation Project are delighted and will ensure this money makes a huge difference to work taking place in Madagascar forest areas.

Staffing news

We are very sorry to be losing Izabella Torrano, our Year 3 Padua teacher at the end of July. Izabella is relocating to Essex. We would like to thank Izabella for all her hard work and wish her every success in her new school.

We are delighted to welcome back from maternity leave Laura Sugrue. Laura started back this week – it has been lovely to have her back with the team.

In September we will be welcoming Eleanor Burke as a teacher. Eleanor is an experienced teacher and has worked in Catholic education for a number of years.

After half term we are very pleased to also welcome two new full-time teaching assistants - Magdalena Grabarczyk and Emily Glynn. We look forward to them joining the staff team.

Watford Foodbank

There is a display in Holy Rood Church with information about Watford Foodbank. So far this year your generosity has meant 425kg of food has been donated. Well done everyone.

***'For I was hungry, and you gave me food.
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink.
I was a stranger and you welcomed me'***

Matthew 25:35

The next date for Foodbank donations is **Thursday 8th June**.

Holy Communion

Congratulations to all our children in Key Stage 2 who are either preparing to make their First Holy Communion or who have recently celebrated this special sacrament. These children and their families will be in our prayers at this special time.

Twitter

News is regularly posted on our Twitter page. Our Twitter name is **@watford_st**
Please follow us if you are able to use Twitter.

Year 2 and Year 6 SATs

Well done to our Year 2 and Year 6 children who have recently taken part in the statutory assessments. The children have all worked very hard and should be proud of their positive attitudes throughout this time. The Year 6 SATs breakfast was very well attended – who knew toast/croissants and juice were so popular !!?

Early Years Garden and whole school appeal

Katy and the Early Years Team have been busy purchasing some new garden equipment. They would like to thank Mr. Madden, Mr. Goodchild, and Mr. Palacios for all their help and time with putting together the 'mud kitchen' and shed.

You will have received a letter yesterday from Year 5 appealing for donations of plants etc – if you are able to help we would be very grateful.

St Anthony's Fundraising Group

Thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaire. The winning form pulled from the box was Alison Kelly-Keegan, mum of Lorcan K – Year 3 Padua. Congratulations you have won an Atria voucher. Please come into the school office after half term to claim your voucher.

Cultural Diversity Day – Friday 23rd June

Bella, our Year 5 Lisbon teacher, is also our co-ordinator for Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity. Bella is organising a Cultural Diversity Day on **Friday 23rd June**. She would like all the children to wear national costumes or clothes with colours of a flag they identify with.

One of the best things about our school is the wide range of cultures represented in our children, parents and staff and we would like to show off this amazing diversity with a full day of celebrations!

We would really appreciate parent volunteers from each class who are willing to come into their child's class and share experiences/food/songs/dancing – anything you could offer to help make this day even more special. Please see your child's class teacher if you would like to help.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **94%** from 2nd September to 24th May. Unfortunately, this is still below the 96% minimum target set by the Government.

Requests for holidays/days out cannot be authorised. It is vital that children are present in school every day. Good attendance is vital for the children to make progress in school.

Nursery	89%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Reception	94%	91%
Year 1	92%	93%
Year 2	95%	94%
Year 3	96%	94%
Year 4	94%	94%
Year 5	96%	95%
Year 6	97%	95%

Well done to **Year 6 Lisbon** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following children:

Reception Padua

Olivia B received a Learn to Swim Stage 1 certificate

Year 1 Padua

Rory K received a Learn to Swim Stage 2 certificate

Year 2 Lisbon

Serah J achieved a Rainbow Distance for 25m for swimming

Year 4 Padua

Noah O was the U9 winner in a football tournament for Aylesbury FC

Year 5 Lisbon

Amal P who was awarded a 1st place Golf Trophy from Top Golf

Timmy A received a Canal and River Trust certificate for fishing

Dates for your diary

Friday 26 th May	Half term finishes: 2.25pm – Reception classes 2.30pm – Years 1-6
Sunday 28 th May	Pentecost Sunday
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	HALF TERM
Monday 5 th June	Term begins
Tuesday 6 th June	Nursery and Reception Padua Pentecost retreats
Thursday 8 th June	Reception Lisbon Pentecost retreat
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th June	Year 6 Isle of Wight residential school journey
Tuesday 13 th June	St Anthony of Padua Feast Day Year 4 & 5 will celebrate mass in our school hall at 9.15am. Parents are welcome. All children will take part in special 'St Anthony' activities during this day.
Monday 19 th June	Year 1 Lisbon & Padua will take part in a History interactive day in school – more details to follow in class updates
Tuesday 20 th June	Year 2 Lisbon & Padua visit Bucks County Museum for a Roald Dahl trip – more details to follow in class update
Wednesday 21 st June – Friday 23 rd June	Dog Trust Charity to lead workshops with the children
Thursday 22 nd June	Year 5 to visit Mountfitchet Castle - more details to follow in class update
Friday 23 rd June	Cultural Diversity Day – details above
Wednesday 28 th June	Year 2 Lisbon and Padua to attend 12pm mass at Holy Rood Church
Thursday 29 th June	Feasts of Saints Peter and Paul Year 3 class mass – time to be confirmed in class update – Parents welcome
Friday 30 th June	Nursery Sports morning 10.00am -11.30am Parents welcome
Monday 3 rd July	Year 3 visit to Reveley Lodge - more details to follow in class update
Thursday 6 th July	Year 5 & 6 Summer production Performances at 2.00pm & 7.00pm tickets will be issued in due course
Friday 7 th July	Padua classes in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 sports morning 10.00am – 12.00pm Lisbon classes in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 sports afternoon 1.30pm-3.30pm
Monday 10 th July	Year 2 Padua visit Wenzels bakery - more details to follow in class update Year 6 leavers' mass – 2.00pm – Year 6 parents welcome - more details to follow in class update
Tuesday 11 th July	Year 2 Lisbon visit Wenzels bakery - more details to follow in class update Year 4 Padua & Lisbon visit Aylesford Friary for their Rosary retreat- more details to follow in class update
Wednesday 12 th July	Year 6 leavers disco – for children in Year 6 only 5.30pm-7.30pm

Thursday 13 th July	Year 6 transition day at their new secondary schools
Monday 17 th July	Reception Padua visit to Hudnall Park - more details to follow in class update
Tuesday 18 th July	Reception Lisbon visit to Hudnall Park - more details to follow in class update
Wednesday 19 th July	Year 6 leavers assembly -9.15am - Year 6 parents welcome Term finishes: 2.25pm – Reception classes 2.30pm – Years 1-6