



# SEPTEMBER 2023 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

*We Grow and Learn with Jesus*

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Welcome

It was lovely to see the children return to school after their summer break. They have all settled in very well into their new classrooms and I have been delighted to see how much work has already been achieved. I would like to welcome all our new Nursery and Reception children and parents to the St. Anthony's community. **Class updates** for parents with children in Year 1- Year 6 are written by your child's teacher will continue to be emailed to you every Friday. These are also posted in the class tab on our school website. The class updates are an excellent source of information for parents. They will inform you about the learning that has taken place during the week, Weekly Mission and the weekly Wellbeing activity. It will also advise you of anything you can do at home to prepare your child with forthcoming learning. Please continue to read the updates every week.

## [Message from Fr Gerard – Parish priest of Holy Rood Church](#)

To the parents/carers of St Anthony's School,

**A new style Family Catechesis programme will begin in Autumn 2023 for children and their parents in Year 3 and above in primary schools. This will replace the old style First Holy Communion programme. If your child hasn't made their First Holy Communion, they are invited to join this programme. They need to be registered with Holy Rood parish and attend mass at Holy Rood each week. The celebration of First Holy Communion will probably take place in the Autumn of 2024 when the children and parents are fully prepared and committed.**

God Bless,

Fr Gerard

## Thank you

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for all the cards, presents and good wishes we received at the end of the summer term. Your kindness and support is much appreciated.



In July our Year 6 leavers' parents presented the school with a beautiful outdoor statue of Blessed Mary which has been placed in our prayer garden and a lovely stained-glass artwork for our new chapel. These are wonderful gifts to the school, and we are very grateful to the parents and children of last year's Year 6.

## **Fr Tim Mangatal- our new school Chaplain and Bishop Paul Mass/ blessing of new chapel**

As you will know from previous newsletters Fr Alex has now started at his new parish in London. We were very fortunate that Fr Alex was able to spend time introducing us to our new school chaplain, Fr Tim. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Fr Tim to our school community. He has already visited twice, and we are really looking forward to working with him. We are delighted that Bishop Paul McAleenan is returning to St. Anthony's School on 20th September to celebrate Mass and to bless our school chapel. Bishop Paul was our school chaplain from 2001 to 2015 and he is very much a part of St. Anthony's school family. It is hugely fitting as we head towards the school's 50th anniversary that Bishop Paul will be leading us in our first School Mass of the academic year. An email explaining the organisation of this special mass was sent to parents last week.

## **Reminders of Safety**

- It is very important to keep our entrance gateway clear of cars. Parents are not able to park in the driveway to drop off/collect children at any time of the day. This is due to emergency vehicle access.
- We like to encourage children to ride scooters or bikes to school but please remind your child to dismount at the gate **before** they arrive on the playground. It is very dangerous for children to scoot/cycle around any path or playground area inside school as they could knock into children/adults. Helmets should also be worn for both these methods of transport.
- Ball games are also a safety risk before and after school as people are arriving/leaving on to the playground. Sometimes there are footballs that blow down from the school flat roof overnight but please discourage your child from playing with these.
- Earrings are **not** to be worn by children in school. The children need to take earrings out of their ears for school and put them in again when they return home. This is something we feel very strongly about in school for health and safety reasons. Plasters over the earrings are also not acceptable.
- Please can you remind your child that the trim trails are **not** to be used before or after school for safety reasons.

Thank you very much for your support with these safety reminders.

## **Twitter or X**

As well as reading our school website if you have access to Twitter we regularly post information and photographs about school events on our school twitter account which is @watford\_st You will see the feed on the front page of our school website.

## **Attendance**

As you will know from my previous newsletters, each month I report to you the most recent attendance figures across the school. This will start again in my October newsletter. If your child is absent from school please telephone/email each day to keep the school office informed. We are unable to authorise any absence for holidays/trips/visits/celebrations. Please refer to our Attendance policy on our school website for more information.

## Summer Reading Challenge

I have been delighted with the number of children who have visited their local library and taken part in the Summer Reading Challenge. If your child has not yet brought in their certificate and medal into school please encourage them to do so. **Congratulations** to the following children who completed the challenge:

|                | <b>Lisbon</b>                                      | <b>Padua</b>  |
|----------------|--|---|
| <b>Nursery</b> | Isabella H   |   |
| <b>Year 1</b>  | Katie O  |   |
| <b>Year 2</b>  | Rory K<br>Sandra<br>Sarah R                        | Sophie D  |
| <b>Year 3</b>  | Anah<br>Tola<br>Leo<br>Ria<br>Casper S<br>Sophia H | Vennilaa<br>Goodwill<br>Olivia M<br>Elisha<br>Yash<br>Kaviru<br>Zaydn<br>Lakees |
| <b>Year 4</b>  | Meisha<br>Michelle<br>Arthur<br>Melissa            | Alex D-F  |
| <b>Year 5</b>  | Clara<br>George                                    |   |
| <b>Year 6</b>  | Emily O<br>Davida                                  |   |

## Questionnaires

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who took time to complete our RE questionnaire in the summer term. Children were also being given an opportunity to complete a 'pupil questionnaire'. The results of both questionnaires will be analysed, discussed by the Senior Management Team and results will be shared in the October newsletter.

## Secondary Admissions

Please note that the deadline for secondary school applications (current Year 6) is 31st October 2023. St Michael's Catholic High School open evening is **20th September** and St Joan of Arc Catholic School open evening is **5<sup>th</sup> October**. I would encourage your child to visit these two schools as we have close links with both schools.

## Congratulations

It is always lovely to see the children with their medals and certificates. We have very many talented children! Our congratulations also go to the following children:

### Year 1 Lisbon

**Alessia C** was awarded Player of the week for Garston Ladies FC

**Millie K** achieved level 4 in Gymnastics

### Year 2 Lisbon

**Andrea G** won a medal for swimming from Everyone Active

### Year 2 Padua

**Rhys M** achieved his 10 metre swimming level

**Kalvin R** achieved his 10 metre swimming level

**Sara M** won a medal for taking part from Sports Set Point

### Year 3 Lisbon

**Tola D-A** won medals for taking part and achieving 5<sup>th</sup> place in a Gymnastics Competition

**Zaviyar H** was awarded Learn to Swim award – Stage 3

**Andria F** was awarded a Grade 1 singing certificate from Trinity College London

### Year 3 Padua

**Demi C** awarded certificate for Street Dance

**Evita J** awarded certificate for Street Dance

**Emer H** awarded certificate for Street Dance

**Leonine A** won a Athletics Team medal

**Sara M** won a medal for taking part from Sports Set Point

**Isabella K** won a medal and certificate for achieving Level 4 from Watford Gym Club

**Lakees M was awarded:** Acoustic Guitar certificate, Maths Challenge Certificate and trophy

Certificate and medal for completing 3 years at Jigsaw performance school, 10m Rainbow Distance Award

and 2 trophies, 5 medals and 6 certificates from Watford Tamil Kalvikkoodam

### Year 4 Lisbon

**Melissa M** achieved level 4 in Gymnastics

### Year 5 Lisbon

**Reyah H** was awarded Learn to Swim award – Stage 4

**WHOLE SCHOOL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Mon 11th Sept               | Forest School begins for Y3 classes  |
| Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Holy Rood Feast Day<br>Y2 Information Evening – 5.30pm   |
| Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | Y6 Padua Swimming begins<br>Y4 Information Evening – 5.30pm                                    |
| Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Bishop Paul celebrating mass and blessing new chapel<br>Y1 Information Evening – 5.30pm        |
| Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | Flu immunisation Reception -Y6   |
| Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Cassiobury Farm to visit Y4 – more info to follow in class weekly update                       |
| Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Individual photo day   |
| Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Welcome Assembly for Nursery and Reception parents – 9.15am<br>Y5 Information Evening – 5.30pm |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct  | Y6 Information Evening – 5.30pm  |

God bless and take care,

*Elaine Harrold*

*Headteacher*