



## OCTOBER 2023 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

WE GROW AND LEARN WITH JESUS

school website [www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk) twitter/X @watford\_st

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **October – Month of Mary**

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary with the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7<sup>th</sup>. As an important feast in the Church calendar, it's a great opportunity for families to pray the Rosary. Therefore, we have made available a simple Rosary resource which can be accessed through the Collective Worship Parent Portal. <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

We hope this resource will be a useful addition to your family prayer time.

### **Grandparents/ Senior Citizen Afternoon**

We would like to invite **Grandparents** into school for our special community afternoon to watch some entertainment the children have prepared. This will include singing and dancing performed by all the classes.

This event will take place on **Thursday 19th October at 1.45pm**. After the entertainment we will serve tea and cakes to our guests. The afternoon should finish at approx 3.15pm.

If you would like **Grandparents** in your family to attend, please telephone the school office (01923 226987) to add your name to our Community Afternoon list so we have an idea of numbers.

**All of the children's performances will be repeated for parents during special assemblies so no parents will miss out. Parents will be invited to watch their child's class entertainment in a special assembly. Please see the dates for diary below for details.**

### **Bishop Paul Visit and our new chapel**

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul to our school last month. The children all enjoyed meeting him and hearing his stories about meeting Pope Francis. We are delighted with our new chapel and the children have loved visiting it for worship time.

### **School Council**

A message from our school council:

*On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October the school council will be organising a shop for Years 3,4, 5 and 6 to buy items of stationery. Soon we will be sending out a flyer with more information about the shop. Any money raised will go towards playground equipment. We will choose things that we think all the children will like.*

*From*

*Joy C Year 6 Lisbon councillor and Emma J Year 6 Padua councillor*

### **School Games Gold Mark Award**

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. Many of our pupils competed in local inter-school competitions last year and we are extremely proud of them for their dedication to all aspects of school sport. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in

the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2024!

## **RAAC**

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub.

## **Watford Food Bank**

As a Catholic School we are committed to the common good which is why we feel it is very important to continue with fundraising to support local, national and global charities. We would like to continue to support the Watford Foodbank. The foodbank relies on goodwill and support. 90% of the food distributed is donated by the public. Each month we would like to take along donations from St Anthony's School. There will be boxes next to the main entrance door, Nursery door and St Francis building door where donations can be placed. The dates for donations are listed below. Please do not donate at other times as we do not have the storage capacity within school to keep the donations. Thank you.

<b>Date for donations</b>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December

If there are any parents willing to help with transporting the donations to Watford Food Bank on the days listed above we would be very grateful. Please give your names into the school office. The list of items that the foodbank most need are:

- Long-life milk
- Long-life fruit juice
- Tinned meat + fish
- Jars of jam/ honey/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned rice pudding/custard
- Packets of jelly or sponge puddings
- Tinned vegetables
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Little chocolate bars and sweet treats

## **Support Dogs for Autism, For Epilepsy and For Disability**

To help this charity please start collecting your used stamps from letters, parcels and postcards, leaving a 1cm boarder around them. Send them into school in an envelope and they will be put into the Support Dogs collection box near the main entrance.

## **Black History Month**

October is Black History Month. Hannah, our History co-ordinator and Bella our Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity co-ordinator have planned lots of interesting activities focusing on important black men and women throughout history.

## **Parking**

Please continue to park safely outside the school and with respect for our neighbours.

## **CAFOD**

The Year 6 classes support CAFOD as their special charity. On **Friday 20th October** Year 6 will be organising a non-uniform day. Children from all classes may wear their own clothes to school for the day. We would ask for a donation of £1 (or more if you can spare it) to be donated via the School Gateway which can then be directly sent to CAFOD. Cash is no longer accepted in the school office. Thank you.

## **Staffing**

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Susie Pope who has been one of our school welfare assistants. We would like to thank Susie for all her hard work and wish her all the very best in the future.

## **Attendance Update**

The whole school attendance has been **96.2%** from the 4th September until 4th October. We are really pleased that this is over 96% and would like this to continue or even go higher this year. Well done parents and children!

A particular well done to **Year 3 Lisbon and Year 3 Padua** who achieved the highest class attendance during this time. We were also delighted that some children received 100% attendance for the last academic year – Caelyn H, Aadi P, Olivia M, Jerome V, Laura B, David J, Lucas S, Alexandra D, Natalia G, Theo D, Deborah U, Denise D L.

The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	92%	
	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>Padua</b>
Reception	97%	92%
Year 1	97%	97%
Year 2	96%	96%
Year 3	98%	98%
Year 4	97%	96%
Year 5	97%	97%
Year 6	97%	96%

## **Support for Parents**

DSPL9 offer support for parents and children through a number of workshops and courses. Their latest newsletter can be accessed here [Link to newsletter](#)

This newsletter is updated fortnightly and can be accessed through the DSPL9 website.

## **Trainee Educational Mental Health Practitioner**

We are delighted to have support from our local Mental Health Support Team, with Sam Marriott on site each Wednesday to offer a range of support with any concerns regarding mental health. Please see her introduction below which was initially shared with parents in July:

*Hello there!*

*My name is Sam Marriott, and I am a trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner (or EMHP) working with the Watford Mental Health Support Team.*

*I will be based at St Anthony's every Wednesday from September.*

*My role at school will involve a few different things - all aimed at working to support children, families and staff with their mental health and wellbeing.*

*It will include working with parents/carers (using guided self-help) to support them in addressing behaviour or anxiety issues that their child might be experiencing.*

*I will also be able to provide workshops to pupils, staff, and parents around a mix of issues that may impact on wellbeing, and which might be helpful to the school community.*

*I am looking forward to working with you and your children!*

*As parents/carers, if you are interested in receiving support from our service, please contact Melanie Brimicombe to discuss a potential referral.*

*(For any information about our service please contact [hpft.mhstwatford@nhs.net](mailto:hpft.mhstwatford@nhs.net))*

## **Congratulations**

Our congratulations go to the following children:

### **Year 1 Lisbon**

Millie K was awarded a Gymnastics Stage 4 certificate for vault.

Belle R was awarded a Gymnastics Stage 4 certificate for vault.

Amelia F was awarded a Level 2 Swim England certificate.

India T was awarded a Learn to Swim Stage 1 certificate.

### **Year 1 Padua**

Niviana R was awarded a Learn to Swim Stage 1 certificate.

Dev K was awarded a Learn to Swim Stage 2 certificate.

### **Year 3 Lisbon**

Aaron R received his Summer Reading Challenge Certificate

Caspar S passed his grade 2 violin practical with merit.

### **Year 4 Padua**

Samanyu P was awarded a trophy and a medal for Bushey Cricket Club Batsman of the Year.

### **Year 5 Lisbon**

Bobby N was awarded a winners' medal for a football tournament from Bushey Rangers FC.

### **Year 5 Padua**

Samuel U received his Summer Reading Challenge Certificate

Roberta K received her Summer Reading Challenge Certificate

### Dates for your Diary

Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 to take part in a Deanery Tournament for netball and football at St Michael's High School.
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	World Mental Health Day – children will discuss this in class.
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 Lisbon retreat day at Holy Rood Church
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Watford Foodbank drop off donation day.
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 Lis to take part in The One World Festival at St Michael's School  Year 5 cross country running at Fullarians
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Grandparents/Senior Citizen afternoon 1.45pm. Grandparents/Senior Citizens only – parents invited to see the class assemblies in the <b>bold</b> dates listed below.
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	CAFOD fundraising day - £1 donation please via School Gateway.  School finishes for half term break at <b>3.30pm</b> .
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct – Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Half term</b>
Mon 30 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Term begins <b>Year 6 Padua and Year 6 Lisbon parents' special assembly 9.15am</b>
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	<b>Reception Padua and Reception Lisbon parents' special assembly 9.15am</b>
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	All Saints Day
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	All Souls Day
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Y5 Cycling Training begins
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Late Parents Evening for all classes</b> – 6pm – 9pm. Emails will be sent out the week before half tern to sign up for a slot.
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Year 1 Padua and Year 1 Lisbon special assembly for parents 9.15am</b>  <b>Early Parents Evening for all classes</b> – 3.50pm- 6.30pm. Emails will be sent out the week before half tern to sign up for a slot.
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Year 2 Padua and Year 2 Lisbon special assembly for parents 9.15am</b>
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Year 4 Padua and Year 4 Lisbon special assembly for parents 9.15am</b>
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Sunday
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Year 5 Padua and Year 5 Lisbon special assembly for parents 9.15am</b>
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Year 3 Padua and Year 3 Lisbon special assembly for parents 9.15am</b>

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

*Elaine Harrold*

