



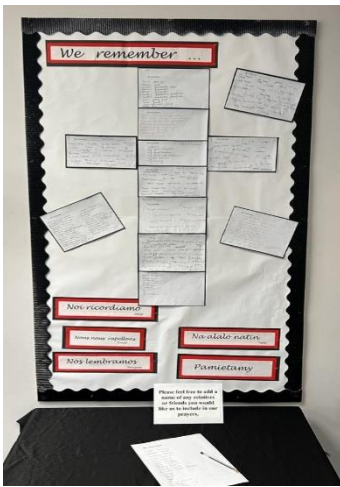
NOVEMBER 2023 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

Dear Parents/Carers,

November – All Souls

Our All Souls Day display is now in the main entrance (see image below). If any parents would like to add names of family/friends who have passed away please add their names to the sheet on the display table. These names will be included in our prayers throughout November.



CAFOD

Thank you so much for your generosity in contributing to our CAFOD collection last month. We were delighted to have raised **£409.78** for CAFOD. The children attended assemblies which were led by Jeffrey Pratley, a CAFOD representative, he explained how the money will be distributed to people in need around the world.

Remembrance Day

Children have been taking part in Remembrance Day activities this week and will be taking part in special class liturgies on Friday.

Staffing

We were sorry to say goodbye to Caitlin Gorman last week. Caitlin has been a teaching assistant with our Key Stage One classes and an After School Club leader. We will all miss Caitlin and thank her for all her hard work. We wish her every success as she starts her new full-time job with a local company.

We are delighted to welcome two new classroom assistants, Ashleen Keyes and Shanika Fernando, and two new After School Club leaders, Erin Lohan and Niamh Trendell. They will be joining our school staff team very soon.

Nativity Performances

Nursery and Reception Nativity Performance

This performance will take place on **5th December at 11am** for Nursery and Reception parents.

Years 1 and 2 – Nativity Performance ‘The Angel who nearly missed it all’ Thursday 7th December

For the Year 1 and Year 2 performance there will be an afternoon performance (2.30pm) and an evening performance (6pm).

Numbers for the evening performance will need to be restricted so we will be sending home two tickets for each family. **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.**

The afternoon performance will not be ticketed. Children below school age should be brought to the afternoon performance and not the evening performance.

Community Afternoon and Class Assemblies.

Our Community afternoon was very well attended by grandparents and senior citizens from the local community/parishes. It was lovely to welcome so many visitors. The children really enjoyed taking part in the entertainment and we received so many lovely comments from our visitors about the atmosphere in the school and the children's behaviour. It has been lovely to see our class assemblies for parents so well attended, the children have also enjoyed taking part in an activity in the classroom with their parents after the assembly.

Netball and Football

On Friday 6th October our Year 6 children took part in a Catholic Primary Schools' tournament at St Michael's High School. The children really enjoyed the day.

Below is a report from our football and netball captains: Savio and Deborah.

'We really enjoyed our tournament at St Michael's. We met lots of children from other Catholic schools.'

Savio - 'Our football team lost the first match but won the next two matches. We won the quarter final and then the semi-final. In the final we lost 3-1 against Holy Rood. Denzel scored the goal in the last seconds of the match. As football captain I was very proud of the team, even though we lost we congratulated Holy Rood as they deserved the win'.

Deborah - 'In the netball we won the first three matches which got us through to the quarter finals. We won the quarter final and then we won the semi-final ! In the final we played Divine Saviour but lost. I was very happy for my team to get to the finals as it was a real achievement. We were pleased for Divine Saviour and handed over the trophy as we were the winners last year.'

Attendance Update

A reminder to all parents that time off school for visiting overseas relatives for a length of time will **not** be authorised. Children must attend school every day. Any days of absence have a big impact on children's progress. Children who have an attendance percentage below 90% are considered persistent absentees.

The whole school attendance has been **96%** from **2nd September** until **9th November**. The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	90%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Reception	95%	93%
Year 1	96%	95%
Year 2	95%	96%
Year 3	98%	96%
Year 4	96%	95%
Year 5	97%	96%
Year 6	97%	96%

Well done to **Year 3 Lisbon** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

Christmas Lunch

On **Wednesday 13th December** the children will be able to have a Christmas lunch as one of their choices on School Grid.

PFA event

Many thanks to the parents who organised the recent Mr Banana Head afternoon. The children had a lovely time. It would be lovely to receive offers of help to support the small group of parents who are trying to organise future activities. A letter will be sent out shortly with information regarding the next event.

Mental Health

We will be running a workshop led by Sam, our Education Mental Health Practitioner, on Wednesday 22nd November at 9:00 - 9:45 on Understanding Anxiety and Building Resilience/Emotional Regulation Skills in your Child.

Parents of children in Year 4, 5 and 6 will have received a letter last week inviting them to an **Online Safety** information evening and a separate workshop evening with their child. We feel these will be vital for parents to attend as there are growing concerns about what children are exposed to online. Please try and attend in order to gain advice and support. The dates are listed below in the dates for diary section.

Health and Safety

We have received concerns from parents that at drop and collection time there are sometimes adults smoking/vaping on the driveway of the school where children walk through. We do not allow smoking/vaping anywhere on our school premises, but we also would request that the driveway is also kept free of smoke too.

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

Thank you.

Training day - Date for Diary

School will be closed on **Monday 26th February 2024** for a staff INSET day.

Congratulations

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

Year 1 Lisbon

Alessia C was awarded 'Player of the Day' trophy from Garston Ladies.

Amelia F was awarded a level 4 Floor certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club.

Year 2 Padua

Rhys M was awarded a trophy from Evergreen FC for Under 7's Player of the match.

Year 3 Lisbon

Sophia H was awarded Level 3 of the Gymnastic Proficiency Awards was awarded the 15m Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Abel C was awarded medals and certificates for completing the summer reading challenge.

Year 3 Padua

Elisha A achieved achievement certificates from Education City.

Year 4 Lisbon

Melissa M was awarded the 5 metre Rainbow Distance certificate.

Year 4 Padua

Francesca R was awarded a dancing certificate for taking part in the Filipino community talent night.

Year 5 Padua

Tristan K came 2nd place in the Cassiobury Tennis tournament

Year 6 Lisbon

Joy C was awarded a Learn to Swim Stage 5 certificate.

Lana L featured in a Phoenix comic for her art work.

Year 6 Padua

Angel S was awarded a 3rd place certificate and trophy for a dance solo for Oxford Region Bible Kalotsavam.

Adeeshe C was awarded a Learn to Swim Stage 6 certificate and completed the Summer Reading challenge.

	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Mon 13 th Nov	Year 5 Padua and Year 5 Lisbon special assembly for parents 9.15am Anti-bullying week begins. Children will be taking part in activities in their class.
Tues 14 th Nov	Year 3 Padua and Year 3 Lisbon special assembly for parents 9.15am Year 5 classes visit St Joan of Arc School. Magistrates visit Year 6 classes.
Weds 15 th Nov	Mini Vinnie children to attend mass at Holy Rood Church- 12pm.
Thurs 16 th Nov	Representatives from Year 6 to visit Watford FC to attend 'Show Racism the red card' event.
Fri 17 th Nov	Year 3 and Year 4 mass in school hall 9.15am - Parents welcome.
Tues 21 st Nov	6pm -7pm Online Safety information evening for parents of children in Years 4, 5 and 6.
Weds 22 nd Nov	Anxiety workshop 9.00-9.45am in school led by Sam Marriott.
Fri 24 th Nov	Occasional Day – school closed
Mon 27 th Nov	Year 1 Advent Retreat Day in school
Weds 29 th Nov	Year 5 classes attend mass at Holy Rood Church – 12pm Year 6 Online Safety workshop for parents and Y6 children 6pm – 7pm.
Thurs 30 th Nov	Year 2 Advent Retreat Day in school
Sun 3 rd Dec	First Sunday in Advent
Tues 5 th Dec	Reception and Nursery Nativity performance for parents – 11am Online Safety workshop for parents and Year 4 and Year 5 children 6pm – 7pm.
Tues 5 th Dec	Nursery and Reception classes Nativity Performance for Parents – 11am. Details to follow.
Thurs 7 th Dec	Year 1 and 2 classes Christmas performance for parents – 2.30pm and 6pm. Details to follow
Fri 8 th Dec	Key Stage 2 Choir to sing at Holy Rood Church – details to follow
Tues 12 th Dec	Year 2 visit Watford Palace theatre for Cinderella – details to follow
Weds 13 th Dec	Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper fundraising day – more details to follow.
Fri 15 th Dec	Class parties – details to follow in class updates.
Mon 18 th Dec	Year 1 and Year 2 to experience Living Nativity by Ark Farm – details to follow. Year 6 visit Bletchley Park for WWII visit.
Tues 19 th Dec	Term ends at 1.30pm for the Christmas holidays.
Thurs 4 th Jan 2024	School resumes.

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

Elaine Harrold