



DECEMBER 2023 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk twitter/X @watford_st

Dear Parents/Carers,

December – Advent

The children have been taking part in many Advent activities in preparation for Christmas. All classes have Advent displays and each day they spend time reflecting on this special time. Stephanie, one of our EYFS Teaching Assistants kindly decorated our beautiful Advent wreath holder with purple, white and pink candles. This is placed in our main entrance and is used for assemblies during prayers with the children. This wreath stand was a gift from Mrs Wilson, our previous Headteacher when she retired, so it is very special to us.



RE Inspection

Last week in school an inspection was undertaken by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. The inspection is both an Archdiocesan and a statutory responsibility. The purpose of inspection is to report to and advise the Bishop on the quality of the Catholic life and mission of the school of religious education and of collective worship. It is also to inform parents and the wider Catholic community. Inspectors observed learning and acts of worship, talked to staff, parents, governors and pupils and they analysed RE data. We were very proud of the behaviour and enthusiasm of the children through the days of inspection. We are also very grateful to parents who managed to complete the anonymous questionnaires for the inspection team. The inspection culminates in a written report that will be sent to you as soon as we receive it.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumpers

On **Wednesday 13th December** the children will be able to have a Christmas lunch as one of their choices on School Grid. **All children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day.** They can wear this with trousers or a skirt instead of their usual school uniform.

Thank you !!

A HUGE thanks for the wonderful donations of gifts donated to the South West Herts Partnership. They were overwhelmed with your generosity and the response to their appeal. In the photograph below you can see Ella one of the representatives from SWHP- she was delighted when the Mini Vinnie group loaded all the goodies into her car. The gifts will be now distributed to many families. Well done everyone!



Solar Panels

We are delighted that the solar panels have now been successfully installed across the roofs of the EYFS and St Francis buildings. This work finished before schedule as the deliveries of materials were not held up and the weather was kind ! The scaffolding will also be removed shortly. We can already see the savings we are making to our energy budget.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **96%** from **2nd September** until **7th December** . The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	90%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Reception	95%	92%
Year 1	96%	95%
Year 2	95%	96%
Year 3	97%	96%
Year 4	95%	95%
Year 5	96%	96%
Year 6	96%	95%

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

PE Equipment

We are very concerned about the amount of children who do not have correct PE uniform for when they take part in outdoor lessons. ALL children from Years 1 -6 take part in outdoor PE. Wellington boots are not safe footwear for PE. Every child must have a pair of trainers to wear and grey joggers in colder weather.

Online Safety Workshops

I hope the Year 4,5 and 6 parents who attended these Dignify workshops found them useful. We thought they were an excellent way of how to help understand how to support children how to stay safe online. We hope in future we may have more parents attending such essential training.

School Closure and Training day - Dates for Diaries

As you will know from the letters that have been sent out school is having some unavoidable maintenance work carried out in the main boiler room. Therefore, school will reopen after the Christmas holiday on Monday 8th January.

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

Neurodiversity Support Hub and DSPL Coffee Morning

For information about the services above please read the attached flyers.

Year 5 Bikeability course

Congratulations to all the Year 5 children who recently completed their Bikeability course. They were praised by the course leaders for their enthusiasm and sensible behaviour. Well done.

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:

Nursery

Diego C has been awarded the Duckling 1 swim award

Reception Lisbon

Ella H received a Duckling 1 certificate and a Learn to Ride certificate from the Cycle Hub

Year 1 Lisbon

Alex C was awarded Level 4 Gymnastics through Dream, Believe, Achieve

Katie O received a Water Skills 1 certificate

Millie K received a Tapathon certificate

Bianca C Learn to Swim Stage 2 and 3 certificate

Year 1 Padua

Keela L-R received a medal for a Reel in Irish Dancing and a 3rd place trophy for a light jig

Year 2 Lisbon

Rebecca P achieved the level 4 certificate for Gymnastics Floor Work

Year 2 Padua

Vennilaa P has been awarded the Duckling Stage 4 award

Matas D received a Learn to Swim Stage 2 certificate

Harrison K – received a Let's Play Sport medal for playing football and scoring 2 goals

Year 3 Lisbon

Sophia H achieved a Gymnastics Proficiency Level 2 certificate

Year 3 Padua

Luciana C received a certificate from the Little Princess Trust for donating her long hair

Evita J has had a story published in a magazine in India

Ameya R Was awarded a certificate from Explore Learning for having mastered 300 skills

Casper W received a Learn to Swim Stage 1 certificate

Leannie A received a Rainbow Distance 10 metres certificate

Elisha A received a certificate for completing 3 years at Jigsaw Performing Arts School

Year 4 Lisbon

Lorcan M was awarded a Star Performer medal from Xtra Time

Year 5 Lisbon

George S achieved Blue Belt in Karate and a Red Badge for being a general helper

Year 5 Padua

Alex Z received a Rainbow Distance 25 metres award

Noah O received a trophy from Street 2 Pro for being player of the month

Year 6 Lisbon

Emily O was awarded a 200m Rainbow Distance certificate for swimming

Sophie A received a Learn to Swim Stage 4 certificate

	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Fri 8 th Dec	Key Stage 2 Choir to sing at Holy Rood Church after 12pm mass.
Tues 12 th Dec	Year 2 visit Watford Palace theatre for the Cinderella Pantomime.
Weds 13 th Dec	Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day – see above for details.
Thurs 14 th Dec	PFA disco for Years 1-4 - details have been sent in previous emails from the PFA.
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. Year 6 visit Bletchley Park for WWII visit.
Tues 19 th Dec	Term ends for children at 1.30pm for the Christmas holidays.
Thurs 4 th and Fri 5 th Jan 2024	Home learning.
Mon 8 th Jan 2024	School resumes. Year 6 Padua swimming lessons and Year 5 Forest School .

Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for your support throughout 2023.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold