



JANUARY 2024 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and Thank You

Happy New Year. It has been lovely to welcome back the children after their Christmas break. They have all settled in so well and I received comments during a tour of prospective parents about how happy, calm and studious they all are.

We would like to thank you for the many Christmas messages, cards and gifts that all the staff received at the end of last term. Your generosity, kindness and support is **very** much appreciated.

RE Inspection – Section 48 Report

We were delighted to receive the recent RE Inspection report. This has now been sent to all parents with a letter from our Chair of Governors. I would like to thank our fantastic children whose behaviour was described as 'exemplary' and also thank our dedicated staff team and governors who work so hard. A huge thank you to the parents/carers who spoke so highly of the school to the inspectors and whose words made up much of the report – thank you so much !

We are very pleased that the inspectors enjoyed the time they spent in our school and decided that we should receive an Outstanding grade in all areas inspected. Below are the words taken from a letter we received from the **Chief Inspector of Schools – Nancy Conoboy**:

'Many congratulations to all of the staff, pupils, leadership team and the governors of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School on this Outstanding CSI inspection report.

Having accompanied the inspection team, I can see that the report has really captured what it is like to be a member of your school community. It conveys the strength of Mission within the school and the full and active way, the children respond to the call to action. It highlights the sense of community and the quality of relationships shared by all pupils and staff. It rightly celebrates the mutual respect for the dignity of others and the vibrant and generous welcome to the families of the Watford community. The time, effort and energy dedicated to Religious Education results in creative lessons the children enjoy and value. Furthermore, the way in which scripture is introduced enriches the experience and plays a valuable role in developing the children's theological thinking. St Anthony's clearly is a 'beacon of light' in the community, making possible, a daily, tangible encounter with the Gospel, ensuring Christ is truly present to all. If the pupils in your care go on to emulate this, the contribution they will make, will be very great indeed'.

School Fundraising - PFA

Thank you so much to our dedicated PFA team for organising the disco evening enjoyed by so many of our younger children. This raised £1,088 and we are delighted to announce that Barclays Bank will 'match fund' that amount and contribute a further £1,000. I would like to thank Theresa Kenny for organising this additional funding for the school. Our very small team of PFA volunteers would love to welcome more parents who would like to offer to help. This means they can plan and organise more events for the children. The PFA will be sending out a letter very soon.

After School Club and Breakfast Club

I would like to thank Amal P, Kayleigh L, Timmy A and Emily S in Year 6 who helped me to choose some new equipment, games and resources for our two clubs. They were really sensible and considered carefully what all the children might like - I was especially impressed with how they considered the needs of not just the older children but also the youngest children who attend the clubs. We are hoping the orders will arrive very soon and can be enjoyed by all.

Xtra Time

Xtra Time Club have attached a flyer to this newsletter to share the wraparound care that they offer to parents.

eSafety

We would like to ask you to have a chat with your child to remind them that all of their personal information, including mobile numbers are kept private. We know that some of the older children have mobile phones and are able to talk to each other when they are at home, please can you remind the children that they should not be giving out anyone else's number. Could you also remind your child that if they are setting up groups where they can talk to each other, only add people to the groups who would like to be in them. If a child chooses to leave the group then this decision must be respected. We know that the children enjoy talking to each other outside of school but we just want them to remember the importance of reflecting their everyday conduct with their online conduct. We would also like to make you aware of the age rating of the following social media/messaging platforms:

WhatsApp 16+

Snapchat 13+

DisCord 13+

Instagram 13+

TikTok 13+

Building Work

The building work which took place in our boiler room early in January was completed successfully. Thank you for your patience during this time of school closure.

Parking outside the school

It is very important consideration is shown to the Holywell community who live very close by to our school. It is very frustrating for them when their car is blocked in. Our local community police have been contacted regarding ongoing issues so you may have noticed as increased police presence recently. The main entrance to the school must also not be used for dropping off or collecting children - this includes parents arriving for breakfast club and after school club. The reason for this is the driveway needs to be kept clear for emergency vehicles and for staff entering/exiting. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Watford Foodbank

The donations towards Watford Foodbank will continue this term. The staff of the Foodbank have passed on their thanks for all your generosity especially during these difficult times. The next dates for donations are:

Thursday 1st February

Thursday 7th March

The Foodbank boxes will be located by the doors of St Francis building, Main entrance and Nursery door.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from 1st September until the 12th January. We are nearly reaching the **96%** minimum target set by the Government. A big **WELL DONE** to **Year 3 Lisbon** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

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

Emergency School Closure

In the event of a school closure due to severe weather, we will alert you via email on the morning of the school closure. We will also post information on the school website and on Twitter/X.

Reminder - INSET - Date for Diary

School will be closed on **Monday 26th February 2023** for a staff INSET day.

Congratulations

Please encourage your child to bring in any achievement certificates or medals as I love to see them.

Our congratulations go to the following children:

Year 1 Lisbon

Khaleesi D was awarded a level 6 certificate for Gymnastics

Aliah P was awarded level 7 certificate for Gymnastics

Year 3 Lisbon

Sophia H was awarded a Learn to Swim stage 3 certificate.

Laurelle R was awarded two certificates from Primary Stars.

Year 3 Padua

Olivia M was awarded a Learn to Swim stage 1 certificate.

Ameya R received a certificate from Explore Learning for mastering 400 skills.

Year 4 Lisbon

Melissa M achieved a Gymnastics Proficiency Level 3 certificate.

Hannah M was awarded level 4 for the Learn to Swim Awards.

Year 6 Padua

Theo D was awarded the 20m Rainbow Distance Award for swimming.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates for masses will be included in the RE newsletter which will be sent out later this week.

Weds 17 th Jan	Eco Group to attend a WFC 'Social Action Trip' to the Watford training ground in London Colney.
Fri 19 th Jan	11.30am Nursery Parents meeting 3pm Reception parents Phonics meeting
Sun 28 th Jan	Racial Justice Sunday
Fri 2 nd Feb	Candlemas - The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus. Children will attend special assemblies.
Weds 14 th Feb	Ash Wednesday
Fri 16 th Feb	School finishes for half term. Reception classes 3.25pm finish. Years 1- 6 3.30pm finish.
Mon 19 th Feb to Fri 23 rd Feb	Half term
Mon 26 th Feb	Staff training day.
Tues 27 th Feb	Children return to school.
Weds 28 th Feb	Year 5 visit the Harry Potter Studios

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

