



FEBRUARY 2024 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Journey through Lent

On **Wednesday 14th February** all children will receive ashes for Ash Wednesday during special services. We will discuss the importance of prayer, alms giving and fasting as we journey together through the season of Lent over the next six weeks.

Art Exhibition

The children throughout the school have been working very hard to create a self-portrait in different artistic styles. I have seen some wonderful work being created. An art company called 'Images School Art Exhibitions' will be framing these works of art and they will be displayed in the school hall on **Wednesday 6th March for Padua parents to view and Thursday 7th March for Lisbon parents**. These will be on sale to parents after the exhibitions. More details will follow nearer the time.

Charity Cake Sale

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the Friday cake sales -the EYFS team have raised **£213** for the **Watford Foodbank**. The next Foodbank collection is Thursday 7th March. Collection boxes will be outside the main doors in the usual places. If you are able to donate anything they would be very grateful. They are currently looking for:

- Long-life milk
- Long-life fruit juice
- Tinned meat + fish
- Jars of jam/ honey/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread
- Tinned fruit
- Instant mashed potato
- Tinned tomatoes
- Bags of sugar (especially 500g bags)
- Tinned rice pudding/custard
- Packets of jelly or sponge puddings
- Tinned vegetables
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Little chocolate bars and sweet treats

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

This year on **World Book Day** we will be supporting a charity called **Children with Cancer UK**. This charity has been chosen by staff in our Year 3 classes. They would like the whole school to take part by making a donation via The Gateway. On Thursday 7th March there will be a '**Cosy and Comfortable Day**' where the children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas, a onesie or an oodie. They will take part in many book related activities throughout the day whilst wearing their pyjamas. The reason for the link to pyjamas is many children undergoing treatment will stay overnight in hospitals and their familiar pyjamas can be a great source of comfort. During recovery, families can go through multiple pairs of sleepwear in a

short space of time as their child will spend most of their time in bed or on a sofa. The donations will be sent to Children with Cancer UK after World Book Day.

School Nursing Team

Please find attached the Winter Term newsletter from the School Nursing Team.

Year 6 Transition Support

As part of our work with the Mental Health Support Team, Sam Marriott (our Education Mental Health Practitioner) has organised some workshops based on transition to secondary school. One of these workshops will be delivered in class with the children on Wednesday 28th February, and will be based on the thoughts and feelings around transition, with lots of practical tips, advice and reassurance given. There will also be a workshop delivered to Year 6 Parents on the same date - **Wednesday 28th February at 5pm** in the school hall

Social Media

As mentioned in the January newsletter. We are still experiencing a lot of children discussing messages they receive through groups that they are too young to be a part of. The age restrictions for these groups are:

WhatsApp 16+

Snapchat 13+

DisCord 13+

Instagram 13+

TikTok 13+

There is a reason for these age restrictions as children are not mature enough yet to deal with the consequences of messaging/communicating. In school we experience the upset when children write inappropriate messages or post unkind things about other children or even staff. It is vital that if parents decide to issue their child with a phone they must be in full control of when and how the children are using it. Some children are arriving in school tired from online gaming or using phones late into the night – this leads to poor behaviour and concentration which affects their learning.

Parents' Evenings

Please sign up for one of the parents' evening slots for either **Tuesday 12th March or Wednesday 13th March**. The online sign up appointment system will be go live on 27th February at 4pm and closes 10th March at 12pm. You will be emailed details of how to sign up.

School Uniform

As we are now at a halfway point of the school year, we have noticed many children are wearing plimsolls that need replacing. If your child brings home their plimsolls at the half term it is because they need new ones. Plimsolls that are in good repair will remain in school.

Parking outside the school

Please remember to show consideration to the Holywell community who live very close by to our school. It is very frustrating for them when their car is blocked in. The main entrance to the school must not be used for dropping off or collecting children. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from 1st September until the 9th February. We are nearly reaching the **96%** minimum target set by the Government. A big **WELL DONE** to **Year 3 Lisbon** and **Year 6 Lisbon** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

Nursery	88%	
	Lisbon	Padua
Reception	93%	92%
Year 1	96%	94%
Year 2	94%	96%
Year 3	97%	95%
Year 4	96%	95%
Year 5	95%	95%
Year 6	97%	95%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds 14 th Feb	Year 5 Lisbon and Padua to visit Watford Mosque and then to attend 12pm mass at Holy Rood Church.
Thurs 15 th Feb	PFA Disco for children in Years 5 and 6.
Fri 16 th Feb	Year 5 Lisbon and Padua Harry Potter Dressing up Day End of Half Term – 3.30pm finish
Mon 19 th Feb to Fri 23 rd Feb	Half term
Fri 23 rd Feb	Nursery Admission Deadline
Mon 26 th Feb	Staff Training Day
Tues 27 th Feb	Children return to school.
Weds 28 th Feb	Year 5 Lisbon and Padua to visit the Harry Potter Studios Little Cities activity day for Reception classes. Year 6 Secondary School Transition support meeting 5pm-6pm
Thurs 29 th Feb	Year 3 Padua assembly for parents – 9.15am
Fri 1 st March	Year 5 and 6 - St David's Day Mass in our school hall 9.15am.
Mon 4 th March	Year 4 Lisbon and Padua visit St Albans Roman Museum – details to follow
Weds 6 th March	Padua parents invited to view Art Exhibition of self-portraits after school in the main hall.
Thurs 7 th March	Food Bank donation day World Book Day – 'Dress to be cosy and comfy day'. See above for details.

	Lisbon parents invited to view Art Exhibition of self-portraits after school in the main hall.
Fri 8 th March	Year 1 Lisbon and Padua Mother's Day assembly. Parents welcome. 9.15am. Year 5 Padua Stations of the Cross retreat day at St Michael's Church.
Mon 11 th March	Science Week begins
Tues 12 th March	Year 3 Lisbon assembly for parents – 9.15am Year 5 Lisbon and Padua – STEM day – details to follow. Parents' evening- 6pm – 9pm
Weds 13 th March	Whole class photograph Day Parents' evening – 3.50pm – 6.30pm.
Mon 18 th March	Year 2 Lisbon and Padua visit Knebworth House – details to follow.
Weds 20 th March	Year 4 Padua parents assembly 9.15am
Fri 22 nd March	Year 5 Lisbon Stations of the Cross retreat day at St Michael's Church.
Weds 27 th March	Year 4 Lisbon parents assembly 9.15am
Thurs 28 th March	Year 5 Lisbon and Padua Stations of the Cross assembly for parents – 9.15am Term ends at 1.30pm

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:

Nursery

Diego C was awarded 'Star of the Day' for his amazing front crawl.

Reception Lisbon

Airen H was awarded Level 4 for Floor from the Watford Gym Club.

Year 1 Lisbon

Bianca C achieved Level 6 of the Gymnastics Proficiency Awards.

Millie K was awarded 'Star of the Day' for cheerleading.

Katie O achieved Level 4 of the Gymnastics Proficiency Awards.

Lola S was awarded 'Star of the Day' for cheerleading.

Year 1 Padua

Khaleesi D was awarded three medals from Beavers for health, sport and communication.

Keela L-R was awarded trophies and a medal for an Irish Dancing Feis. She came 1st for Light Jig, 4th for single jig, 3rd for reel and 3rd for the Championship.

Year 2 Lisbon

Rebecca P achieved Level 2 for the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 2 Padua

Rhys M was awarded 'Player of the Match' by U7s Evergreen FC

Maria S achieved Ballet Primary Grade from the International Dance Teacher's Association

Year 3 Lisbon

Andria F received a certificate for singing in the 'Beginners First Concert'.

Anah O has achieved the Stage 4 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 5 Lisbon

Gianni M won a 'Man of the Match' trophy from Cassiobury Rangers FC.

Adriano J has achieved the Stage 4 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 6 Lisbon

Kayleigh L received a medal for competing in the Gymnastics regional finals.

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

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher