



April 2024 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back - Easter Blessings

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter. It was lovely to welcome the children back to school after their break – I am sure they are raring to go for their last term this academic year. We hope you all managed to enjoy some special family time during the holidays. It was wonderful to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the start of the holidays. Part of our continuation of the Easter celebrations take place on **Friday 19th April** when we have our annual 'Yellow Day'. All the children are invited to wear yellow/white clothes to school for the day with a £1 donation via The Gateway to the Catholic Children's Society.

Chapel Cross – Message from the Artist - Anton Cataldo

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Anton Cataldo, the artist asked to create a crucifixion scene for St Anthony's new chapel. Inspired by Diego Velasquez's work, I was honoured to contribute to such a meaningful space and am thrilled with the impact it will have on the faith journey of the young within our community.

To share this profound experience with a wider audience, I have created a limited edition print of the painting. Printed on exquisite Perlino Cotton textured paper (size A3), this artwork is not just a decoration but a testament to faith. Limited to 150 pieces, each signed and numbered, it's available for a modest £20. Importantly, 50% of all profits will directly support Holy Rood Parish, reinforcing our commitment to our community's spiritual and material well-being.

Below the depiction of Christ, the print features the powerful words from Isaiah: "By his wounds we are healed." It's a message of hope and healing that resonates deeply, especially in our current times.

If you feel moved to own a piece of this sacred art or wish to support Holy Rood Parish, please email me at catholicparishprints@gmail.com. I will gladly provide you with the payment details.

Thank you for considering this unique opportunity to bring a piece of our shared faith into your home.

Many thanks and God bless,

Anton Cataldo

New play equipment

We are delighted that due to on-going parent and school council fundraising we have been able to purchase some new play equipment for the Key Stage Two lunchtime play boxes, some new outdoor play frames for the Nursery garden and a new piece of climbing equipment for the Key Stage One playground. These will be in place by the beginning of May.

May Procession

We will be celebrating Our Lady's month on Ascension Day (**Thursday 9th May**) with our annual May Procession. This will take place at **9.15am**.

Each child will carry a flower and process from the Key Stage 1 playground round to the Key Stage 2 playground, singing a hymn dedicated to Mary. We will then gather round the statue of Our Lady where each Key Stage will sing a special hymn and lay flowers at the foot of Our Lady's statue. Our chaplaincy team will lead us in our special prayers.

In order for us to make this occasion special it would be lovely if you could provide your child with a single flower so that they can lay it at the foot of Our Lady's statue.

Parents, grandparents and friends are very welcome - If you would like to join us for this celebration, please wait in the Key Stage 1 playground on the morning of the procession.

Bikes and Scooters

Please ensure your child climbs off their bike or scooter and walks with it **before** they enter the school grounds. This is **very** important for the safety of our school community.

Police Community Support Officers

We have recently received another visit from our Police Community Support Officers who are very keen to ensure the Holywell community is a safe place for everyone. One of the concerns they have is the parking issues that have arisen at drop-off and collection time. Please continue to be considerate to the residents of the local community if you park nearby.

Behaviour Policy

Our Behaviour Policy has recently been updated by staff and Governors. A copy of this policy can be found on the school website under the Our School - statutory information tab.

Staffing News

I would like to welcome Ireshika Dona and Manu Iclezan to our staff team. They will both be working as 1:1 SEND Teaching Assistants.

Sports Days

As you will see below in the dates for diary section the Nursery and Key Stage Two classes will have their Sports morning/afternoon this half term.

Key Stage One classes will have their sports morning next half term. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 **PADUA** classes will be held on the morning of **Wednesday 26th June 10am -12pm**. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 **LISBON** classes will be **Friday 28th June 10 am- 12pm**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 15 th April	Term begins
Tues 16 th April	Year 3 Lisbon visit to Reveley Lodge
Weds 17 th April	Reception Easter retreat day in school
Thurs 18 th April	Year 3 Padua visit to Reveley Lodge Year 5 visit to Mountfitchet Castle Food Bank Donation Day
Fri 19 th April	Yellow Fundraising Day – see above for details
Fri 26 th April	Reception classes visit Radlett theatre
Fri 3 rd May	Year 4 Roman Day – details to follow

Mon 6 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Weds 8 th May	Year 5 Microbit workshop day in school
Thurs 9 th May	Ascension Day – Crowning of Mary at 9.15am - see info above.
Mon 13 th May to Thurs 16 th May	National SATs Week – Year 6
Weds 15 th May	Nursery and Reception classes visit Holy Rood Church
Fri 17 th May	Reception classes visit Watford Gym
Tues 21 st May	Nursery Sports morning for parents to attend – 10 - 11.30am. This is weather dependent.
Weds 22 nd May	Key Stage Two (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) Padua classes Sports afternoon 1.30 - 3.30pm - parents welcome. This is weather dependent.
Thurs 23 rd May	Key Stage Two (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) Lisbon classes Sports afternoon 1.30 - 3.30pm - parents welcome. This is weather dependent. FOODBANK DONATION DAY
Fri 24 th May	Early Years classes – mass in the Nursery Garden - 9.15am. End of half term 3.30pm finish.
Mon 27 th May – Fri 31 st May	Half term

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

Belle R has completed a high number of Park Runs. These now total half a marathon of running.

Year 1 Padua

Tessa G completed level 2A of the Kumon maths programme.

Year 2 Lisbon

Vikramaditya G completed the Rainbow Distance Awards for 10m.

Rebecca P achieved Stage 2 of the Learn to Swim Awards.

Year 2 Padua

Harrison K received a football medal from his coach for his football skills.

Natalia M received three medals and certificates from Rise Gym Club for apparatus, core skills and working together.

Year 3 Lisbon

Alicia A achieved Stage 2 of the Learn to Swim Awards.

Serah J completed the Rainbow Distance Awards for 50m.

Year 4 Lisbon

Hannah M completed the Rainbow Distance Awards for 100 m.

Maria A received a certificate for completing a year at Jigsaw Performing Arts School.

Year 6 Padua

Adeeshe C achieved Stage 7 of the Learn to Swim Awards. He also completed the Rainbow Distance Awards for 200 m and 400m.

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold