



May 2024 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Crowning of Mary

It was wonderful to see so many families and friends join us for the Crowning of Mary on Ascension Day. It was a very prayerful atmosphere and we received lots of positive comments about the children's behaviour and singing. Thank you for providing the children with such stunning flowers. They look beautiful in vases on the RE prayer tables in all the classrooms. Thank you to Martin, our RE lead and all the staff for organising the children. A special thank you to Deacon Neville for leading us in prayer and to Stephanie, our Reception Padua TA for creating Mary's beautiful crown.



Our 50th Golden Celebrations – designing a t-shirt and parents' picnic

We are very excited to be celebrating our **50th anniversary** of the school on **13th June** which is St Anthony's Feast Day. We have planned lots of celebratory activities for children to participate in.

Please can you provide your child with a basic, cheap white t-shirt so they can decorate it in school with our special fabric pens. These t-shirts need to be brought into school on **Monday 10th June**.

Below are some of the activities we have planned for our Golden week:

Monday 10th June – The children will be photographed in the shape of 50 on KS2 playground. Children will design their plain white t-shirts ready for Thursday.

Wednesday 12th June – 1974 Day. Staff will dress up in 1970's clothes. Children will wear their usual uniform. Children to experience a 1970's day at school. There will be no computers to be used all day. Text books will be used. Lots of outdoor activities e.g ball games etc

Thursday 13th June – ANNIVERSARY DAY !!!!! All the children will wear the 50th anniversary t-shirts they designed earlier in the week. They can wear this with jeans/shorts/joggers. Fr Tim will lead mass for groups of children, unfortunately we will not have the capacity to invite parents to this mass. A special message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be played on Smart boards to all classes at the end of mass. We will also upload this message on to our website for everyone to see.

At **2pm in the afternoon** we would like to invite parents/grandparents to join us for a **picnic** on the school field. Children will sit in their class groups unless their parent has joined the picnic. If so, they can sit with parents. There will not be any ball games played as this would be too dangerous. Each year group will

perform a celebratory song or dance on the netball court. During the afternoon we will also be burying a time capsule in the school grounds.

Our PFA will also soon be sending out a letter with some Golden anniversary fundraising ideas.

Staffing – Long Service

I would like to pay tribute to **Nikki Brighton** who is one of our teaching assistants in Year 3 and an after-school club leader. Nicki has been at St Anthony's for 30 years this May.

Nikki has seen very many changes over the last 30 years – this has included changes to staffing, the school site and curriculum. She has supported huge numbers of children and has been incredibly dedicated to supporting those children who need a little bit of extra help with their learning. Nikki has always been a joy to work with as she has a fabulous sense of humour, patience, honesty and compassion. This year alongside her Year 3 role Nicki has worked one day a week as our Forest School teaching assistant – her enthusiasm for outdoor learning has been infectious and it has encouraged the children to love learning outdoors too. Nikki is also one of our after school club leaders – looking after groups of children all with different ages whilst their parents work. **Thank you Nikki** – we really appreciate everything you have done for St Anthony's School.

Here is Nikki with her special celebration cake after her assembly yesterday:



Year 6 Leavers' arrangements

The Leavers' mass for Year 6 children and their parents will be on **Tuesday 16th July at 2.00pm**. This is a very special and meaningful occasion for the children. After the mass there will be light refreshments served. We have also organised an evening Leavers' disco for the Year 6 children – this will be on **10th July from 5pm – 7pm**. Year 6 parents are also very welcome to join us for the special Leavers' assembly on **Friday 19th July at 9.15am**.

Year 6 Transition to Year 7

Please see attached poster open to all Year 6's, regarding transitioning to Year 7.

Warmer weather and name labels

As the weather finally appears to be warming up please ensure your child is wearing our summer uniform, brings a sun hat for playtimes and you have applied sun lotion prior to arriving at school. All hats and **all** uniform must be clearly labelled either with a sharpie pen or iron on/sew in labels. Having all your child's clothes labelled really makes a huge difference to helping locate items. We have 450 children in school, and it can become very difficult when clothes have no names in at all.

Foodbank

Well done to our Early Years Team for organising cake sales over the last few months. A **£907 cash donation and 35.6kg of food** were taken to the Watford Foodbank last week - they were delighted with this cash donation and food from generous St Anthony's families. Well done everyone. The next days for donating to the Foodbank are **Thursday 23rd May and Thursday 27th June.**

Walk to School Week

Our school is taking part in Walk to School Week (20th-24th May). The nationwide event is organised by walking charity Living Streets and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates! This year's challenge, The Magic of Walking, encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week. Each pupil will be challenged to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or Park and Stride) to school every day for one week using the wallchart and stickers in school to log their journeys. If you live far away from school and need to drive or take public transport, try parking the car or hopping off the bus/train ten minutes away and walking the rest of the journey. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Messages regarding children's collection arrangements

Currently, we have several phone calls a day asking the office staff to pass on messages to their child about who is collecting them. It is very important that arrangements are communicated with your child in the morning before school or the night before. Due to illness our office staff numbers are low at the moment so we cannot guarantee messages can be passed on to children in class especially if phone calls are made after 2pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 17 th May	Reception Lisbon 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.
27 th May – 31 st May	Half term
Weds 5 th June	Year 1 go to mass at Holy Rood Church -more details to follow. Early Years Cultural Day – more details to follow
Thurs 6 th June	New to Nursery meeting – 9.15am Year 3 Padua visit Watford Gym
Fri 7 th June	Year 4 Animal charity day – more details to follow. Reception Padua visit Watford Gym

10 th June – 14 th June	50TH ANNIVERSARY WEEK PLEASE SEE INFORMATION ABOVE FOR ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE DURING THIS WEEK.
Fri 14 th June	Year 2 Father's Day assembly 9.15am -parents welcome.
17 th – 21 st June	Isle of Wight Residential – Year 6
Weds 19 th June	Year 3 classes visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum -more details to follow.
Thurs 20 th June	Year 3 Lisbon visit Watford Gym Year 1 classes visit Bekonscot Model Village
Mon 24 th June	New to Reception meeting – 9.15am
Weds 26 th June	Reception Padua, Year 1 Padua and Year 2 Padua - Sports morning 10am – 12pm Parents welcome. This is weather dependent.
Thurs 27 th June	Year 2 visit Roald Dahl Museum Foodbank Donation Day
Fri 28 th June	Reception Lisbon, Year 1 Lisbon and Year 2 Lisbon - Sports morning 10am – 12pm Parents welcome. This is weather dependent. Year 3 mass – school hall at 2pm. Parents welcome.

Congratulations

It is always lovely to see the children with their medals and certificates.

Our congratulations go to the following talented children:

Year 1 Lisbon

Lola S received a Star of the Day certificate for cheerleading.

Millie K received a trophy from Glen Rovers Gaelic Football Team for player of the match.

Belle R received a Star of the Day certificate for cheerleading.

Year 1 Padua

Olivia B received a certificate for Level 4 Floor for Gymnastics.

Khaleesi D was awarded a level 5 certificate from Watford Gym Club.

Year 2 Padua

Henry P received a tournament winner gold medal and trophy from Ruislip Rangers FC.

Serah J completed the Rainbow Distance Awards for 50m.

Year 3 Padua

Olivia M received a medal from her Polish School for excellent concentration.

Year 5 Lisbon

Maya M completed the Rainbow Swim Distance Awards for 100 m.

Year 5 Padua

Noah O received a trophy from Aylesbury United for winning a football tournament and his team also won the Golden Plate.

Daniella U received a certificate and badge for level 7 of the Gymnastics Proficiency Awards

Year 6 Lisbon

Aiden K received two rugby medals from Fullerians Rugby Club - for winning an Isle of Wight Festival of Rugby tournament and a medal for the end of season.

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold