



SEPTEMBER 2024 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk

twitter/X @watford_st

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome

It was lovely to see the children return to school after their summer break. They have all settled in very well into their new classrooms and I have been delighted to see how much work has already been achieved. I would like to welcome all our new Nursery and Reception children and parents to the St. Anthony's community. Nursery and Reception parents will receive weekly information via their Teams account – please ensure you check this weekly as the teachers upload a lot of information and news.

Class updates for parents with children in Year 1- Year 6 are written by your child's teacher and will continue to be emailed to you every Friday. These are also posted in the class tab on our school website. The class updates are an excellent source of information for parents. They will inform you about the learning that has taken place during the week. It will also advise you of anything you can do at home to prepare your child with forthcoming learning. **Please continue to read the updates every week.** The Weekly Mission and the weekly Wellbeing activity will be sent out on a Monday.

Thank you

On behalf of all the staff I would like to **thank you** for all the cards, presents and good wishes we received at the end of the summer term. Your kindness and support is much appreciated.



In July our Year 6 leavers' parents presented the school with a fantastic new engraved lectern for the main school hall which can be used for assemblies and masses. This was a wonderfully thoughtful gift to the school, and we are very grateful to the parents and children of last year's Year 6.

The Common Good - Watford Food Bank

As a Catholic School we are committed to the common good which is why we feel it is very important to continue with fundraising to support local, national and global charities. We would like to continue to support the Watford Foodbank. They are situated in Imperial Way, Watford. The foodbank relies on goodwill and support. 90% of the food distributed is donated by the public. The boxes for donations will next to the main entrance door, Nursery door and St Francis building door where donations can be placed. The dates for donations are listed below. Please do not donate at other times as we do not have the storage capacity within school to keep the donations.

Date for donations
Thursday 26th September
Thursday 24th October
Thursday 21st November
Thursday 12th December

Reminders of Safety

- It is very important to keep our entrance gateway clear of cars. Parents are not able to park in the driveway to drop off/collect children at any time of the day. This is due to emergency vehicle access.
- We like to encourage children to ride scooters or bikes to school but please remind your child to dismount at the gate **before** they arrive on the playground. It is very dangerous for children to scoot/cycle around any path or playground area inside school as they could knock into children/adults. Helmets should also be worn for both these methods of transport.
- Ball games are also a safety risk before and after school as people are arriving/leaving on to the playground. Sometimes there are footballs that blow down from the school flat roofs overnight but please discourage your child from playing with these.
- Earrings are **not** to be worn by children in school. The children need to take earrings out of their ears for school and put them in again when they return home. This is something we feel very strongly about in school for health and safety reasons. Plasters over the earrings are also not acceptable.
- Please can you remind your child that the trim trails are **not** to be used before or after school for safety reasons.

Summer Site Works

Over the Summer holidays our Site Manager, Tony, was very busy ensuring the school site was ready for the new term. Essential drainage work took place in the Nursery garden in order to stop a problem with an existing drain hole which would over flow in bad weather. A new soak away was installed and tarmac laid. Tree works also took place throughout the school grounds as part of our ongoing tree surgery programme. New playground markings were created for all key stages.

Our next project is to repair the pathways into school and the school driveway. We have not been able to start this until the underground drainage work was completed. As soon as we get a date for this work to commence it will be shared with parents. In the meantime, please take care when walking or exiting the school grounds. Thank you, Tony, for all your hard work looking after our school site.

Platinum School Games Mark

I was delighted to receive the news that we have been awarded the **Platinum School Games Award** for our commitment and engagement in school games for 2023-2024. We have previously achieved Gold Mark but have now been awarded a higher status. I would like to say thank you to all the staff and Anita from Watford Sports partnership for ensuring children take part in regular events and sporting activities.

A special **huge** thank you to Aimie White who is our PE lead – she is our school sports partnership link and works very hard to champion sport throughout the school and plan with the sports partnership at Queens' School.

Twitter or X

As well as reading our school website if you have access to Twitter we regularly post information and photographers about school events on our school twitter account which is @watford_st You will see the feed on the front page of our school website. Please click on the blue button to view our posts on 'X'.

Attendance

As you will know from my previous newsletters, each month I report to you the most recent attendance figures across the school. This will start again in my October newsletter. If your child is absent from school please telephone/email each day to keep the school office informed. We are unable to authorise any absence for holidays/trips/visits/celebrations. The DfE have issued new guidelines for all schools regarding attendance. We are in the process of updating our policy -details of which will be shared with parents via an information letter at the end of September.

Summer Reading Challenge

I have been delighted with the number of children who have visited their local library and taken part in the Summer Reading Challenge. If your child has not yet brought in their certificate and medal into school, please encourage them to do so. **Congratulations** to the following children who completed the challenge:

Reception Lilies : Eva J

Reception Poppies: Isabella H, Kaiden G

	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	Anna M, Nel Z, Jonah J	Jada O, Ayan C, Airen H, Ella H
Year 2	Lola S	Hayden J, Filip V, Nicholas G
Year 3	Rebecca P,	Sophie D, Nathan B, Maiya O
Year 4	Andria F, Serah J, Evelyn G, Caelyn H, Abel C, Casper S, Sophia H	Goodwill K, Ryan J, Elisha A, Yash P, Kaviru C,
Year 5	Amelia G, Lucas S	James O
Year 6	George S	

Questionnaires

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who took time to complete our school questionnaire in the summer term. We were delighted to receive over 177 responses which is fantastic. Children are also being given an opportunity to complete a 'pupil questionnaire'. The results of both questionnaires will be analysed, discussed by the Senior Management Team and results will be shared in the October newsletter.

Secondary Admissions

Please note that the deadline for secondary school applications (current Year 6) is **31st October 2024**.

St Michael's Catholic High School open evening is **18th September** and St Joan of Arc Catholic School open evening is **3rd October**. I would encourage your child to visit these two Catholic schools as we have very close links with them both.

Grandparents/ Senior Citizen Afternoon

We would like to invite **Grandparents** into school for our special community afternoon to watch some entertainment the children have prepared. This will include singing and dancing performed by all the classes. This event will take place on **Thursday 17th October at 1.45pm**. After the entertainment we will serve tea and cakes to our guests. The afternoon should finish at approx 3.15pm.

If you would like **Grandparents** in your family to attend, please telephone the school office (01923 226987) to add your name to our guest list so we have an idea of numbers. **All of the children's performances will be repeated for parents during special assemblies so no parents will miss out. Parents will be invited to watch their child's class entertainment in a special assembly. Please see the dates for diary below for details of these assemblies.**

Trip/Outings

Our office staff spend **a lot** of time chasing parents for permission on the morning of a trip. They are unable to continue to do this. Therefore, if permission from the parent/carer has not been given via the Gateway the day before the trip, then children will **not** be able to take part in the trip. Children will remain in school.

WHOLE SCHOOL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 17 th Sept	Y3 visit Watford Football Club (WFC) for a Healthy Body, Healthy Mind event
Thurs 19 th Sept	Y6 'Positive Minds' sessions begin in school with WFC. Netball Club begins for Years 5 and 6.
Weds 25 th Sept	Y3 to take part in a Cross-country festival
Mon 30 th Sept	Welcome Assembly for Reception and Nursery parents in the school hall - 9.15am Y6 visit St Michael and All Angels Church to watch a performance by a visiting Australian orchestra from Wesley College, Melbourne - details to follow. NB – no swimming lesson today for Padua.
Tues 1 st Oct	Black History Month begins. Activities and assemblies will be planned throughout the month of October. Y6 visit WFC for a Black History Workshop– details to follow. Y4 visit Cassiobury Farm - details to follow.
Tues 2 nd Oct	Brain Buddies workshops begin in Y5 led by Sam Marriott from Watford Mental Health Support Team. Year 6 parents' information evening -5.30pm
Fri 4 th Oct	St Francis of Assisi Feast Day – Y2 classes to dress as animals for the day – details to follow. Y6 to take part in St Michel's Catholic High School Football and Netball Tournament- details to follow.
Weds 9 th Oct	Year 4 parents' information evening in the school hall – 5.30pm.
Weds 16 th Oct	Year 2 parents' information evening in the school hall – 5.30pm.
Thurs 17 th Oct	Grandparents/ Senior Citizen Afternoon of entertainment - 1.45pm – 3.30pm. Please see newsletter above for more details.
Fri 18 th Oct	Reception classes assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Year 6 take part in the One World Festival at St Michael's Catholic High School.
Mon 21 st Oct	Year 1 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am
Tues 22 nd Oct	Year 5 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Visiting Children's author – Nizrana Farook to talk to Years 3 and 4.
Weds 23 rd Oct	Year 2 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am
Thurs 24 th Oct	Year 4 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am
Fri 25 th Oct	Year 3 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Whole School 'Mufti Day' – children may wear their own clothes to school – donation for school fund to made via The Gateway. School finishes at 3.30pm for half term break.
Mon 28 th Oct – Fri 1 st Nov	Half Term
Mon 4 th Nov	Children return to school. Year 6 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am

Congratulations

It is always lovely to see the children with their medals and certificates. We have very many talented children! Our congratulations also go to the following children:

Reception Poppies

Isabella H was awarded a certificate for Level 3 Pre-School from Watford Gym Club

Year 1 Lisbon

Jonah J received a Certificate from Watford Angling Trust

Year 2 Lisbon

Millie K won medals for Gaelic Football

Year 2 Padua

Sedrick C was awarded a medal from Watford Gym

Filip V received a Certificate 'Get Fishing Award' from Watford Angling Trust

Year 3 Padua

Maria S received a Certificate for completing 2 years at Jigsaw Performing Arts School

Rhys M was awarded a medal from Evergreen FC for a Summer Tournament

Year 4 Lisbon

Abel C was awarded a Certificate for Level 1 in piano

Casper S achieved Grade 3 with distinction for his violin practical from Royal Schools of Music

Serah J received a Certificate from Watford Angling Trust and a Treetop Adventure Certificate

Year 5 Lisbon

Lucas S has achieved his white/black belt in Ju Jitsu

Year 5 Padua

Jotham G was awarded a winner's trophy for Titans FC Summer Tournament

Year 6 Padua

Brandon A received a medal for climbing the O2 and two medals for 100m and 200m sprinting

Riordon L received a certificate for being 'The most improved player' for Season 23-24 from Croxley Green Football Club along with a trophy for 'Playing well' in the Under 10 Yellow Season

Daniella U achieved the Level 6 Proficiency Award from Watford Gymnastics

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher