



OCTOBER 2024 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

WE GROW AND LEARN WITH JESUS

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Dear Parents/Carers,

October – Month of Mary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. As an important feast in the Church calendar, it's a great opportunity for families to pray the Rosary together. We have many children using our chapel at lunchtime to pray together which has been lovely to see.

Health Form - Please complete

We are changing our systems for medicines/ accidents/ allergies and health concerns. We want to move to a new online system as soon as possible however we must have the up to date information for each child.

Thank you to those parents who have completed the health form sent out previously. It is very important that parents complete this form as soon as possible if your child has any long term medical conditions – which require treatment at school. There is also a link for parents to complete if your child has a food allergy – please note this has to be a medically diagnosed allergy and not just a food preference or intolerance.

All medical conditions and allergies parents inform us of will require medical evidence supplied to school.

The links to complete these forms are: (you may need to copy and paste into your browser)

Food allergy

<https://forms.office.com/e/cNcVhx5CYj>

On going medical condition

<https://forms.office.com/e/4FpxjAH0zJ>

Reading Sessions with parents

Once a month our English co-ordinators – Megan and Corinne are inviting parents/carers from all year groups to read with their child before school. This will take place in our Activity Studio near the back of the school. If you would like to join you would be very welcome. The dates this term are:

Tuesday 6th November – 8.25am – 8.45am

Tuesday 4th December – 8.25am – 8.45am

Visiting Author

We are delighted that Megan and Corinne have managed to book Nizrana Farook, a bestselling children's author to visit our school on **Tuesday 22nd October**. She will be leading assemblies for children in Key Stage One and Two and Year 4 will take part in a special workshop. If any child has a copy of one of her books at home, she is very happy to sign these books at lunchtime. Please the flyer attached for more details.

October - Black History Month

October is Black History Month. John, our Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity co-ordinator has planned lots of interesting activities focusing on important black men and women throughout history.

Parents' Questionnaire results

The Senior Management Team have analysed the results of the parents' questionnaire sent out in July. As a result of this analysis, we will:

- Send out the Wellbeing challenge and Mark 10 Mission on a separate day to the weekly update.
- Regularly remind parents/ carers of the support available from Sam our Mental Health worker and Debbie our Family Support Worker. Sam will remain on site each Wednesday to offer a range of support with any concerns regarding mental health.
- Continue to fund the Ukulele lessons for Year 4 children so that music opportunities are maintained.
- Organise an earlier Isle of Wight Meeting for Year 6 parents in the Autumn term
- Continue our link with Queens School Sports Partnership – consider any after-school clubs they may offer.
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Parking- complaints

Please continue to park safely outside the school and with polite respect for our neighbours. We received two strongly worded complaints last week from local residents. I have referred the content of these complaints to our police community support officer and the local councillor for this area.

CAFOD

The Year 6 classes support **CAFOD – Catholic Agency for Overseas Development** as their special charity. On **Friday 25th October** Year 6 will be organising a non-uniform day. Children from all classes may wear their own clothes to school for the day. We would ask for a donation of £1 (or more if you can spare it) to be donated via the School Gateway which can then be directly sent to CAFOD. Cash is no longer accepted in the school office. Thank you.

Watford Food Bank

Thank you so much to everyone who made donations in September. The Foodbank were extremely grateful. The items they require at the moment are:

- Long-life milk
- Long-life fruit juice
- Tinned meat + fish
- Jars of jam/ honey/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned rice pudding/custard
- Packets of jelly or sponge puddings
- Tinned vegetables
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Little chocolate bars and sweet treats

The next donation days are in the box below:

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

Support Dogs for Autism, For Epilepsy and For Disability

To help this charity please start collecting your used stamps from letters, parcels and postcards, leaving a 1cm boarder around them. Send them into school in an envelope and they will be put into the Support Dogs collection box near the main entrance.

DSPL9 – Delivering specialist provision locally

Please refer to the DSPL9 website for their fortnightly parents' newsletters which will keep you up to date. DSPL9 offer support for parents and children through a number of workshops and courses.

Packed Lunches - Healthy Choices

Please remember we are a nut-free school children are not able to bring in any nut-based products in their packed lunches e.g. Nutella. This is due to children having allergies.

We see some lovely, packed lunches made by parents/carers with fantastic nutritional items. For parents who are unsure what to send in for a packed lunch we would suggest a roll/ sandwich/wrap with a filling your child enjoys, a yogurt or piece of fruit, or little jelly. Cubes of cheese or vegetable sticks with small dips such a hummus are popular. A packed lunch with a lot of sugar is not advisable. Some children like to bring in a hot flask of pasta etc which is lovely but please make sure your child can open and close this independently.

Staffing

We are very pleased to welcome Rhiann Shipley to our staff team. Rhiann has taken over as School Welfare Assistant whilst Jean is on maternity leave. We were delighted to hear from Jean that baby Connor was born at the beginning of October. Congratulations to Jean and her family.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **96.1%** from the 3rd September until 14th October. We are really pleased that this is over 96% and would like this to continue or even go higher this year. Well done parents and children!

A particular well done to **Reception Lily class, Year 4 Padua, Year 5 Lisbon and Year 6 Padua** who achieved the highest class attendance during this time.

The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	94%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	98%	96%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	92%	94%
Year 2	96%	97%
Year 3	94%	97%
Year 4	97%	98%
Year 5	98%	97%
Year 6	95%	98%

We were also delighted that some children received **100% attendance** for the last academic year. These children were:

Aoife K Rec L

Ella H Year 1P Max C -T F Year 1P

Maiya O Year 3P, David U Year 3P Jeremiah J Year 3P, Shane D Year 3L

Anah O Year 4L

Hanna Z Year 5P, Melissa M Year 5L, Laura B Year 5L

Jewel O Year 6P, Daniella U Year 6P, Maya M Year 6L

Mon 14 th Oct	Year 5 visit WFC for 'Show Racism the Red Card' event
Tues 15 th Oct	Reception parents' coffee afternoon – 3pm
Weds 16 th Oct	Year 2 parents' information evening in the school hall – 5.30pm.
Thurs 17 th Oct	Nursery parents' coffee morning – 11.30am Grandparents/ Senior Citizen Afternoon of entertainment - 1.45pm – 3.15pm. Please see 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 Foodbank Donation Day
Fri 25 th Oct	Year 3 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Whole School 'Mufti Day' – all children may wear their own clothes to school – donation for CAFOD 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
Weds 6 th Nov	Activity Studio reading with parents 8.25am – 8.45am
Mon 11 th Nov	Armistice Day Silence will be observed at 11am
Tues 12 th Nov	Late Parents Evening for all classes – 4.30pm – 7.30pm. Email will be sent out the 24 th Oct explaining how to sign up for a slot.
Weds 13 th Nov	Early Parents Evening for all classes – 3.50pm – 6.30pm. Email will be sent out the 24 th Oct explaining how to sign up for a slot.
Thurs 14 th Nov	Individual and family group photos -Tempest photography
Thurs 21 st Nov	Foodbank Donation Day
Fri 22 nd Nov	INSET Day – school closed
Sun 1 st Dec	Advent begins

Tues 3 rd Dec	Nursery and Reception classes Nativity Performance for Parents – 11am. Details to follow.
Weds 4 th Dec	Activity Studio Reading morning – see above for details.
Thurs 5 th Dec	Years 1 and 2 Nativity Performance for parents at 2.30pm and 6pm Details to follow.
Weds 11 th Dec	Charity Christmas jumper day – details to follow
Thurs 12 th Dec	Foodbank Donation Day
Thurs 19 th Dec	Class party afternoon – more details to follow.
Fri 20th Dec	Term Ends at 1.30pm.

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:

Nursery

Kayal M who completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Reception Poppies

Andrei M who completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Reception Lilies

Aoife K who received two medals from Glen Rovers, for Gaelic football.

Year 2 Lisbon

Millie K who received star of the week from Watford Netball Club. She also received a medal for a Gaelic football tournament and a Level 4 Rebound Certificate from Watford Gymnastics Club

Myra D who achieved a Level 4 floor certificate from Watford Gymnastics Club

Katie O who achieved a Level 4 vault certificate from Watford Gym Club. She also completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Belle R who received a medal for Gaelic Football from Glen Rovers. She also received a Level 5 Floor certificate and medal from Watford Gymnastics Club. She also received a bracelet to say well done for completing runs to make up a marathon.

Dominic I who completed the Summer Reading Challenge. He also received a player of the day certificate from Titans football club.

Maeve L who won a medal for Gaelic Football from Glen Rovers

Alex C who received a Level 5 certificate and medal from Watford Gymnastics Club. He also received a certificate for a treetop challenge.

India T who received certificate for attending CPR training with the Air Ambulance

Bianca C who achieved her Level 4 Proficiency Award for Gymnastics

Darcie Leigh M who received a Level 4 vault medal and certificate from Watford Gymnastics Club.

Amelia F who received a Level 4 Rebound medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club

Year 2 Padua

Khaleesi D who received a Gymnastics award from Watford Gymnastics Club.

Year 3 Padua

Vennilaa M who completed the Summer Reading Challenge.

Sara M who received a medal from Polish Summer Camp.

Year 4 Lisbon

Evan S who completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Grace W who achieved Grade 1 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 4 Padua

Lakees M who received a trophy for Chithambara Maths Challenge. He also received a trophy for Tamil.

Zaydn H who completed the Summer Reading Challenge. He also received a trophy from Stags Youth FC U8's Team.

Year 5 Lisbon

Emilie P who achieved a Level 1 Award for Imperial Classical Ballet passed with Distinction.

Max P who received a medal from a local farm.

Alice M who received a Level 4 certificate and medal from Watford Gymnastics Club

Melissa M who received a Level 7 certificate and medal from Watford Gymnastics Club

Year 6 Lisbon

Abigail-Michelle who received a medal from a local farm.

Christina S who achieved Stage 4 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher