



DECEMBER 2024 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk twitter/X @watford_st

Dear Parents/Carers,

December – Advent



The children have been taking part in many Advent activities in preparation for Christmas. All classes have Advent displays and each day they spend time reflecting on this special time. Stephanie, one of our EYFS Teaching Assistants kindly decorated our beautiful Advent wreath holder with purple, white and pink candles. This is placed in our main entrance and is used for assemblies during prayers with the children. This wreath stand was a gift from Mrs Wilson, our previous Headteacher when she retired, so it is very special to us.

Christmas jumpers – Save the Children

On **Wednesday 11th December** children were invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day. We have raised £413 for **Save the Children** charity which is fantastic!!

Thank you!!

A **HUGE** thanks for the wonderful donations of gifts donated to the South West Herts Partnership. We put them all into large bags so they could be loaded into their car. They were overwhelmed with your generosity and the response to their appeal. In the photograph below you can see Ella and Carly representatives from SWHP with members of our chaplaincy team. The gifts will be now distributed to many families in need in the local area.



Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September** until **13th December**. If your child is absent from school, please telephone/email each day to keep the school office informed. Please remember we are unable to authorise any absence for holidays/trips/visits/celebrations. Children who have below 90% attendance will receive a letter from school as under new guidelines, we have to refer children's attendance figures to the local authority attendance team if they have had more than 15 days illness.

The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	88%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	96%	94%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	93%	93%
Year 2	97%	97%
Year 3	95%	96%
Year 4	98%	97%
Year 5	97%	96%
Year 6	95%	96%

Well done to **Year 4 Lisbon** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

Forest School News

Forest School were recently delighted to announce that they have become a Recognised Forest School Provider with the Forest School Association, the UK's professional body. Becoming a Recognised Provider is an acknowledgement that they are demonstrating the highest standards of Forest School practice in the UK based on the six principles of Forest School Education. They are now one of just 73 official Recognised Forest School Providers in the whole of the UK. Well done to Emma and the Forever Green Team.

Reading Newsletter and RE newsletter

Please look out for these two newsletters as they are full of information about the latest news related to Reading and RE.

Christmas Raffle

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets – you have helped the school raise £1065 for school funds – which is fantastic. All the winners have been contacted via email. If you were one of the winners, please can you collect your prize from the school office before Friday. Thank you.

Parents of girls - Key Stage Two

Please can you let your child's teacher know if your daughter has started her periods. This is helpful for the staff to know as they can support or help if necessary.

DSPL 9

Support for parents can be found in the DSPL 9 newsletter - see link below.

<https://www.dspl9.uk/page/?title=DSPL9+Parents+Newsletters&pid=30>

Earrings – reminder

Please do not send your child to school wearing earrings. Thank you.

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 received a certificate from Watford Library for their Winter Reads Challenge.

Reception Lilies

Eva J – received a certificate from Watford Library for their Winter Reads Challenge.

Year 1 Padua

Ella H - was awarded a Rainbow Distance 5 metres certificate

Elijah J - received a certificate for 8th Ho Kyu karate

Deshawn F - received a certificate for 8th Ho Kyu karate

Year 2 Lisbon

Rosie A – was Star of the Day in cheerleading

Bianca C - was awarded a certificate from Learn to Swim for achieving level 4

Amelia F - was Star of the Day in cheerleading

Year 2 Padua

Sedrick C X – received a medal and certificate from Watford Gym Club for Level 4 Rebound Award

Hayden D – received a certificate from Watford Library for his Winter Reads Challenge

Cheryl N – received a certificate from Jigsaw Performing Arts for completing one year

Khalessi D - achieved level 3 Gym Proficiency Award from Watford Gym Club

Eaimi A - achieved level 4 in gymnastics for floor work

Tessa G – was awarded a certificate for successfully Level A in Kumon Maths

Katie O - was awarded a certificate from Learn to Swim for achieving level 2

Year 3 Lisbon

Amelia B – was given a medal for very good swimming from her swimming teacher

Antonio J – was awarded a Certificate of Recognition in Belt grading for achieving his blue belt

Year 3 Padua

Vennilaa M passed ABRSM Grade 1 piano performance with distinction. She also was awarded a diploma certificate for playing the piano at the Royal Academy of Music Winter concert.

Eliana S - received a medal and certificate from Watford Gym Club for Level 4 Rebound Award

Davine F P - was awarded a certificate from Learn to Swim for achieving level 2

Maria S - achieved level 2 Gym Proficiency Award

Year 4 Lisbon

Tola D A – Received a trophy from Watford Gym Club for being 'The hardest working gymnast 2024'

Serah J – won the art design competition for Rickmansworth Churches. Her work will be used on the church Advent newsletters

Year 4 Padua

Elisha A - received a certificate from Jigsaw Performing Arts for completing four years with them and a Learn to Swim Level 3 certificate

Freya K - was awarded a certificate from Learn to Swim for achieving level 4

Year 5 Lisbon

Hannah M - achieved level 1 Gym Proficiency Award from Watford Gym Club

Lucas S – received a certificate for achieving Yellow Belt in Ju Jitsu

Year 6 Lisbon

Reyah H - was awarded a certificate from Learn to Swim for achieving level 6

Year 6 Padua

Daniella U –achieved level 5 Gym Proficiency Award

Lutho F – received a medal from Relentless Basketball Club for winning a tournament with them

Holy Communion

Congratulations to Elisha, Yash and Goodwill in Year 4 Padua for recently making their Holy Communion. We love to hear about these special celebrations so please do encourage your child to share this news with us.

	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Tues 17 th Dec	Year 2 visit Watford Palace theatre for the Aladdin Pantomime.
Weds 18 th Dec	Year 2 Polar Express Day
Thurs 19 th Dec	Class parties – details in class updates.
Fri 20 th Dec	Term ends for children at 1.30pm for the Christmas holidays.
Mon 6 th Jan 2025	School resumes. Year 6 Lisbon swimming lessons and Year 5 Forest School begin EYFS Epiphany celebration day

Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Thank you for your all your support throughout 2024.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher