



# JANUARY 2025 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

*We Grow and Learn with Jesus*

school website [www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk)

twitter/X @watford\_st

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Welcome back and Thank You**

Happy New Year. It has been lovely to welcome back the children after their Christmas break. They have all settled in so well and I have received lots of positive comments during a tour of prospective parents about how happy, calm and studious they all are.

We would like to thank you for the many Christmas messages, cards and gifts that all the staff received at the end of last term. Your generosity, kindness and support is **very** much appreciated.

## **Jubilee - Year of Hope**

Pope Francis has decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. The launch date for schools is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, and the children will be taking part in special activities. More information about this can be found in our RE newsletter which was sent on Monday.

## **Staffing**

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Sally Blasi who worked with our Early Years Team. Sally has been a wonderful member of staff for the last 8 years and we will miss her dearly. Sally has started a job in her field of expertise as an Art Technician working with secondary age children. We wish her every success in her new role.

We are very pleased to welcome Bella Yeung to our staff team. Bella will be working in our Nursery class and also with individual children in the main school.

We are very excited to announce that Sarah, our Year 6 Padua teacher, is expecting a baby in the Summer term. We wish Sarah and Jason every good wish as they become parents for the first time.

## **School Fundraising - PFA**

Our very small team of PFA volunteers would love to welcome more parents who would like to offer to help. This means they can plan and organise more events for the children. The PFA will be sending out a letter very soon about a Valentine's Disco for Key Stage Two children. If you would like to get involved or help organise an event, please get in touch with the school office so they can pass on your details to the PFA.

## **Safer Internet Week 10-14<sup>th</sup> February**

We will be organising activities for children to take part in for this important week and will also be reminding children of the key safety messages.

As parents it would be helpful to have a chat with your child to remind them of the age rating of WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instagram and TikTok as these are all 13+. Therefore primary school age children are too young to use or sign up to them.

## **Building Project – Resurfacing of school driveway and Pathways**

Plans have been completed by our school architects and contact has been made to the Housing Trust as part of the driveway is their responsibility. We are hoping that this essential work will begin and finish in the

Easter holidays to prevent any disruption to school. I will be able to update you in the February newsletter with confirmed dates.

### **Graffiti Damage**

Watford police are investigating the graffiti damage to the Key Stage Two building. I would like to thank all the parents for their kind words and support over this very upsetting incident.

### **Parking outside the school**

It is very important consideration is shown to the Holywell community who live very close by to our school. It is very frustrating for them when their car is blocked in. The main entrance to the school must also not be used for dropping off or collecting children. The reason for this is the driveway needs to be kept clear for emergency vehicles and for staff entering/exiting. Many thanks for your co-operation.

### **Watford Foodbank**

The donations towards Watford Foodbank will continue this term. The staff of the Foodbank have passed on their thanks for all your generosity especially during these difficult times. The next dates for donations are:

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

The Foodbank boxes will be located by the doors of St Francis building, Main entrance and Nursery door.

### **Attendance Update**

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September 2024** until **16<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. 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. Recently County have issued fines to families where children have had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence. One day of school is equal to 2 sessions. Absences directly before or after a school holiday cannot be authorised without evidence for the absence. This may include medical evidence if your child is unwell or evidence of delayed flights or circumstances beyond your control.

Children who have below 90% attendance will receive a letter from school as under the 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:

|                  |                   |                    |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Nursery</b>   | 88%               |                    |
|                  | <b>Lily class</b> | <b>Poppy class</b> |
| <b>Reception</b> | 94%               | 92%                |
|                  | <b>Lisbon</b>     | <b>Padua</b>       |
| <b>Year 1</b>    | 93%               | 93%                |
| <b>Year 2</b>    | 97%               | 96%                |
| <b>Year 3</b>    | 95%               | 95%                |
| <b>Year 4</b>    | 98%               | 96%                |
| <b>Year 5</b>    | 97%               | 95%                |
| <b>Year 6</b>    | 95%               | 95%                |

Well done to **Year 2 Lisbon** and **Year 4 Lisbon** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

### **Emergency School Closure**

In the event of a school closure due to severe weather, we will alert you via email on the morning of the school closure. We will also post information on the school website and on Twitter/X.

## **Spring Term Parents' Consultation evenings**

Our next parents' consultation evenings will be **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 4.30pm -7.30pm or Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 3.50pm – 6.30pm**. A link will be sent to parents on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm to sign up for a slot on one of these dates. Teachers will be unable to meet with parents outside of these dates so please ensure you put one of these dates in your diary.

## **Congratulations**

**Please encourage your child to bring in any achievement certificates or medals as I love to see them.**

Our congratulations go to the following talented children:

### **Nursery**

Kayal M completed the Library Winter Reads challenge

### **Year 1 Lisbon**

Jonah J was awarded a medal for playing football very well

### **Year 1 Padua**

Sarah L received a certificate from High Springers Club for Level 6 Gym

### **Year 2 Lisbon**

Belle R received the Learn to Swim Stage 4 certificate

### **Year 2 Padua**

Arona L was awarded a certificate from Watford Gym Club for achieving Level 4 in Vault

Cheryl N received a certificate for being a finalist in the Diocese of Westminster Education Service Christmas card competition

Benjamin A received the Learn to Swim Award Stage 2 certificate

### **Year 3 Lisbon**

Sarah R received the Learn to Swim Certificate and badge for reaching Level 1

Rebecca P received the Learn to Swim Rainbow Distance 20 metres certificate

Sandra R received the Learn to Swim Certificate and badge for reaching Level 1

Annah S received the Learn to Swim Rainbow Distance 10 metres certificate

### **Year 3 Padua**

Maria S was awarded a preliminary medal, certificate and commendation for Ballet

Vennilaa M completed the Library Winter Reads challenge and won 1<sup>st</sup> prize at Musecools Winter Competition for playing the piano

### **Year 4 Padua**

Zack V received a trophy from London Colney Pumas Youth Team for being Player of the match

Yash P completed Learn to Swim Stage 3 in swimming

### **Year 5 Lisbon**

Hannah M received the Learn to Swim Award Stage 5 certificate

## Year 6 Lisbon

Maya M received a certificate for being a finalist in the Diocese of Westminster Education Service Christmas Card competition

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan                             | Launch day for the Jubilee Year of Hope  |
| Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan                           | Foodbank donation day  |
| Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb                              | Candlemas - The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus.  |
| Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb                              | National Storytelling Week begins – children will be taking part in activities                             |
| Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb                            | Reception classes theatre trip   |
| Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb                              | Number Day with Watford Football Club – children will take part in activities with Watford Community Trust |
| Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb                              | Racial Justice Sunday  |
| Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb                             | <b>School finishes for half term.</b><br>Reception classes 3.25pm finish.<br>Years 1- 6 3.30pm finish.     |
| Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb to Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb | Half term  |
| Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb                             | <b>Children return to school.</b>  |
| Weds 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb                            | Year 5 visit to Watford Mosque   |
| Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb                           | Foodbank donation day  |
| Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> March                           | Ash Wednesday  |
| Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> March                          | World Book Day – details to follow   |

*Thank you for your continued support.*

*God bless and take care,*

*Elaine Harrold*

