



# FEBRUARY 2025

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

*We Grow and Learn with Jesus*

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

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Dear Parents/Carers,

### Our Journey through Lent

On **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** all children will receive ashes for Ash Wednesday during special services. We will discuss the importance of prayer, alms giving and fasting as we journey together through the season of Lent over the next six weeks.

### Staffing News

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Frances Nicholson, our Year 3 Padua teacher at the end of this term. Frances has gained promotion as the Deputy Headteacher in St John's Catholic Primary School, Rickmansworth. Frances has been a wonderful teacher and a valuable member of our Senior Management Team. She has been a part of the St Anthony's family for 10 years as a parent and teacher. We will miss her immensely but wish her every success in her new role where I know she will be fantastic.

We would like you all to keep Rosalind Pengelly our Year 1 Padua teacher in your prayers. Rosalind will be starting a course of treatment for an illness and will be on sick leave for the next few months. Since Rosalind started with us in September, she has been a joy to work with and is a positive ray of sunshine. We are going to support her every step of the way during her treatment.

Two new members of staff will be joining our staff team. Gemma Hughes will be teaching Year 3 Padua after Easter and for the remainder of this academic year. Gemma has worked in three other local Catholic Primary Schools and is very much looking forward to joining St Anthony's team. Emma Holder will be teaching Year 1 Padua from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Emma has been teaching in a Catholic Primary school in North London for the last 19 years and is also very pleased to be joining our team. I am sure you will join the staff and children in making Gemma and Emma feel very welcome.

We are very pleased to welcome Nicky Watawala to our staff team as a teaching assistant. Nicky will be working across the school supporting individual children and small groups. Nicky is very familiar with our school as both her boys were educated here.

### Measles Information – very important information

We have recently been informed of an increase of cases of measles in the local area. The advice we have been given from UK Health Agency is to ensure that parents are well informed about the symptoms of measles, how it spreads and about vaccination against measles. There is an important fact sheet attached to this newsletter which I would urge all parents to read. Parents of children who do develop rashes will be asked to speak to their GP as soon as possible for advice in case it is the measles rash. Having the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent measles. If your child has not had the MMR vaccine the advice is to talk to your GP as this vaccine gives long-term protection against measles, mumps and rubella.

### World Book Day – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

This year on **World Book Day** we will be asking the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. There will be activities throughout the day to encourage a love of reading.

As previously explained in the email that was sent to parents on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February - There is also an optional challenge for all the children. Can they create a story show box using an old shoe box or cereal

box? If your child would like to take part in this optional activity, please can they bring the box into school on the **6<sup>th</sup> March**. After school these will be on show in the Activity Studio for parents to see. Come and have a look if you have a chance.

I would like to thank Megan and Corinne for organising this day and for organising the Reading Newsletters that have been sent out to parents.

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

We are very pleased to confirm that work on the pathways and driveway will take place over the Easter holidays. This will prevent any disruption to the school.

### **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.

### **Herts Catering**

Herts Catering are always striving to improve the experience of our children, and they would love to hear your thoughts on the school meals provided. To help them understand your opinions and make any necessary improvements, we invite you to participate in our Parent School Meal Feedback Survey. The link for this survey is below:

**Survey Link:** <https://forms.office.com/e/x7T5mqzfnM>

### **Attendance Update**

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September 2024** until **26<sup>th</sup> February 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 also 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>	<b>88%</b>	
	<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>	95%	97%
<b>Year 3</b>	94%	95%
<b>Year 4</b>	97%	97%
<b>Year 5</b>	97%	95%
<b>Year 6</b>	95%	95%

Well done to **Year 2 Padua, Year 4 Lisbon, Year 4 Padua, and Year 5 Lisbon** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

## Watford Foodbank

The next Foodbank collections are **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March**. Collection boxes will be outside the main doors in the usual places. If you are able to donate anything they would be very grateful. Thank you very much.

## Governors' Suggestion Box

The Governors have created a Suggestion Box which has been placed in the main entrance of the school. This ensures parents can communicate directly with them. Forms and pens will be next to the box for you to complete. Any ideas and comments will then be presented at the next Full Governors' meeting.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Foodbank donation day
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Ash Wednesday Parents and children Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome.
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
<b>Mon 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>INSET Day – school closed for children</b>
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Lisbon Retreat Day – Stations of the Cross at St Michael's Church – details to follow
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Parents transition workshop 5pm – 6pm. This is organised by the Mental Health Support Team – details to follow.
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Harry Potter Dress Up day – details to follow
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception classes to experience 'Little Cities' activities
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Padua class assembly for parents – 9.15am
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Lisbon class assembly for parents – 9.15am Year 2 trip to Knebworth House – details to follow Magistrates visiting Year 6 classes to lead a presentation about their work
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Lisbon class assembly for parents – 9.15am
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 3 Padua class assembly for parents – 9.15am Year 5 Padua Retreat Day – Stations of the Cross at St Michael's Church – details to follow
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 5 choir to perform at the Royal Albert Hall for the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	K'nex Challenge Day for Year 5

Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Consultation Evening 4.30pm -7.30pm
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Consultation Evening 3.50pm -6.30pm Whole class photograph day
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 visit to Warner Bros Studios Leavesden – details to follow Watford Foodbank Donation Day
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Mother's Day assembly 9.15am – parents/carers welcome
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Parents and children Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome.

### **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 children:

#### **Reception Lilies**

Aoife K was awarded Star of the Week from Watford Premier Netball Club

#### **Year 1 Lisbon**

Jack L was awarded with a trophy from Watford Top Golf for 1<sup>st</sup> place

Nel Z achieved the Learn to Swim level 2 certificate

Cora L was awarded a certificate from Shogun Karate for the best punches.

Dorian DR was awarded a level 1 Swimming Award.

#### **Year 1 Padua**

Airen H achieved level 5 Floor certificate from Watford Gym Club

#### **Year 2 Lisbon**

Amelia F achieved level 5 Floor certificate from Watford Gym Club. Amelia also was awarded with a winner's trophy and two medals for an Irish dancing feis.

Bianca C achieved level 2 of the Gymnastics Proficiency Awards.

Dominic I was awarded Player of the Day from Titans FC.

Alex C was awarded the annual 'Best Boy' cup from Anchor Boys for showing exceptional care and team spirit. He also achieved a level 5 vault certificate from Watford Gym Club.

#### **Year 2 Padua**

Khaleesi D achieved Level 3 of the Learn to Swim Awards. She was also awarded 10 badges from Beavers.

Keela L awarded with two trophies and two medals for an Irish dancing feis.

Nicholas G achieved level 5 Floor certificate from Watford Gym Club

### **Year 3 Padua**

Arabella A achieved the 5m Rainbow Distance Award.

Henry P was awarded a medal from Watford Sport and Education Trust for being the Player of the Day.

### **Year 5 Lisbon**

Melissa M achieved level 7 for vault and rebound from Watford Gym Club

*Thank you for your continued support.*

*God bless and take care,*

*Elaine Harrold*

Headteacher