



March 2025 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk

Bluesky @stawatford.bsky.social

Dear Parents/Carers,

Walk of Faith Day – Thursday 3rd April

On **Thursday 3rd April** children are invited to wear comfortable sports clothes and trainers to school for the day with a donation via The Gateway to the Catholic Children's Society. This is part of our annual Lenten charity appeal but also links to the Year of Faith that we are currently celebrating. The children will walk laps of the playground and will also take part in Year of Faith activities that week

Watford Foodbank

A **HUGE** thank you to the generosity of our school community for the food that was donated last month. The next dates for donations are:

Thursday 27th March

Thursday 24th April

Twitter/X and Bluesky

If you would like to follow our school using social media, we have now created a Bluesky account. Bluesky has a butterfly logo. We are moving away from Twitter; therefore we will soon stop posting news on there. Our school website designers are currently working on putting Bluesky on our school website. If you would like to follow us using Bluesky please search for **@stawatford.bsky.social**

Year 6 SATs

Year 6 children will be taking part in the Year 6 National SATs week - **Monday 12th May – Thursday 15th May**. They have been working very hard in class and during booster sessions to prepare for this important week. Complimentary breakfast will be offered to children in Year 6 who would like to come into school at the earlier time of 8.10am that week. Staff provide a range of tasty goodies to keep up their energy levels. This will take place in our Activity Studio. More information will be sent to Year 6 parents.

Water Bottles

The weather is finally becoming warmer so please ensure you send your child to school with an appropriate water bottle. The water bottle you send in with your child must have a sports cap not a screw on lid. These need to be plastic reusable bottles, no glass please. There are some expensive water bottles that have been brought into school - I would advise you avoid these as children get very upset if they are misplaced or are dropped. A cheap, replaceable water bottle is best.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September 2024** until **19th March 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:

Nursery	88%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	94%	92%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	94%	94%
Year 2	96%	97%
Year 3	94%	95%
Year 4	97%	97%
Year 5	97%	95%
Year 6	95%	95%

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

2025-2026 Term Dates

These are now on our school website and have been sent to all parents.

Funding

Please see the attached letter for information about school funding.

Thank you - message from office staff

Due to illness we are still short staffed in our main office. Denise and Kathryn would like to thank all the parents for their patience and understanding at this time. It has been very helpful to not receive so many phone calls and emails. Please could you continue to use newsletters, weekly updates and our school website to answer queries. Any problems that cannot be resolved this way they are more than happy to help.

Library refurbishment

We have had a very big sort out of our non-fiction library. Thankyou to all the children and parents who took books home on Thursday afternoon. We have PFA funding to purchase lots of new up to date books for our library and we are currently in the process of ordering these. Exciting times ahead !

Storage Containers

You may have noticed on the back playground two of the old storage containers have been removed and the remaining one has been turned around. This has created more space as we felt the containers were not a very nice sight and had served their purpose. I would like to thank Tony, our Site Manger, for all his hard work in organising and overseeing this work. We have plans for this new improved area...watch this space!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 23 rd March	Year 5 choir to perform at the Royal Albert Hall for the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala
Monday 24 th March	K'nex Challenge Day for Year 5
Tues 25 th March	Parents' Consultation Evening 4.30pm -7.30pm

Weds 26 th March	Parents' Consultation Evening 3.50pm -6.30pm Whole class photograph day
Thurs 27 th March	Year 5 visit to Warner Bros Studios Leavesden Watford Foodbank Donation Day
Fri 28 th March	Year 1 Mother's Day assembly 9.15am – parents/carers welcome
Weds 2 nd April	Parents and children Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome.
Thurs 3 rd April	Walk of Faith Day – see information above
Fri 4 th April	Year 5 Stations of the Cross assembly for parents – 9.15am Term ends at 1.30pm
Mon 7 th April – Mon 21 st April	Easter holidays
Mon 21 st April	Easter Monday – Bank holiday
Tues 22 nd April	Term begins
Weds 23 rd April	Bike training for EYFS children – details to follow
Thurs 23 rd April	Watford Food Bank Donation Day
Fri 25 th April	Year 1 visit to Hertfordshire Zoo
Mon 28 th April	Bike training for EYFS children – details to follow
Tues 30 th April	Bike training for EYFS children – details to follow
Thurs 1 st May	Electric Umbrella Music Group leading a whole school assembly and workshops for Years 1 and 5. Year 3 Padua visit to Watford Gym Club – details to follow
Fri 2 nd May	Rec Lilies visit to Watford Gym Club – details to follow Year 4 morning visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor – details to follow
Mon 5 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Weds 7 th May	Parents and children Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome.
Thurs 8 th May	Year 3 Lisbon visit to Watford Gym Club – details to follow
Fri 9 th May	Rec Poppies visit to Watford Gym Club – details to follow
Mon 12 th – 15 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Tues 13 th May	Year 5 visit to Mountfitchet Castle - details to follow

Tues 20 th May	Year 3 and 4 Sports afternoon 1.30 -3.30 parents welcome
Weds 21 st May	Nursery and Reception classes Sports morning 9.30 -11.30 parents welcome
Thurs 22 nd May	Mary Procession 9.15am Parents welcome
Fri 23 rd May	End of half term 3.30pm finish.

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:

Year 1 Lisbon

Anna M achieved the Learn to Swim stage 2 certificate

Vihaan V was awarded Best Punches certificate from Shogun Karate

Nel Z achieved the Learn to Swim stage 3 certificate

Cora L was awarded Best Punches certificate from Shogun Karate

Year 1 Padua

Airen H achieved the Learn to Swim stage 1 certificate

Ella H achieved the Learn to Swim stage 1 certificate

Year 2 Lisbon

Belle R was awarded the level 5 Vault certificate from Watford Gym Club and a distinction for her graded ballet exam

Amelia F was awarded two medals for light jig and reel at an Irish dancing feis.

Year 2 Padua

Sedrick X was awarded the level 5 Floor certificate from Watford Gym Club and the Duckling Stage 3 certificate for swimming

Khaleesi D achieved level 2 of the Gymnastics Awards.

Hayden J was awarded with a trophy for playing Gaelic football

Meisha S achieved the Learn to Swim stage 1 certificate and badge

Year 3 Padua

Nathan B achieved the Learn to Swim stage 2 certificate

Eliana S was awarded the level 5 Floor certificate from Watford Gym Club

Rory K achieved the Learn to Swim stage 3 certificate

Harrison K was awarded a Player of the Match trophy from Bram FC Youth Team

Year 4 Lisbon

Sophia H achieved the Learn to Swim stage 4 certificate

Year 6 Padua

Riordan L was awarded Player of the Day for Titans FC

Lutho F achieved a Gold medal for front crawl swimming for Bushey Swim Club during a Swimming Gala

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful Easter break with your family and friends.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold