



April 2025 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk

Bluesky @stawatford.bsky.social

Dear Parents/Carers,

Pope Francis RIP

We will continue to join in with worldwide prayers for Pope Francis. The children took part in special assemblies on Tuesday where we prayed in thanksgiving to God for the leadership of Pope Francis, following the news of this death on Monday 21st April. Pope Francis engaged a generation of children to put their faith into action and to care for our world. When I asked the children to think of words that would remind them of Pope Francis they said 'love' 'peace' 'kindness' and 'hope'. I thought these were lovely responses to remember a very special man. Please read our weekly RE newsletter which has a message from our chaplain, Fr Tim.

Welcome back - Easter Blessings

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter. It was lovely to welcome the children back to school after their break – I am sure they are raring to go for their last term this academic year. We hope you all managed to enjoy some special family time during the holidays. It was wonderful to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the end of the holidays.

Victory in Europe (VE Day) 80th Anniversary

On Thursday 8th May we will be celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Throughout the week children will learn about VE Day and the importance of the event.

On the 8th May we are inviting children to wear red, white and blue clothes to school. This can be as simple as blue jeans, white t-shirt and red socks ! Whatever clothes they have at home is fine – please don't buy anything.

In the afternoon they will take part in class picnics on the school grounds so please pack your child a small picnic to bring along. If your child has a packed lunch at lunchtime they will need a separate little picnic for the afternoon.

Electric Umbrella -Thursday 1st May

We are very fortunate that Electric Umbrella have been regular visitors to our school so we are delighted to welcome them back again this year – especially now they are rather famous after their wonderful performance on Britain's Got Talent !!

Electric Umbrella are a fantastic musical group who celebrate difference and inspire community connection. They feel music unites people and creates a more inclusive society. They will be leading whole school assemblies and workshops for Year 1 and 5.

Catholic Children's Society

We were delighted to raise **£584.11** for the Catholic Children's Society from our Walk of Faith Day just before the Easter holidays. Many thanks to everyone who took part to raise such a fantastic amount.

May Procession

We will be celebrating Our Lady's month on **Thursday 22nd May** with our annual May Procession. This will take place at **9.15am**.

Each child will carry a flower and place around the statue of Our Lady on the Key Stage 2 Playground. We will sing special hymns in honour of Mary too. Our chaplaincy team will lead us in our special prayers.

In order for us to make this occasion special it would be lovely if you could provide your child with a single flower so that they can lay it at the foot of Our Lady's statue.

Parents, grandparents and friends are very welcome - If you would like to join us for this celebration, please wait in the Key Stage 2 playground on the morning of the procession.

Hertfordshire Schools Ventilation Project

We are very pleased to have received a certificate for being a 'Cleaner Air School'. We are one of 63 Hertfordshire schools taking part in this project. Our classroom purifiers which we installed last year have improved the quality of the air inside our classrooms. This means a substantial reduction in the concentration of airborne viruses and bacteria.

Sports Days

Parents are very welcome to attend. See below for dates and times:

Nursery and Reception classes will have their Sports morning on **Weds 21st May 9.30-11.30am.**

Year 3 and Year 4 sports afternoon will be **Tues 20th May 1.30-3.30pm.**

Year 5 and 6 sports afternoon will be **Tues 3rd June 1.30 -3.30pm.**

Year 1 and 2 sports afternoon will be **Weds 2nd July 1.30- 3.30pm.**

Junior Parkrun - Cassiobury Park

A local weekly event that your child may like to take part in is the Cassiobury parkrun. This takes place every Sunday at 9am. This event is for 4 to 14 years olds.

It is free of charge, but you must register before you first come along. Please see the link below for more details:

www.parkrun.org.uk/cassiobury-juniors/

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September 2024** until **23rd April 2025.**

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time. Children regularly arriving late miss out on vital learning and it is very unsettling for them. As mentioned in previous newsletters we follow County guidelines for all matters related to attendance. We are unable to authorise any absence for holidays/trips/visits/celebrations.

The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	88%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	94%	91%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	94%	94%
Year 2	96%	96%
Year 3	94%	95%
Year 4	97%	97%
Year 5	97%	95%
Year 6	95%	95%

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

Haircuts and earrings- reminder

Please avoid shaving tramlines or designs into haircuts as per our Uniform Policy. Long hair must be tied up. Earrings may not be worn to school due to safety. Thank you for your understanding.

Dates for Diary

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
Tues 30 th April	Bike training for EYFS children
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
Fri 2 nd May	Rec Lilies visit to Watford Gym Club Year 4 morning visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor
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	Victory in Europe (VE Day) 80 th Anniversary – see details above Year 3 Lisbon visit to Watford Gym Club
Fri 9 th May	Rec Poppies visit to Watford Gym Club
Mon 12 th – 15 th May	Year 6 SATs week Mental Health Awareness Week – children will take part in activities during this week.
Tues 13 th May	Year 5 visit to Mountfitchet Castle
Tues 20 th May	Year 3 and 4 Sports afternoon 1.30 -3.30pm parents welcome
Weds 21 st May	Nursery and Reception classes Sports morning 9.30 -11.30am parents welcome
Thurs 22 nd May	Mary Procession 9.15am Parents welcome
Fri 23 rd May	End of half term 3.30pm finish.
Mon 26 th May – Fri 30 th May	Half term
Mon 2 nd June	Children return to school
Tues 3 rd June	Year 2 visit Tring Museum – details to follow Year 5 and 6 Sports afternoon 1.30 -3.30pm parents welcome

Weds 4 th June	Parents and children Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome.
Thurs 5 th June	The Ark Farm to visit Nursery and Reception classes – details to follow
Sun 8 th June	Pentecost
Thurs 12 th June	Year 2 Father's Day assembly – 9.15am
Fri 13 th June	St Anthony's Feast Day

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:

Reception Lilies

Ajees M received a certificate for completing two years with Jigsaw Performing Arts School and a Duckling 4 swim certificate

Reception Poppies

Kaiden G received a medal for scoring a goal in football

Isabella H received a level 4 certificate for Gymnastics

Iwan M was awarded Learn to Swim Stage 2 certificate and badge

Year 2 Lisbon

Millie K was awarded the level 5 Floor certificate from Watford Gym Club

Year 2 Padua

Niviana R received a trophy for taking part in the WBPF Watford Talent Competition

Hayden M V was player of the day for Titans FC

Remayah F received a certificate for completing one year with Jigsaw Performing Arts School

Benjamin A received a medal for the Watford Junior Challenge Fun Run at Cassiobury Park

Cheryl N received a certificate for football, computing and toymaking.

Year 3 Lisbon

Rebecca P achieved Stage 4 of the Learn to Swim Awards.

Vik G achieved the Rainbow Distance 20 metres certificate for swimming

Year 3 Padua

Maria S was awarded Level 1 Gym Proficiency from Watford Gym Club

Matas D achieved Stage 3 of the Learn to Swim Awards.

Year 4 Lisbon

Andria F, Serah J and Sophia H attended the Watford School of Music Celebration Concert and played the piano.

Sophia H achieved Level 7 floor award from Watford Gym Club

Morgan R received a trophy from Power League

Year 4 Padua

Vivian R received a trophy for taking part in the WBPF Watford Talent Competition

Year 5 Lisbon

Melissa M achieved Water Safety level 1 from Swim England

Lucas S was awarded a certificate for Yellow/Black belt in Ju Jitsu and a certificate for completing Level 1B in piano

Hannah M was awarded the level 7 Floor certificate from Watford Gym Club and Rainbow Distance 200m

Year 6 Lisbon

Adriano J was awarded Learn to Swim Stage 5

Year 6 Padua

Ada Z and Amy D received a medal for the Watford Junior Challenge Fun Run at Cassiobury Park

Daniella U received a medal for the Watford Junior Challenge Fun Run at Cassiobury Park and a Level 4 Proficiency Award from Watford Gym Club

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold