



June 2025 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk

Bluesky @stawatford.bsky.social

Dear Parents/Carers,

Cultural Day

It was lovely to see all the children take part in this special day wearing fantastic traditional outfits or matching their country's flag colour with their choice of clothes. We are blessed to have families in our school community from so many countries around the world. It was a joy to see the pride and celebration in school.

Year 6 Residential Trip to the Isle of Wight

Many of our Year 6 children took part in the Isle of Wight residential trip. The children had a wonderful week on the island – taking in part in so many activities. The hotel staff and coach driver were very complimentary about the children's conduct throughout the week. A written tribute was received from the coach driver who was with the group all week. Below are his comments:

'I have been a tour driver for over three years and St Anthony's were by far the best school I have ever taken. The staff and children were amazing.'

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin, John, Fatim, Aimie, Megan, Abbie, Nikki and Rachel for their dedication and hard work throughout the week away and to their families for releasing them for five days !

The children who did not take part in this trip took part in an enrichment week and received many compliments from staff about how helpful and happy they were. Well done Year 6 !

Staffing Information

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to three members of staff at the end of this academic year.

Katy Laws has been with us for eleven years. She has worked throughout the school but most recently has been our Nursery teacher and is part of our Senior Management Team as Early Years Lead. She has worked tirelessly to ensure our youngest children have the best start in their formative years of education and has been a superb member of our leadership team. Katy is leaving to explore a completely different career working with animals. I am sure she will be incredibly successful in her new role.

Corinne Bygrave has been our Year 3 Lisbon teacher for the last five years. She has also worked very hard as the English Lead for Key Stage Two. Corinne has been a very positive and kind teacher who has always dedicated herself to the children in her class in order for them to achieve their best. Corinne will be joining a local primary school to continue her teaching career. We wish Corinne every good wish as she continues on her professional journey.

Carole Boyle has been one of our Teaching Assistants and midday supervisory assistant for eighteen years. Carole is now retiring at the end of the summer term. She has worked with children across the school. Recently she has been worked very closely with lower Key Stage Two classes. Carole has been a fantastic TA and we will miss her very much. She has really cared about the children ensuring they are supported with their learning and making sure at all times the children are safe and happy. I wish Carole a well-deserved retirement with her wonderful family.

We are very grateful to Katy, Corinne and Carole for the dedication and hard work they have brought to St Anthony's - they will all be missed, but we look forward to hearing about their new pathways.

New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome two teachers to our school. Olivia Colgan and Elisha Kambo will start in September. I am sure you will join me in making them feel very welcome.

I am also very pleased that Emma Holder who has been teaching Year 1 Padua will be staying on as a permanent member of staff.

September 2025 classes.

Below is the list of staffing for September 2025:

Nursery	- Hannah Mitchell (Early Years Lead)
Reception Lillies	- Laura Sugrue and Eleay Burke
Reception Poppies	- Orla Reilly
Year 1 Lisbon	- Aimie White
Year 1 Padua	- Elisha Kambo
Year 2 Lisbon	- Bella Fuller
Year 2 Padua	- Megan Brogan
Key Stage One Lead	- Frankie Wassell
Year 3 Lisbon	- Olivia Colgan
Year 3 Padua	- Shannon Kelly
Year 4 Lisbon	- Emma Holder
Year 4 Padua	- Catherine Elliott (Lower Key Stage Two Lead)
Year 5 Lisbon	- Abbie Clark
Year 5 Padua	- Amy McMahon
Year 6 Lisbon	- John McGinn (Upper Key Stage Two Lead)
Year 6 Padua	- Kevin Conoboy

Cover for teachers' part time days, PPA time, continuing professional development and co-ordinators' release time will be provided by Frankie Wassell, Rachel Smith and Eva Thomas.

Rosalind Pengelly is making very good progress with her treatment, and we hope she will be back as part of the staff team in the autumn term.

I am very pleased that Frankie Wassell and Catherine Elliott will be joining the leadership team in September as Key Stage Leads.

Martin McDermott, our Assistant Headteacher, will continue to support Year 6 and also help raise standards by working closely with all classes across the school.

Melanie Brimicombe, our Assistant Headteacher, will continue in her role as Inclusion Co-ordinator (INCo) and Special Education Needs Co-ordinator.

Melanie and Martin will also continue in their roles as Designated Safeguarding Leads.

In the July newsletter I will be able to share which classes our teaching assistants will be working with.

Open Afternoon – Thursday 10th July 3.30pm - 4.30pm

On the morning of Thursday 10th July children will meet their new teacher and have a look at their next classroom.

After school at 3.30pm the school will be open for parents to view all the classrooms, chapel, displays etc. This is not a parents' evening; it is an opportunity to look at all the classrooms around the school and have a drink/refreshment in the dining room. You are all very welcome to join us.

End of Year Reports

In July all families will receive their end of year report for their child. There will be a reply slip attached to the report where there will be an opportunity for parents and children to make a comment and return to school.

PFA

Many thanks to all the families who supported our Mr Banana Head event – this lovely afternoon raised £143.50 for school fund. Evenings such as these are not possible without the help of a very small group of parents who are giving up their time to organise and run events. Please try and offer your time to the PFA so that more events are possible. Any offers of help can be sent to our school office where they will be forwarded to the PFA.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September 2025** until **19th June 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	89%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	94%	93%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	94%	94%
Year 2	96%	96%
Year 3	95%	95%
Year 4	98%	96%
Year 5	96%	95%
Year 6	95%	95%

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

Year 5 and Year 6 Production – Cinderella and Rockerfella

Year 5 and 6 will be performing Cinderella and Rockerfella for their parents on **Wednesday 9th July**.

There will be an afternoon performance (2pm) and an evening performance (7pm). Numbers for the evening will need to be restricted so we have sent home two tickets for each family.

The afternoon performance will not be ticketed. All primary school age children will have seen the play so please do not bring them to the evening performance. Children below school age should be brought to the afternoon performance and not the evening performance.

Please organise babysitters in advance as all children who attend our school as well as pre-school children will **not** be able to come into the evening performance. It is very upsetting for parents to miss their child's performance because they have not made appropriate arrangements. And it is also very difficult for staff who have to turn them away.

Filming – Upper Key Stage Two Production

Please refrain from filming this production as we have organised for the play to be professionally filmed. This link will be sent to all parents in Year 5 and 6 at the end of term. This has been paid for by school.

Dates for your Diary

Tues 24 th June	Diocesan Event for the Jubilee Year at Westminster Cathedral – six will children to travel with staff and Governors to represent school.
Thurs 26 th June	Foodbank Donation Day
Weds 2 nd July	Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome. Year 1 and Year 2 Sports afternoon 1.30pm to 3.30 pm - parents welcome
Fri 4 th July	Nursery visit to Bekonscot
Weds 9 th July	Year 5 and 6 of Cinderella and Rockerfella Production 2pm and 7pm - see details above.
Thurs 10 th July	Year 6 Transition Day at their new schools Children to meet their next teacher in their new classroom. Open afternoon 3.30pm – 4.30pm– all parents welcome – see details above
Fri 11 th July	Year 4 retreat day to The Friars - Aylesford Priory Year 5 and 6 Sports afternoon 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Mon 14 th July	Year 6 Leavers' mass – 2pm for Year 6 parents and children
Weds 16 th July	Year 6 Disco 5pm – 7pm
Fri 18 th July	Leavers' assembly – Year 6 parents invited – 9.15am. School finishes at 1.30pm. INSET for teachers in the afternoon.
Weds 3 rd Sept	INSET Day – school closed
Thurs 4 th Sept	Term begins

Congratulations

It is always lovely to see the children with their medals and certificates.

Our congratulations go to the following talented children:

Rec Lilies

Siana D achieved Vault Level 4 with Watford Gym Club

Rec Poppies

Iwan M received a trophy from Evergreen FC for being 'Player of the Week'

Andrei M was awarded a Learn to Swim Stage 1 badge and certificate and a certificate for taking part in the Park Run.

Year 1 Lisbon

Nel Z was awarded the level 4 certificate and medal for Floor from Watford Gym Club. She also achieved the Learn to Swim level 4 certificate and badge.

Cora L was awarded best kicks karate certificate.

Jack L received a certificate for learning the Water Safety Code and he was awarded the Learn to Swim Stage 2 Award.

Agnes F received a certificate for learning the Water Safety Code.

Year 2 Padua

Keela L-R was awarded 1st, 2nd & 3rd place trophies and 7th and 12th place medals from an Irish Dancing Feis

Nicholas G was awarded the level 5 certificate and medal for Vault from Watford Gym Club.

Year 2 Lisbon

Amelia F was given a trophy for 3rd place in the Slip Jig in Irish Dancing, along with a 17th medal for Single Jig. She also received a certificate for learning the Water Safety Code.

Katie O received a medal for taking part in Race for Life she ran 3km and raised £100

Year 3 Lisbon

Antonio J was awarded 2 medals, 1 for participation and one for good moves in kick boxing from Mixed Martial Arts

Paraneeth P received a trophy from the Tamil School for their Sports Day

Year 3 Padua

Rhys M received a medal from Evergreen FC for taking part in a Summer Football tournament

Henry P received a medal from Titans FC for taking part in a Summer Football tournament

Year 4 Lisbon

Alicia A was awarded a Learn to Swim Stage 3 badge and certificate

Sophia H was awarded a medal and certificate for Level 7 for Rebound & Vault from Watford Gym Club

Year 4 Padua

Aadhya P was awarded a certificate from 44th Central Teng Soo Do Championships for participation, good martial arts, spirit and effort

Yash P was awarded the Learn to Swim stage 4 certificate.

Year 5 Lisbon

Michelle R was awarded a Learn to Swim Stage 2 badge and certificate

Year 5 Padua

Benjamin J received a Runner Up medal for a St Alban's football tournament

Year 6 Padua

Lutho F was achieved Learn to Swim Stage 8, he was the youngest in the class to get to Stage 9

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold