



OCTOBER 2025 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

WE GROW AND LEARN WITH JESUS

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Dear Parents/Carers,

October – Month of Mary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. As an important feast in the Church calendar, it's a great opportunity for families to pray the Rosary together. We have many children using our chapel at lunchtime to pray together which has been lovely to see.

Reading Sessions with parents

Once a month our English co-ordinators – Megan and Amy, will continue to invite parents/carers from all year groups to read with their child before school. This will take place in our Activity Studio near the back of the school. If you would like to join you would be very welcome. The dates this term are:

Wednesday 22nd October – 8.25am- 8.45am

Tuesday 26th November – 8.25am – 8.45am

Parents Consultation Booking

A link will be sent to parents on **Monday 3rd November**, so they are able to book a meeting with their child's teacher via **School Cloud** for:

- **Tuesday 18th Nov:** 4:30pm–7:00pm or
- **Wednesday 19th Nov:** 3:50–6:30pm

Booking will close on Sunday 16th November.

- Meetings for **Reception, Year 1 & Year 2** will be held in the **School Hall**.
- Meetings for **Years 3–6** will take place in the **Activity Studio**.
- Nursery parents will meet Hannah in the classroom.
- Parents are welcome to browse their child's books in the classroom **before or after** their appointment.

Please note: Year 1 Padua & Year 3 Lisbon have slightly adjusted their Tuesday and Wednesday slots due to staff training.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing your child's progress.

Secondary Admissions

Please note that the deadline for secondary school applications (current Year 6) is 31st October.

Grandparents/Community Afternoon and Class Assemblies.

Our community/grandparent afternoon was very well attended by grandparents and senior citizens from the local community/parishes. Our hall was packed, it was lovely to welcome so many visitors. The children really enjoyed taking part in the entertainment and we received many lovely comments from our visitors about the atmosphere in the school and the children's behaviour. It has also been lovely to see our class assemblies for parents so well attended so far.

October - Black History Month

October is Black History Month. John, our Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity co-ordinator has planned lots of interesting activities focusing on important black men and women throughout history.

Year 5 Bikeability course

Congratulations to all the Year 5 children who recently completed their Bikeability course. They were praised by the course leaders for their enthusiasm and sensible behaviour. Well done children.

A reminder to all scooter riders and cyclists – we want a safe playground so would remind you to dismount from your scooter/bike as soon as you enter the playground. Thank you.

Parking

Please continue to park safely outside the school and with polite respect for our neighbours. It is not possible to park or stop your car for drop offs in the school driveway leading to the entrance. It is vital this is kept clear at all times.

Watford Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who donated previously and also to Mr and Mrs Kelly – grandparents of a child in Year 6 who kindly delivered the food to the Foodbank. The next donation days are in the box below:

Date for donations
Thursday 23rd October
Thursday 27th November
Thursday 11 th December

Support Dogs for Autism, For Epilepsy and For Disability

To help this charity please start collecting your used stamps from letters, parcels and postcards, leaving a 1cm boarder around them. Send them into school in an envelope and they will be put into the Support Dogs collection box near the main entrance.

DSPL9 – Delivering specialist provision locally

Please refer to the DSPL9 website for their fortnightly parents' newsletters which will keep you up to date. DSPL9 offer support for parents and children through a number of workshops and courses.

Attendance Update

We are increasingly concerned about families taking holidays during term time, especially towards the end of term or at the beginning of a new term. This is a national issue, and the government rules introduced last August mean stricter fines and procedures for unauthorised absences.

We understand the financial pressures families face, but we've seen a rise in cases where illness is reported for an absence, only for children to later share details of holidays. This puts pupils in a difficult position, makes things very difficult for staff and undermines the trust between home and school.

Most families do follow the government rules, and we're grateful for that. However, we must remind families that we are not able to authorise holidays during term time, and families may be asked produce evidence if an absence is unclear. If we learn a child is on holiday while reported as ill, we must record the absence as unauthorised and report it to County, this can also be carried out retrospectively.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain accurate attendance records.

The whole school attendance has been **96%** from the 4th September until 16th October.

A particular well done all the classes who received 97% attendance rate at this time.

The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	90%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	95%	97%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	96%	97%
Year 2	96%	96%
Year 3	97%	96%
Year 4	97%	97%
Year 5	96%	97%
Year 6	97%	95%

Teams - Microsoft Authenticator App

We are aware that some parents are unable to access their child's Microsoft Teams account. Please ensure that you have downloaded the correct authenticator app directly from Microsoft itself which may prompt you to input a code when logging in to Teams. These apps can be found by scanning the QR codes below (iOS and Android devices).

If you continue to have any problems in accessing the accounts, please inform you child's teacher or the office where the problem can try and be resolved.

To install Authenticator on your iOS device

Scan the QR code



To install Authenticator on your Android device

Scan the QR code



Dates for your Diary

Fri 17 th Oct	Year 2 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Year 6 take part in the One World Festival at St Michael's Catholic High School.
Mon 20 th Oct	Year 4 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am
Tues 21 st Oct	Year 3 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am
Weds 22 nd Oct	Reading morning- parents/carers and children in the Activity Studio - all welcome 8.25am – 8.45am Tempest photography day – Individual and family group photos Reception parents' coffee afternoon – 2.30 -3.25pm
Thurs 23 rd Oct	Watford Foodbank Donation Day Year 5 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Nursery parents' coffee morning – 11am- 11.50pm
Fri 24 th Oct	Year 6 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Wear you own clothes to school – MUFTI Day for a donation to school fund on the School Gateway. School finishes at 3.30pm for half term break.
Mon 27 th Oct – Fri 31 st Oct	Half Term
Sat 1 st Nov	All Saints Day
Mon 3 rd Nov	Children return to school. Year 5 classes – Forest School Year 6 Padua swimming lessons begin
Tues 4 th Nov	Year 5 Lisbon visit WFC for 'Show Racism the Red Card' event
Weds 5 th Nov	Reception parents Phonics meeting in the school hall – 5.30pm
Mon 10 th Nov	Anti-Bullying week begins – children will take part in assemblies
Tues 11 th Nov	Armistice Day Silence will be observed at 11am
Tues 18 th Nov	Late Parents Consultation Evening – 4.30pm – 7pm. See above for details
Weds 19 th Nov	Early Parents Consultation Evening for all classes – 3.50pm – 6.30pm. See above for details
Thurs 20 th Nov	Crazy Hair Day –Details to follow
Fri 21 st Nov	Occasional Day – school closed
Mon 24 th Nov	INSET Day – school closed

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 Poppies

Molly A completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Grace V completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Ektha S completed the Summer Reading Challenge and completed Zoo Crew challenge

Reception Lilies

Aoife K who received two medals from Glen Rovers, for Gaelic football.

Year 1 Lisbon

Ajees M completed the Summer Reading Challenge, achieved Stage 1 of the Learn to Swim Awards, a Jigsaw Arts medal and a trophy and two medals for academic achievement from Tamil School.

Kaiden G received a trophy for football and was awarded Player of the Match from Bram FC.

Year 1 Padua

Eva J completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Aisling C completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Aoife K received Poppet of the Week from PQA Performing Arts School and a mini league winner certificate from London GAA.

Year 2 Lisbon

Nel Z received a Level 4 vault medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club

Anna M received a Level 4 vault medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club

Cora L was Star of the Week for Shogun Karate

Year 2 Padua

Anaiah R completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Ayan C completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Year 3 Lisbon

Belle R completed the Summer Reading Challenge, received a trophy and certificate from Croxley Dance Academy for most improved 2025 and a Level 5 rebound medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club

Bianca C received a Level 6 vault medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club

Amelia F received a Level 5 vault medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club and 1st place medal for the Watford Gym Club championship.

India T achieved stage 2 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Millie K received a medal from Glen Rovers for playing for a year

Lola S achieved stage 3 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 3 Padua

Hayden J completed the Summer Reading Challenge and received a Player of the Day certificate from Titan FC

Aliah P received a medal and certificate for the High 10 Gym competition for 3rd place Floor

Sedrick X received a Level 5 rebound medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club

Remayah F achieved stage 2 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Nicholas G received a Level 5 rebound medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club

Year 4 Padua

Rhys M was awarded Player of the Match trophy from Evergreen FC

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

Mollie H received a Level 4 vault medal and award from Watford Gymnastics Club

Rory K achieved stage 4 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Year 5 Lisbon

Elena A completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Luciana C achieved stage 3 of the Learn to Swim Awards

Abel C completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Year 6 Lisbon

Melissa M received a Level 8 rebound certificate and medal from Watford Gymnastics Club, a 20 metre Rainbow Distance Award and a 2nd place Gym competition medal

Abbie K received a medal for winning a tournament as part of Parnells Youth GFC and was awarded Coaches' Player trophy from Glen Rovers

Laura B was awarded a 100 metre Rainbow Distance Award

Year 6 Padua

Lenny S was awarded a certificate for becoming a member of the half marathon club as he completed 11 junior park runs.

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher