



SEPTEMBER 2025 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome

It was lovely to see the children return to school after their summer break. They have all settled in very well into their new classrooms and I have been delighted to see how much work has already been achieved. I would like to welcome all our new Nursery and Reception children and parents to the St. Anthony's community. Nursery and Reception parents will receive weekly information via their Teams account – please ensure you check this weekly as the teachers upload a lot of information and news.

Class updates for parents with children in Year 1- Year 6 are written by your child's teacher and will continue to be emailed to you every Friday. These are also posted in the class tab on our school website. The class updates are an excellent source of information for parents. They will inform you about the learning that has taken place during the week. It will also advise you of anything you can do at home to prepare your child with forthcoming learning. **Please continue to read the updates every week.**

Martin, our Assistant Headteacher and RE Lead also writes a weekly RE newsletter. Fr Tim our school chaplain/RE Governor contributes to the newsletter each week sharing his wisdom.

Thank you

On behalf of all the staff I would like to **thank you** for all the cards, presents and good wishes we received at the end of the summer term. Your kindness and support is much appreciated by all the staff.

In July our Year 6 leavers' parents presented the school with a fantastic new Welcome sign for the Key Stage Two playground. The word 'Welcome' is written in many different languages to reflect the wonderfully diverse community of St Anthony's School - where everyone is welcome. This was an extremely thoughtful gift to the school, and we are very grateful to the parents and children of last year's Year 6.



Congratulations

Huge **congratulations** to our Year 5 Padua teacher, Amy, who tied the knot with Harry this summer! Their beautiful wedding took place in County Mayo, Republic of Ireland. We wish Amy and Harry a lifetime filled with love, laughter, and happiness.



The Common Good - Watford Food Bank

As a Catholic School we are committed to the common good which is why we feel it is very important to continue with fundraising to support local, national and global charities. We would like to continue to support the Watford Foodbank. They are situated in Imperial Way, Watford. The foodbank relies on goodwill and support. 90% of the food distributed is donated by the public. The boxes for donations will be next to the main entrance door, Nursery door and St Francis building door where donations can be placed. The dates for donations are listed below. Please do not donate at other times as we do not have the storage capacity within school to keep the donations. Cans, dried foods and toiletries are always welcome.

Date for donations
Thursday 25th September
Thursday 23rd October
Thursday 27th November
Thursday 11th December

Reminders of Safety

- It is very important to keep our entrance gateway clear of cars. Parents are not able to park in the driveway to drop off/collect children at any time of the day. This is due to emergency vehicle access.
- We like to encourage children to ride scooters or bikes to school but please remind your child to dismount at the gate **before** they arrive on the playground. It is very dangerous for children to scoot/cycle around any path or playground area inside school as they could knock into children/adults. Helmets should also be worn for both these methods of transport.
- Ball games are also a safety risk before and after school as people are arriving/leaving on to the playground. Sometimes there are footballs that blow down from the school flat roofs overnight but please discourage your child from playing with these.
- Earrings are **not** to be worn by children in school. The children need to take earrings out of their ears for school and put them in again when they return home. This is something we feel very strongly about in school for health and safety reasons. Plasters over the earrings are also not acceptable.

- Please can you remind your child that the trim trails are **not** to be used before or after school for safety reasons.

Social media - Twitter or X and Bluesky

As well as reading our school website if you have access to Twitter or Bluesky we regularly post information and photographs about school events on our school twitter account which is @watford_st. You will also see the stream of Bluesky on the front page of our school website. Please follow us !

Attendance

As you will know from my previous newsletters, each month I report to you the most recent attendance figures across the school. This will start again in my October newsletter. If your child is absent from school please telephone/email each day to keep the school office informed. We are unable to authorise any absence for holidays/trips/visits/celebrations or extended leave.

Questionnaires

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who took time to complete our school questionnaire in the summer term. The results of both questionnaires will be analysed, discussed by the Senior Management Team and results will be shared in the October newsletter.

Cancer Research Fundraising Day

A huge thank you for all your donations for our fundraising day in July. We raised £535.50 for Cancer Research. This is a fantastic amount – your generosity is much appreciated.

Secondary Admissions -Year 6

Please note that the deadline for secondary school applications (current Year 6) is **31st October 2025**.

St Michael's Catholic High School open evening is **17th September** and St Joan of Arc Catholic School open evening is **2nd October**. I would encourage your child to visit these two Catholic schools as we have very close links with them both.

Information meetings

An email has been sent to parents with the dates for information evenings for all classes from Year 1 to Year 6 (the Year 3 information meeting was in July). Please make time to attend the meeting for your child's class as you will find out lots of important information about how to support your child with their learning this year.

National Teaching Assistant Day

On Friday 26th September we will celebrate National Teaching Assistant Day. We are incredibly fortunate to have wonderful teaching assistants, office staff and premises staff at St Anthony's School. They make a huge difference to the lives of the children and go above and beyond to ensure the children feel safe and happy in school.

Grandparents/ Senior Citizen Afternoon

We would like to invite Grandparents into school for our special community afternoon to watch some entertainment the children have prepared. This will include singing and dancing performed by all the classes.

This event will take place on Tuesday 14th October at 1.45pm. After the entertainment we will serve tea and cakes to our guests. The afternoon should finish at approx 3.15pm.

If you would like Grandparents in your family to attend, please telephone the school office (01923 226987) to add your name to our Community Afternoon list so we have an idea of numbers.

All of the children's performances will be repeated for parents during special assemblies so no parents will miss out. Parents will be invited to watch their child's class entertainment in a special assembly. Please see the dates for diary below for details of these assemblies.

Microsoft Teams

Below is a QR code to scan with your phone in order to download Teams if you haven't yet done so. All children will be given their log in and password in the next few days. Please don't worry if you have not yet logged into Teams as we have been updating our systems. By the end of next week all children should be able to use Teams for homework or in the case of Early Years for weekly information.



WHOLE SCHOOL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 22nd Sept	Year 6 Lisbon swimming lessons begin. Year 4 Information meeting 5.30pm
Tues 23 rd Sept	Lives not knives and esafety Police presentation for Year 6.
Weds 24 th Sept	Year 6 Information meeting 5.30pm which includes a presentation from the Head of St Joan of Arc School.
Thurs 25 th Sept	Foodbank Donation Day
Fri 26 th Sept	National Teaching Assistant Day
Tues 30 th Sept	Welcome Assembly for Reception and Nursery parents in the school hall - 9.15am Year 5 parents' information evening in the school hall -5.30pm
Weds 1 st Oct	Black History Month begins. Activities and assemblies will be planned throughout the month of October. .
Tues 2 nd Oct	Brain Buddies workshops begin in Y5 led by Sam Marriott from Watford Mental Health Support Team.
Fri 3 rd Oct	Celebration of St Francis of Assisi Feast Day – Year 2 classes to dress as animals for the day – details to follow. National Poetry Day Year 6 to take part in St Michael's Catholic High School Football and Netball Tournament- details to follow.
Tues 7 th Oct	Year 1 parents' information evening in the school hall – 5.30pm.
Tues 14 th Oct	Grandparents/ Senior Citizen Afternoon of entertainment - 1.45pm – 3.30pm. Please see newsletter above for more details.
Weds 15 th Oct	Reception classes assembly for parents/carers 9.15am
Thurs 16 th Oct	Year 1 classes assembly for parents/carers 9.15am
Fri 17 th Oct	Year 2 classes assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Year 6 take part in the One World Festival at St Michael's Catholic High School -details to follow
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	Tempest photography to take individual photographs of children
Thurs 23 rd Oct	Year 5 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am
Fri 24 th Oct	Year 6 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Whole School 'Mufti Day' – children may wear their own clothes to school – donation for school fund to made via The Gateway. School finishes at 3.30pm for half term break.
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	Half Term
Mon 3 rd Nov	Children return to school.

WELL DONE



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

We have very many talented children! Our congratulations also go to the following children:

Nursery

Kayal M was awarded a trophy and certificate for 2nd Place and participation in Speech Group at Tamil School

Year 2 Lisbon

Dorian D-R was awarded a certificate from Shogun Karate for his hard work, excellence and concentration

Serah J was awarded a certificate for Stage 1 in swimming

Anna M was awarded a 2nd place medal in the Watford Gym Club Championships

Year 2 Padua

Sarah L was awarded a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 3, Superstar Award for Gymnastics Level 6, Certificate of Achievement for grading of White and Blue belt in Ju Jitsu and Magic Link handwriting programme

Year 3 Lisbon

Dominic I was awarded badges for Learn to Swim 1 & 2, he received Player of the Day award from Titans FC

Aliah P has passed level 11 high springers gym award.

Year 3 Padua

Filip V received a certificate from Kidz Klub

Tessa G was given a Class Topper trophy from St Joseph's Mission

Year 4 Padua

Vennilaa M was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Tamil language and a diploma for taking part in a Summer Concert at the Royal Academy of Music

Sebastian S was awarded a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 4

Year 5 Lisbon

Casper S passed his Grade 4 Violin Practical music exam with merit

Year 5 Padua

Lakees M won 3 trophies and medals for academic achievement with Tamil School, 1 medal and trophy for being the winner in the Outstanding category in the Maths Challenge and he was also awarded 15m Rainbow Distance Award

Aadhya M won 4 trophies for academic achievement with Tamil School and a Bronze medal for a Tang Soo Do Championship

Year 6 Padua

Emer H was awarded a certificate for Level 5 in swimming

Summer Reading Challenge

I have been delighted with the number of children who have visited their local library and taken part in the Summer Reading Challenge. If your child has not yet brought in their certificate and medal into school, please encourage them to do so.

Congratulations to the following children who completed the challenge:

	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	Isabella H	
Year 2	Anna M, Joseph O'C	
Year 3	Evanna L, Filip V, Aliah P	Cheryl N, Nicholas G
Year 4		Vennilaa M, Sebastian S
Year 5	Ria D, Sophia H,	Jayron K, Kaviru C, Lakees M, Hayden V
Year 6	Amelia G, Elizabeth B	Francesca D R,

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher