



NOVEMBER 2025 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonysherts.sch.uk twitter/X @watford_st Bluesky @stawatford.bsky.social

Dear Parents/Carers,

November – the month of Holy Souls

Our Holy Souls display is now in the main entrance (see image below). Children from all classes have added names of family/friends who have passed away. These names will be included in our prayers throughout November. We are very pleased to have recently met with Fr David Knight who is now the parish priest of St Bedes in Croxley Green who has been appointed following the sad passing of Fr John Wiley. Please refer to our weekly RE newsletter for more RE news and information.



Mufti Day and Newly Improved Library

Thank you so much for your generosity in contributing to our Mufti Day collection which was held as part of our mufti day before the half term break. We were delighted to have raised £394.50 for vital school funds. We have recently purchased more fabulous books for the non-fiction library. We have redesigned our school library and invested in a new online lending library service. All the books have now been bar coded and will be scanned when children want to borrow a book. We are putting the finishing touches to the library and it will be open from next week. I would like to thank Megan, Susanna, Martha and Tony for their hard work with the new library.

Remembrance Day

Children have been taking part in Remembrance Day activities and an assembly this week. They observed the 2-minute silence so respectfully on Tuesday. Well done children.

Watford Foodbank

The October collection was amazing – thank you so much for your generosity! We received a message and a certificate from the Foodbank team **‘On behalf of all the volunteers at Watford Foodbank, I would like to say a huge thank you to the amazing Harvest food donation that we received today from St Anthony’s School.**

Our next Food Bank collection is **Thursday 27th November.**

DSPL9 – Delivering specialist provision locally

This is an incredibly helpful group which provides families with the latest local information and updates around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Their particular focus is to support parents and families, ensuring you have access to practical guidance, resources, and opportunities to connect with local services. Their newsletter is published fortnightly during term time, keeping everyone up to date with current developments. Their aim is to strengthen the partnership between home and school, making sure every child receives the support they need to thrive. The website address is below:

www.dspl9.uk

Electric Umbrella

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.

Southwest Herts Partnership Family Support Service Appeal

In the next few weeks, we shall be launching our Christmas Appeal with South West Herts Partnership to provide gifts in support of the wellbeing of families in our part of Hertfordshire. Martin, our Assistant Headteacher, will send out a letter soon with details of how you can help.

Anti-bullying Week

This week our school will be taking part in Anti-Bullying Week, a national initiative that encourages children and young people to celebrate kindness, respect, and individuality. Sam Marriott, our Mental Health Lead delivered special assemblies across the school, helping pupils to understand what bullying is, how to stand up against it, and how to support one another. Odd Socks Day: On Monday children were invited to wear odd socks as a fun way to celebrate difference and remind us all that it's okay to stand out.

We believe that every child has the right to feel safe, valued, and included. By working together—staff, pupils, and families—we can continue to build a culture where kindness and respect thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing support in reinforcing these important messages at home.

Nursery and Reception Nativity Performance

The Nursery and Reception performance will take place on **Wednesday 3rd December at 11am** for Nursery and Reception parents.

Years 1 and 2 – Nativity Performance 'The Bethlehem Ballroom' Thursday 4th December

For the Year 1 and Year 2 performance there will be an afternoon performance (2.30pm) and an evening performance (6pm).

Numbers for the evening performance will need to be restricted so we will be sending home two tickets for each family in Years 1 and 2. **Please organise babysitters in advance as all children who attend our school in other year groups 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.**

The afternoon performance will **not** be ticketed. Children below school age should be brought to the afternoon performance and not the evening performance.

Filming – All Christmas Performances

Please refrain from using phones/ipads etc to film your child's Christmas production as we have organised for the play to be professionally filmed. This link will be sent to all parents at the end of term. The professional filming has been funded by school. This will give parents the chance to relax and enjoy the performance instead of worrying about filming it. It is also overwhelming for young children to have lots of phones and ipads in front of them as they perform their scripted line or join in with the singing. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

On **Wednesday 10th December** the children will be able to have a Christmas lunch as one of their choices on School Grid. It is very helpful to our kitchen staff if you have made your order for this by **Friday 28th November** as then they know the numbers for ordering the special Christmas lunch food items.

All children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day with a donation on The Gateway to **CAFOD**. They can wear this with joggers, trousers, leggings or a skirt instead of their usual school uniform.

Reading Sessions with parents

We were delighted to welcome families to the October Reading morning. Megan and Amy, our English Leads, 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 26th November – 8.25am – 8.45am

My Maths Homework

Abbie and Bella, our Maths Leads are excited to let you know that our school is trialling MyMaths, an online platform designed to support pupils with their maths learning both in school and at home. Children will be set maths homework tasks through MyMaths, which they can complete online. The platform provides immediate results, helping children to see their progress and identify areas for improvement.

Families can log in alongside their child to view tasks, explore tutorials, and support learning at home. This trial period will help us evaluate how effective MyMaths is in engaging pupils, strengthening their understanding, and making homework more accessible. We welcome your feedback as we explore this new approach. Thank you for your continued support in helping us make maths learning enjoyable and effective for all.

Maths Evening – Wednesday 14th January - 6pm

We are pleased to invite you to a special **Maths Mastery Evening** at school. This event will give families the opportunity to see first-hand the teaching techniques and resources we use to support pupils in developing a deep and secure understanding of mathematics.

It will begin with demonstrations of maths mastery approaches, practical strategies for problem-solving, and examples of the resources children use in class. Teachers will explain how these methods help pupils build confidence and fluency in maths. The evening is designed to help you support your child's learning at home and gain insight into how maths is taught across the school.

We hope you will join us for this engaging and informative session. Your involvement makes a real difference in helping children thrive in their learning.

Crazy Hair Day

On **Thursday 20th November** Key Stage One have organised a Crazy Hair Day for the whole school to join in with – information about this event will be in your child's class weekly update on Friday.

Attendance Update

At St Anthony's, we know that **regular attendance is key to every child's success**. Being in school every day helps pupils build confidence, keep up with their learning, and make the most of the opportunities available to them. Please note that, in line with national guidance, we cannot authorise holidays during term time. Any requests for leave of absence will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

We ask for your continued support in ensuring children attend regularly and arrive on time each day. Together, we can help every pupil make the most of their education.

The whole school attendance is **95.3%** from **1st September** until **10th November**. The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	90%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	94%	95%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	95%	98%
Year 2	93%	97%
Year 3	97%	97%
Year 4	97%	97%
Year 5	96%	97%
Year 6	96%	95%

Well done to **Year 1 Padua** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

Smoking/vaping near school entrances

We kindly ask all individuals to refrain from smoking or vaping near school entrances. Parents and local residents have expressed concern about the impact on children and the surrounding community. Let's work together to maintain a safe and healthy environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Old children's magazines

Please see the attached flyer regarding a request for old children's magazines.

Climate Action Plan

Message from Eva Thomas (teaching staff)

'As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a greener, more sustainable school, I am delighted to introduce myself as the Sustainability Lead. My role is to help our school community take meaningful steps towards reducing our environmental impact and inspiring our pupils to care for the planet. On our school website you will find our new Climate Action Plan, which outlines the key areas we are focusing on - from reducing waste and improving energy efficiency to supporting biodiversity and encouraging sustainable travel. We invite all families to read the plan and join us in making positive changes, both at school and at home.'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 10 th Nov	Anti-Bullying week begins – children will take part in assemblies and Odd Socks Day
Tues 11 th Nov	Armistice Day Silence will be observed at 11am
Tues 18 th Nov	Late Parents Consultation Evening – 4.30pm – 7.30pm. See above for details (Year 3 Lisbon and Year 1 Padua times differ and parents have been informed of this)
Weds 19 th Nov	Early Parents Consultation Evening – 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
Tues 25 th Nov	Year 1 Advent Retreat day in school
Weds 26 th Nov	Parents' Reading morning in the Activity Studio 8.25am – 8.45am- all classes welcome Year 2 Advent Retreat day in school
Thurs 27 th Nov	Electric Umbrella assemblies and workshops for Year 1 and Year 5 Foodbank donation day
Sun 30 th Nov	First Sunday in Advent

Weds 3 rd Dec	Reception and Nursery Nativity performance for parents – 11am Year 4 Romans Day – details to follow in class Friday update
Thurs 4 th Dec	Year 1 and 2 classes Christmas performance for parents – 2.30pm and 6pm. See above for details.
Fri 5 th Dec	Year 5 and 6 choir to perform at a carol service at Holy Rood Church 12pm – details to follow
Mon 8 th Dec	Last swimming lesson for Year 6 Padua
Weds 10 th Dec	Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper fundraising day – details above
Thurs 11 th Dec	Foodbank donation day
Fri 12 th Dec	Year 6 visit Bletchley Park for WWII visit -details to follow
Mon 15 th Dec	Last Forest School for Year 5 Year 2 visit Watford Palace Theatre for Beauty and the Beast Pantomime – details to follow
Thurs 18 th Dec	Class parties – details to follow in class updates.
Fri 19 th Dec	Term ends at 1.30pm for the Christmas holidays.
Mon 5 th Jan	School resumes.

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:

Nursery

Olive S took part in the Summer Reading Challenge

Kayal M took part in the Summer Reading Challenge

Year 2 Padua

Eyoel S achieved Stage 2 of the Learn to Swim awards

Arthur A received a trophy from Nascot Wood Football Club

Airen H received a Level 6 floor certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club

Year 3 Lisbon

Amelia F received a 1st place trophy for light jig and 7th and 8th place medals for slip and single jig at an Irish dance feis.

Year 3 Padua

Olivia B received a Wild Quest Explorer challenge certificate

Year 4 Lisbon

Rebecca P received an outstanding performance certificate from Acro Allstar Acrotrix

Sandra R achieved Stage 2 of the Learn to Swim awards

Sarah R achieved Stage 2 of the Learn to Swim awards

Year 4 Padua

Vennilaa M received an A* for her Tamil language exam

Eliana S received a Level 5 rebound certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club and a 2nd place medal for Club Championships.

Year 5 Lisbon

Morgan R received a trophy from Cassio Rangers Football Club for Player of the Match

Sophia H Level 8 floor certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher