



JANUARY 2026 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

We Grow and Learn with Jesus

school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk **twitter/X** @watford_st **Bluesky** @stawatford.bsky.social

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and Thank You

Happy New Year. It has been lovely to welcome back the children after their Christmas break. They have all settled in so well and I have received lots of positive comments during a tour of prospective parents about how happy, calm and studious they all are.

We would like to thank you for the many Christmas messages, cards and gifts that all the staff received at the end of last term. Your generosity, kindness and support is **very** much appreciated.

Staffing

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Ashleen Keyes at the end of this month who has been working with our Reception Lilies children. Ashleen has been a wonderful member of staff for the last 2 years and we will miss her dearly. We wish her every success in her new role. Rhiann Shipley will be taking over from Ashleen as the teaching assistant in Reception Lilies

We are very pleased to welcome Sam Marriott to our staff team. Sam will be working with classes across the school as a teaching assistant. Sam has worked with our school previously as our Mental Health Practitioner so we welcome her expertise.

Reminder - Maths Information sessions

A reminder of the Maths Information Sessions - these will be taking place after school on **Wednesday 11th February** for parents who have children in Early Years and Key Stage One and **Wednesday 4th March at 5.30pm** for parents who have children in Key Stage Two.

These sessions will cover:

- How maths is taught across different year groups
- Practical strategies to support your child's learning at home

This is a great opportunity to ask questions, gain insights, and work together to support our children's success in mathematics.

School Fundraising - PFA

Our very small team of PFA volunteers would love to welcome more parents who would like to offer to help. This means they can plan and organise more events for the children. The PFA will be sending out a letter very soon about a Valentine's Disco for children. If you would like to get involved or help organise an event, please get in touch with the school office so they can pass on your details to the PFA.

Safer Internet Week beginning 10th February

We will be organising activities for children to take part in for this important week and will also be reminding children of the key safety messages.

As parents it would be helpful to have a chat with your child to remind them of the age rating of WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instagram and TikTok as these are all 13+. Therefore, primary school age children are too young to use or sign up to them.

Parking outside the school

It is very important consideration is shown to the Holywell community who live very close by to our school. It is very frustrating for them when their car is blocked in. The main entrance to the school must also not be used for dropping off or collecting children. The reason for this is the driveway needs to be kept clear for emergency vehicles and for staff entering/exiting. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Watford Foodbank

The donations towards Watford Foodbank will continue this term. The staff of the Foodbank have passed on their thanks for all your generosity especially during these difficult times. The next dates for donations are:

Thursday 29th January

Thursday 26th February

The Foodbank boxes will be located by the doors of St Francis building, Main entrance and Nursery door.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September 2025** until **16th January 2026**. If your child is absent from school, please telephone/email each day to keep the school office informed. Please remember we are unable to authorise any absence for holidays/trips/visits/celebrations. Recently County have issued fines to families where children have had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence. One day of school is equal to 2 sessions. Absences directly before or after a school holiday cannot be authorised without evidence for the absence. This may include medical evidence if your child is unwell or evidence of delayed flights or circumstances beyond your control.

Children who have below 90% attendance will receive a letter from school as under the guidelines, we have to refer children's attendance figures to the local authority attendance team if they have had more than 15 days illness.

The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	87%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	94%	94%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	93%	96%
Year 2	92%	95%
Year 3	97%	96%
Year 4	96%	97%
Year 5	96%	97%
Year 6	96%	95%

Well done to **Year 3 Lisbon** and **Year 4 & 5 Padua** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

Spring Term Parents' Consultation evenings

Our next parents' consultation evenings will be **Tuesday 10th March from 4.30pm -7.30pm** or **Wednesday 11th March from 3.50pm – 6.30pm**. A link will be sent to parents on **Tuesday 24th February at 12pm** to sign up for a slot on one of these dates. Teachers will be unable to meet with parents outside of these dates so please ensure you put one of these dates in your diary.

Congratulations

Please encourage your child to bring in any achievement certificates or medals as I love to see them. Our congratulations go to the following talented children:

Nursery

Selena P achieved Ducking 2. She also got a certificate of appraisal for all her hard work and dedication from Acrotrix.

Reception Lisbon

Peggy H received a certificate from Swim England for achieving Ducking 2.

Evan C received a certificate for completing the Winter Reads Challenge.

Eveline B received a certificate from Swim England for achieving Ducking 4

Reception Padua

Sienna I received a certificate of achievement from Petit Ballet for being an amazing ballerina in 2025.

Ektha S received a certificate for completing the Winter Reads Challenge.

Year 1 Lisbon

Andrei M received a certificate for completing the Winter Reads Challenge.

Year 2 Lisbon

Nel Z received a medal and certificate from Watford Gym Club for Level 4 Rebound.

Jack L received a certificate for Learn to Swim stage 3.

Year 2 Padua

Sebastian A received a medal from We make footballers club for dribbling and step overs.

Year 3 Padua

Cheryl N received a certificate for completing the Winter Reads Challenge.

Sedrick X received a medal and certificate from Watford Gym Club for Level 6 Floor.

Year 4 Lisbon

Rebecca P received certificates and a medal from Acrotrix for Level 3 Floor and Fold and also achieved Technical Excellence. She also received a certificate of appraisal for all her hard work and dedication from them.

Year 4 Padua

Eliana S received a certificate from Watford Gym Club for Level 6 Vault

Natalia M received certificates and a medal from Acrotrix for Level 3 Floor, Flight and Fold

Year 5 Lisbon

Sophia H received a certificate for completing the Winter Reads Challenge. Along with a Distinction certificate from Trinity College London for Grade 1 Piano.

Year 5 Padua

Demi C received a certificate from Acrotrix for Level 3 flight and floor, she also achieved Level 2 Fold.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 30 th Jan	Foodbank donation day
Sun 2 nd Feb	Candlemas - The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus.
Mon 3 rd Feb	National Storytelling Week begins – children will be taking part in activities
Thurs 6 th Feb	Reception classes theatre trip
Fri 7 th Feb	Number Day with Watford Football Club – children will take part in activities with Watford Community Trust
Sun 9 th Feb	Racial Justice Sunday
Monday 9 th Feb	Children's Mental Health Week MHST delivering assemblies to classes
Fri 13 th Feb	School finishes for half term. Reception classes 3.25pm finish. Years 1- 6 3.30pm finish.
Mon 16 th Feb to Fri 20 th Feb	Half term
Weds 18 th Feb	Ash Wednesday
Mon 23 rd Feb	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 24 th Feb	Children return to school Magistrates visit and workshop at school for Year 6
Weds 25 th Feb	Year 5 visit to Watford Mosque
Thurs 26 th Feb	Foodbank donation day
Thurs 5 th March	World Book Day – details to follow

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold