



# April 2026 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

*We Grow and Learn with Jesus*

**school website** [www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk) **twitter/X** @watford\_st **Bluesky** @stawatford.bsky.social

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Welcome back - Easter Blessings**

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you a very happy Easter. It was wonderful to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus during this special season. We were delighted to welcome the children back after their break — they have returned full of energy and ready for their final term of the academic year. We hope you all enjoyed some precious family time over the holidays.

## **Congratulations**

Huge **congratulations** to our Key Stage One Lead, **Frankie**, who tied the knot with **Robin** this Easter. Their beautiful wedding took place in North Yorkshire during the Easter holidays. We wish Frankie and Robin a lifetime filled with love, laughter, and happiness.



## **Staff News**

I am delighted to share the happy news that **Aimie** (Y1 Lisbon) and **Amy** (Year 5 Padua) are both expecting babies and will be starting their maternity leave in August. I know you will join me in congratulating them both and wishing them all the very best as they prepare for this exciting new chapter. We will update you in the Autumn term with their baby arrival news.

I am very happy to announce that **Sarah** has returned from maternity leave this term. The children and staff are excited to have her back, and she is looking forward to settling back into school life. Please join us in welcoming Sarah back.

We are very happy to welcome **Emily Rider** to our staff team as a new Early Years Teaching Assistant. She brings valuable experience and is looking forward to getting to know the children and families. We are very pleased to have Emily join our school community.

## **Catholic Children's Society and NatWest Egg Appeal**

We were delighted to raise **£480.94** for the Catholic Children's Society from our Walk of Faith Day just before the Easter holidays. Many thanks to everyone who took part to raise such a fantastic amount. We were overwhelmed by all the Easter eggs we received for the NatWest appeal for Easter eggs. We delivered the eggs to NatWest Bank in Watford, and they distributed them to the children's wards of

Watford General Hospital. Thank you to Denise, our School Business Manager, for organising this with NatWest.



### **Kapla Workshops**

I hope everyone was able to view our website/Twitter/Bluesky to see the amazing Kapla creations that were created in school recently. The STEM skills the children demonstrated were fantastic. Thank you to **Eleay** our Design and Technology Lead for organising these workshops.

### **May Procession**

We will be celebrating Our Lady's month on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** with our annual May Procession. This will take place at **9.15am**. Each child will carry a flower and gather round the statue of Our Lady where the classes will sing special hymns and lay their flowers at the foot of Our Lady's statue. Our chaplaincy team will lead us in our special prayers. In order for us to make this occasion special it would be lovely if you could provide your child with a single flower so that they can lay it at the foot of Our Lady's statue.

Parents, grandparents and friends are very welcome. If you would like to join us for this celebration, please wait on the Key Stage 2 playground on the morning of the procession.

### **Sports Days**

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Sports Days this term. These will take place on the field at the back of the Key Stage 2 playground. Chairs will be available for those who wish to sit. If the weather is hot, we recommend that visitors bring sun hats and water. Children will remain with their class throughout the event, and we kindly ask parents and carers not to approach their child during the sports activities.

Please check the schedule below for your child's date and time:

Nursery and Reception classes will have their Sports morning on **Weds 6<sup>th</sup> May 9.30-11.30am**.

Year 3 and Year 4 sports afternoon will be **Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> May 1.30-3.30pm**.

Year 5 and 6 sports afternoon will be **Fri 5<sup>th</sup> June 1.30 -3.30pm**.

Year 1 sports morning will be **Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June 9.30- 10.30am**

Year 2 sports afternoon will be **Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June 2pm- 3pm**

### **Attendance Update**

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September 2025** until **14<sup>th</sup> April 2026**.

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:

<b>Nursery</b>	88%	
	<b>Lily class</b>	<b>Poppy class</b>
<b>Reception</b>	93%	94%
	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>Padua</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	94%	96%
<b>Year 2</b>	93%	96%
<b>Year 3</b>	96%	96%
<b>Year 4</b>	95%	96%
<b>Year 5</b>	96%	97%
<b>Year 6</b>	96%	95%

Well done to our **Year 5 Padua class** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

### Haircuts and earrings- reminder

Please remember that, in line with our Uniform Policy, tramlines or shaved designs are not permitted in haircuts. Long hair should be tied up for school. For safety reasons, earrings may not be worn. Thank you for your understanding and support.

### Watford Housing

This week we received an email from one of the Watford Community Housing Officers -see below:

***'We have recently received an increased number of complaints from residents about parents and students dropping rubbish in the area during school pick-up and drop-off times. I kindly ask if the school could send a reminder to parents and students to dispose of their rubbish properly and help keep the neighbourhood clean'.***

### **Dates for Diary**

Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Nursery Balance Bikes training session
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Year 6 swimming session for selected pupils
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 3 Padua visit to Watford Gym Club – details to follow <b>Watford Food Bank Donation Day</b>
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 Padua swimming sessions start Reception Lilies visit to Watford Gym Club – details to follow
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 5 visit Cassiobury Park for river work trip
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bank Holiday – school closed</b>
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents and children Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome.
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Nursery and Reception classes Sports morning 9.30-11.30am.
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 Lisbon visit to Watford Gym Club – details to follow
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception Poppies visit to Watford Gym Club – details to follow
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week

Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 and Year 4 sports afternoon 1.30-3.30pm.
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 take part in digital resilience workshops.
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Mary Procession 9.15am Parents/carers and visitors welcome
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>End of half term 3.30pm finish.</b>
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Half term</b>
Mon 1st June	<b>Children return to school</b>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Parents and children Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome.

### **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:

#### **Reception Lilies**

Evan C received a certificate for taking part in The Big Schools Birdwatch

Bernard M received a trophy from Pro Elite Watford for playing fantastic football

#### **Year 1 Lisbon**

Diego C received a certificate from Champions Swim School for 25m Backstroke and a Trophy from Titans for being a Tournament Winner

Kaiden G was awarded a Runners Up medal from Bram FC for taking part in a Cup Final

Andre M received a medal for the Junior Challenge Run at Cassiobury Park

Ajees M received a certificate and badge for Water Safety 1 with Swim England

Millie R received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 2

#### **Year 1 Padua**

Amalia J received a medal for the Junior Challenge Run at Cassiobury Park

Alexandra T was Cheerleading Star of the Day

Sebastian M received a certificate from Ninja Knights for completing White 1 Level Ninja Mission

Denis O received a medal for the Junior Challenge Run at Cassiobury Park

Hallie T received a certificate and badge for Learn to Swim Level 1

Aoife K received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 4

#### **Year 2 Lisbon**

Irene J achieved Duckling 2 with Swim England and received a certificate and badge

Andrea A received a certificate and badge from Swim England for Water Skills 1

Anna M received a medal for the Junior Challenge Run at Cassiobury Park and achieved 15m Rainbow Distance and was given a certificate and badge

Nel Z received a certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club for Level 5 Floor and a Junior Challenge Run Medal

### **Year 2 Padua**

Ella H received a certificate for Water Safety and certificate from Watford Gym Club for Level 4 Vault

### **Year 3 Lisbon**

Bianca C received a Butterfly Progress certificate from Champions Swim School

Amelia F received a certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club for Level 6 Floor

Katie O received a certificate and badge for Water Safety 1 with Swim England

Millie K was awarded a certificate for 10m Breaststroke from Kings Langley Swim Club

Dominic I received a certificate from Titans FC for being Player of the Day

India T received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 3

### **Year 3 Padua**

Khalessi D received a certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club for Level 6 Vault

Olivia B received a certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club for Level 5 Floor

### **Year 4 Lisbon**

Amogh M received a medal for the Junior Challenge Run at Cassiobury Park

### **Year 4 Padua**

Vennilaa M received a certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club for Level 4 Vault

Maria S received a certificate and badge for Turquoise Level in Ballet

Sara M received a certificate from the Club Scouts for a Bushcraft Activity Day

Nathan B received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 3 and a Swim Camp certificate

### **Year 5 Padua**

Brayan G achieved the Rainbow Distance 20m certificate

Rebecca A achieved Water Safety 1 with Swim England

Yash P was awarded a medal for taking part in a Swimathon raising money for Cancer Research along with a medal for the Junior Challenge Run at Cassiobury Park

### **Year 6 Lisbon**

Ethan W was awarded 2 trophies from Everett Rovers for being Player of the Match and the Trainers Choice for Player of the week

***Thank you for your continued support.***

***God bless and take care,***

***Elaine Harrold***