



May 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,

Crowning of Mary

It was wonderful to see so many families and friends join us for the Crowning of Mary today. It was a very prayerful atmosphere, and we received lots of positive comments about the children's behaviour and singing. Thank you for providing the children with such stunning flowers. Thank you to Martin, our RE lead, the chaplaincy team and all the staff for organising the children and to Stephanie, for creating Mary's beautiful crown. We received so many fresh flowers that we took bundles of these flowers to River Court Nursing home and St Anthony's nursing home. They were delighted to receive these.



Staffing

Eleay Burke, our Reception Lilies teacher and previously our Year 2 teacher, will be leaving at the end of the summer term. Eleay has also worked very hard as our Design and Technology Lead. Eleay has been a very positive and kind teacher who has always dedicated herself to the children in her class in order for them to achieve their very best. Eleay will begin a new role as an Early Years adviser for a school in North London. We will all miss Eleay but wish her every good wish as she begins this new chapter in her life.

Holy Communion

Many congratulations to all our children in Key Stage 2 who are either preparing to make their First Holy Communion or who have recently celebrated this special sacrament. These children and their families will be in our prayers at this special time. If they are able to bring in a photograph for our display next to our chapel, we would be very grateful.

Year 6

Well done to our Year 6 children who have recently taken part in the Government statutory assessments. The children have all worked very hard and should be proud of their positive attitudes throughout this time. The Year 6 SATs breakfast was very well attended.

Dog Food Donation Day for Canine Karma Rescue

We're excited to share that our former Early Years Lead and Nursery teacher Katy Laws, who many of you will remember fondly, is now working with Canine Karma Rescue, a wonderful organisation that supports rescue dogs on their journey to finding their forever homes.

Canine Karma Rescue is currently in need of wet dog food — sachets, pouches, or canned food— to help care for the dogs waiting to be adopted. To support Katy and the amazing work she's doing, we will be holding a special Doggy Donation Day on **Thursday 4th June**.

Any donations of pouches, sachets or cans, will make a real difference. Katy would be incredibly grateful for your kindness. We will put out boxes by the main entrance doors, St Francis door and Early Years door

for donations to be placed. Below are just a few of the lovely dogs she is helping to care for and hoping to match with loving families:



Year 5 and Year 6 Production

Year 5 and 6 will be performing their end of year production for their parents on **Wednesday 8th July**.

There will be an afternoon performance (2pm) and an evening performance (7pm). Numbers for the evening will need to be restricted so we will send home two tickets for each family.

The afternoon performance will not be ticketed. All primary school age children will have seen the play so please do not bring them to the evening performance. Children below school age should be brought to the afternoon performance and not the evening performance.

Please organise babysitters in advance as all children who attend our school 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. And it is also very difficult for staff who have to turn them away.

Filming – Upper Key Stage Two Production

Please refrain from filming this production as we have organised for the play to be professionally filmed. This link will be sent to all parents in Year 5 and 6 at the end of term. This has been paid for by school.

Warmer weather and name labelling

As the weather finally appears to be warming up please ensure your child is wearing our summer uniform, brings a sun hat for playtimes and you have applied sun lotion prior to arriving at school. All hats and **all** uniform must be clearly labelled either with a sharpie pen or iron on/sew in labels. Having all your child's clothes labelled really makes a **huge** difference to helping locate items. We have over 450 children in school, and it can become very difficult when clothes have no names in at all.

Birthday sweets

We love sharing in the excitement of children's birthdays and seeing how special these days feel for them. To help us keep everyone safe and included, we'd like to adapt our approach to birthday sweets. Due to feedback and in order to protect children with allergies also respecting respect families who prefer their child not to have sweets, we ask that sweets are no longer handed out on the playground or at the classroom doors. If you would like to share a treat, you're very welcome to do so outside the school gates at home time, where parents and carers can make the choice that's right for their child. Thank you for your understanding and for helping us create a safe and healthy environment for all our children.

Attendance Update

The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **1st September 2025** until **21st May 2026**.

A separate letter will be sent to you shortly reminding parents/carers of the statutory guidelines regarding attendance. As part of our ongoing attendance monitoring, we keep a close eye on absences that occur immediately before or after school holidays.

The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	89%	
	Lily class	Poppy class
Reception	92%	95%
	Lisbon	Padua
Year 1	94%	96%
Year 2	93%	96%
Year 3	96%	97%
Year 4	95%	96%
Year 5	97%	97%
Year 6	96%	95%

Well done to our **Year 3 Padua** and **both Year 5 classes** who achieved the highest attendance during this time.

Tesco – blue tokens

If you shop in any Tesco store in the Watford area, please remember to collect the blue tokens and put them in the St Anthony's collection box in stores. Every blue token counts!!! Spread the word to all your family and friends to also take part - any donation we receive from Tesco will go towards the school library.

South West Herts Partnership

We've attached the SWHP newsletter to this email for you to read at your convenience. Inside, you'll find a wide range of parent courses scheduled over the next few weeks, covering various topics designed to support families.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 22 nd May	End of half term 3.30pm finish.
Mon 25 th May – Fri 29 th May	Half term
Mon 1 st June	Children return to school Multiplication Tables Check starts for Year 4 children Y5 Padua swimming in the afternoon Last Forest School for Year 4
Tues 2 nd June	Year 3 visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum 9.15am New to Nursery parent meeting Parents and children Reading Morning in the Activity Studio – 8.25 am – 8.45am. All welcome.
Thurs 4 th June	Year 2 visit the Roald Dahl Museum
Fri 5 th June	Year 5 and 6 Sports Afternoon 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Mon 8 th June	Year 1 Phonics Checks begin Year 5 Padua swimming (last session) Reception classes begin Forest School
Tues 9 th June	9.15am New to Reception meeting for parents Year 5 visit to the Mosque– details to follow
Fri 12 th June	Special Mass to celebrate the life of our first ever Headteacher - Barry O'Byrne – invited guests and former staff to attend
Mon 15 th June – Friday 19 th June	Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight
Mon 15 th June	Year 5 Lisbon swimming begins
Tues 16 th June	Year 5 visit Mountfitchet Castle – details to follow
Fri 19 th June	Year 2 Father's Day assembly – 9.15am - Parents welcome
Thurs 25 th June	Year 1 Sports morning 9.30-10.30am Year 2 Sports afternoon 2pm – 3pm
Mon 29 th June	Year 1 - Langleybury Farm visit – details to follow Year 5 Lisbon swimming
Fri 3 rd July	Mufti Day – more details to follow
Weds 8 th July	Year 5 and 6 Production 2pm and 7pm
Thurs 9 th July	Transition day for Year 6 Nursery visit to Langleybury Farm – details to follow
Mon 13 th July	Last Year 5 Lisbon swimming session Last Forest School for Reception classes Year 6 Leavers' Disco 5pm – 7pm
Weds 15 th July	Year 6 attend mass at Holy Rood Church 12pm
Tues 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers' Service – 9.15am -Year 6 parents/ carers welcome Term ends at 1.30pm

Congratulations

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

Our congratulations go to the following talented children:

Nursery

Selena P received a certificate and badge from Swim England for Duckling 4 along with a certificate and badge from Kennedy Jane Dance for an incredible dance performance.

Olive S received a medal and certificate for level 2 Pre School with Watford Gym Club

Reception Lilies

Bernard M received a medal from Power League for playing really well.

Lucas F received 5 medals from Power League for being one of the best players. He has also moved up a class in the ZKS Martial Arts class.

Luna I received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 1.

1 Lisbon

Kanan S received a Well Done certificate from an external provider for working hard, taking part, having fun and trying new things.

Joanne J received a certificate for great strikes in karate.

Siana D reached level 5 in floor with Watford Gym Club and received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 1.

Carla B received a medal and certificate for floor work with Watford Gym Club.

Diego C received a certificate of achievement for being player of the day with Titans FC.

Kaiden G received an end of 25/26 season trophy from Bram Youth FC.

Andrei M received a certificate for being player of the week with PSD Football Academy.

Isabella H received a medal and certificate for rebound level 5 with Watford Gym Club.

2 Lisbon

Jack L received a certificate and badge for Learn to Swim Stage 4 and a trophy for sportsmanship from Chorleywood Common FC 2025/2026 season.

Denise FZ received a certificate from Swim School for Stage 2.

Anna M received a medal and certificate for level 5 vault with Watford Gym Club.

2 Padua

Deshawn F received a certificate from Shogun Karate for brilliant strokes.

Lena M received a medal and certificate for floor level 5 with Watford Gym Club.

3 Lisbon

Snehansh K received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 13.

Amelia F finished 5th place in an Irish dancing feis.

3 Padua

Amelia D received a medal and certificate for level 4 vault with Watford Gym Club.

4 Lisbon

Rebecca P received a certificate and badge for Rainbow Distance Award 50 metres.

4 Padua

Mollie H reached level 5 in floor with Watford Gym Club and received a certificate and medal.

Elianna S received a medal and certificate for level 7 vault and rebound with Watford Gym Club.

Matas D received a certificate and badge for Learn to Swim Stage 4.

6 Lisbon

Melissa M reached level 9 in beam with Watford Gym Club and received a certificate.

Ethan W was awarded a trophy for being Manager's Player from Everett Rovers FC 2025/2026 season.

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful half term break.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher