OCTOBER 2026 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

WE GROW AND LEARN WITH JESUS

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Dear Parents/Carers,

October – Month of Mary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. As an important feast in the Church calendar, it's a great opportunity for families to pray the Rosary together. We have many children using our chapel at lunchtime to pray together which has been lovely to see.

Reading Sessions with parents

Once a month our English co-ordinators – Megan and Kevin, 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:

Thursday 22nd October– 8.25am – 8.45am

Thursday 26th November – 8.25am – 8.45am

Thursday 17th December – 8.25am – 8.45am

Parents Consultation Booking

A link will be sent to parents on **Monday 2nd November**, so you are able to book a meeting with your child's teacher via School Cloud for:

- **Tuesday 17th Nov**: 4:30pm–7:30pm **or**
- **Wednesday 18th Nov**: 3:50–6:30pm

Booking will close on Friday 13th November at 12pm.

- Meetings for **Year 1 & Year 2** will be held in the **Barry O'Byrne School Hall**.
- Meetings for **Years 3,4,5 and 6** will take place in the **Activity Studio** in the **St Francis building**.
- Reception and Nursery parents will meet teachers in the classrooms.
- Parents are welcome to browse their child's books in the classroom **before or after** their appointment.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing your child's progress.

Secondary Admissions

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

Grandparents/Community Afternoon and Class Assemblies.

Our community/grandparent afternoon was very well attended by grandparents and senior citizens from the local community/parishes. Our hall was packed; it was lovely to welcome so many visitors. The children really enjoyed taking part in the entertainment and we received many lovely comments from our visitors about the atmosphere in the school and the children's behaviour. It has also been lovely to see our class assemblies for parents so well attended so far.

Anti-Bullying Week

As part of **Anti-Bullying Week**, we will be taking part in **Odd Socks Day** on **Monday 16th November.** Children are invited to wear odd socks to school to celebrate what makes each of us unique. There is no need to buy anything new, just wear your brightest, funniest or most mismatched socks with your usual school uniform.

Odd Socks Day helps us promote the important message that everyone is different, everyone is valued, and everyone deserves kindness and respect. We look forward to seeing a colourful display of odd socks as we come together to celebrate inclusion, friendship and individuality.

Year 5 Bikeability course

Congratulations to all the Year 5 children who recently completed their Bikeability course. They were praised by the course leaders for their enthusiasm and sensible behaviour. Well done children.

A reminder to all scooter riders and cyclists – we want a safe playground so would remind you to dismount from your scooter/bike as soon as you enter the playground. **Thank you.**

Support Dogs for Autism, For Epilepsy and For Disability

To help this charity please start collecting your used stamps from letters, parcels and postcards, leaving a 1cm border around them. Send them into school in an envelope and they will be put into the Support Dogs collection box near the main entrance.

DSPL9 – Delivering specialist provision locally

Please refer to the DSPL9 website for their fortnightly parents' newsletters which will keep you up to date. DSPL9 offer support for parents and children through a number of workshops and courses.

Alzheimer's Society Fundraising Day

Congratulations to Shannon for completing the half marathon in a fantastic time. Many thanks to our school community for raising **£425** for Alzheimer's Society during our Mufti Day.



Attendance Update

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential. Every day in school provides valuable learning opportunities, helps children build friendships and confidence, and supports their overall wellbeing.

We would like to remind all families that holidays should not be taken during term time. The Government's guidance is clear that schools may only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances.

Family holidays, cheaper travel arrangements, or visits to relatives during term time are not considered exceptional circumstances and will therefore be recorded as unauthorised absence.

We ask all parents and carers to support us by:

- Booking holidays during school holiday periods only.
- Ensuring children arrive on time every day.
- Avoiding unnecessary absences where possible.
- Informing the school promptly if their child is genuinely unwell.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that every child benefits from the rich learning experiences available each day. Working together, we can give all children the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Our whole school attendance has been 95% from the 2nd September until 21st October.

A particular well done to **Year 4 Padua** who received 97% attendance rate at this time. The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	83%	
	Lily class	**Poppy class**
Reception	88%	91%
	Lisbon	**Padua**
Year 1	96%	96%
Year 2	95%	96%
Year 3	95%	96%
Year 4	95%	97%
Year 5	96%	96%
Year 6	96%	96%

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 22nd Oct	Year 3 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am Watford Foodbank Donation Day Reading morning – 8.25 -8.45am – see above for details
Fri 23rd Oct	Year 6 assembly for parents/carers 9.15am School finishes at 3.30pm for half term break.
Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct	Half Term
Sun 1st Nov	All Saints Day
Mon 2nd Nov	Children return to school. All Souls Day Year 5 classes – Forest School begins and Year 6 Padua swimming lessons begin
Weds 11th Nov	Armistice Day Silence will be observed at 11am Reception classes trip to Radlett Theatre for 'Room on the Broom'.
Mon 16th Nov	Anti-Bullying week begins – children will take part in assemblies Odd Socks Day – see above for information
Tues 17th Nov	Late Parents Consultation Evening– 4.30pm – 7.30pm. See above for details
Weds 18th Nov	Early Parents Consultation Evening for all classes – 3.50pm – 6.30pm. See above for details
Fri 20th Nov	Occasional Day – **school closed**
Mon 23rd Nov	INSET Day – **school closed**

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:

Reception Lilies

Cian C was a Mini Explorer and received a completion certificate from Whipsnade Zoo

Selena P received a certificate and medal for Learn to Swim Stage 1 along with a medal for Ballet

Alfred T received a certificate for completing the Summer Reading Challenge

Reception Poppies

Olive S was awarded a Pre School Level 3 Gymnastics certificate and medal from Watford Gym Club and a certificate from Swim England for 'I can jump in '. She also completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Elizabeth G received a certificate and badge for Learn to Swim Stage 1 and completed the Summer Reading Challenge

1 Lisbon

Bela C received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 2

Teodor D received a medal from Watford Gym Club for floor

Evelline B received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 1

Mason C received a medal from Xtra Time for being a very good goalkeeper

Hans S received a certificate for Player of the day for football

1 Padua

Molly A received a medal from Watford Gym Club for floor, she also completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Aivan F was given a Certificate of Achievement from Shogun Karate for Great Techniques along with a Grade 8th Kyu certificate for Karate and a Yellow Belt

Sienna I received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 2

Ethan C received a certificate and badge for Learn to Swim Stage 1

2 Lisbon

Kanan S received a medal for scoring goals in football

Kaiden G received a medal from Bram FC for dribbling skills

Melissa G received a medal from Watford Gym Club for a competition

2 Padua

Aoife K was awarded a certificate for being Film maker of the Week with Pauline Quirke Academy

Grace J received a 1st place trophy for academic excellence from Holy Queen Rosary Mission

3 Lisbon

Anna M received a certificate from GS4 Tennis for being Player of the Week

Jack I received 2 medals from Chorleywood FC for scoring a hat trick and 1 medal for winning a tournament

Abigail B was given a medal from her Sunday School for winning a long-distance race

4 Lisbon

Dominic I received two Player of the Day certificates from Titans FC

4 Padua

Niviana R received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 3

Olivia B received a medal from WFC Community Sports for teamwork

Arvin V was awarded a trophy for 2nd Place in a General Knowledge Test

Arona L received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 3

5 Lisbon

Vikramaditya G completed the Summer Reading Challenge and won their Prize Draw which meant he took part in a special performance workshop with the author Gareth P Jones

Sandra R received a certificate for grading to Red in Karate

Aaron F-T was given a certificate and medal for 3rd Place in a Karate Competition for the World Union of Martial Arts Federations

5 Padua

Sebastian S achieved Learn to Swim Stage 6

6 Lisbon

Morgan R received a certificate for Learn to Swim Stage 5

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Headteacher