



ST CATHERINE'S NEWS UPDATE

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

St Catherine's School, Park Road, Ware, Herts SG12 0AW Tel 01920 462653
Email: admin@stcatherines.herts.sch.uk Issue No 291, 23rd January 2026
Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

Parking

We have expressed concern around inconsiderate parking. It is unsafe, the school needs to maintain good relations with neighbours and we should be modelling consideration to our children. Please WALK wherever possible (by parking in Asda, for example) or park safely - ie: not across the corners of the road/ zebra crossings (eg. next to Chauncy School), not across driveways and not across zig-zags or yellow lines. **PK53 ; PE25; CA53 ; YG67**



Parent Helpers

As you know reading is a very important part of our curriculum at school and we always aim to hear the children read as much as possible throughout the school week. If any parents/grandparents/carers are able to commit to an hour or more a week to listen to children read it would be very much appreciated. If you are able to help please speak to Miss Hammond in the school office.



Nursery Applications—30 hours free childcare funding

St Catherine's is offering funded places to Nursery children from September 2026, giving:

- Flexible, longer days from 7.45am to 5.30pm.
- Morning and afternoon sessions led by qualified teachers.
- Wrap around care available before and after care sessions (breakfast and after school club).

Please contact the school office for an application form or to arrange a visit.

Applications close on 13th February 2026.

Eco Club

Our Eco club would like to invite all of our families to sign up for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch weekend this weekend, 23rd-25th January 2026.



Please visit [RSPB Bird & Wildlife Conservation Charity](https://www.rspb.org.uk) for more information and to sign up.

What is Big Garden Birdwatch?

Big Garden Birdwatch is the UK's biggest citizen science wildlife survey. By taking part, you can help us understand how our garden birds are doing right now.

Year 1 and 2 Reading

On Friday 27th February and Thursday 26th March 2026, Year 1 and 2 parents are invited to come and read with their children in the classrooms at 8.25am until 8.40am.

KS1 Grandparents Coffee morning

Year 1 and 2 children should have brought home a letter regarding the Grandparents coffee morning on Friday 13th February at 10am.

Please return the slip to the class Teacher or school office as soon as possible.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE



What do parents need to know about Facebook Messenger/Messenger Kids? Check out the link below...

<https://protectyoungeyes.com/apps/messenger-parental-controls/>



App Store rating 4+ and 12+

Free school meals and other benefits

Free lunches for all infants and for older children whose family gets certain benefits.

Nursery children

Your child may be entitled to a free school meal if they attend before and after lunch on the same day at a maintained school, maintained nursery school, academy or free school. You will also need to meet eligibility criteria. Speak to your nursery before completing an application form.

- School milk in nursery – children do get a free choice of whole milk or semi-skimmed, funded by the NHS.

Healthy Start scheme – find out if you're eligible for food, milk vouchers, and free vitamins for under 4s.

Check your eligibility for school nursery free school meals

Reception, year 1 and year 2

All children can get a free lunch at school if they're in reception class, year 1 or year 2.

If you register, your school could get extra funding called 'Pupil Premium' to pay for additional staff time, extra computers, books and trips for students.

Register for free school meals (reception, year 1 and 2)

Have your National Insurance number or Home Office number ready when you apply.

School milk in reception, year 1 and year 2 – schools provide free milk for all children, up until their 5th birthday. If it's during the term, they won't get free milk from that term onwards.

After that, most children who have registered for free school meals can continue to get free milk, except for children who get Universal Income free school meals.

Year 3 or older

Free school meals

Your child can get a free school meal **if you receive any of the following:**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)

- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit) Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Apply today if you receive any of these benefits. It takes 5 mins and in most cases we can tell you straightaway if your child can get free meals at school.

Apply for free school meals (year 3 and older)

Have your National Insurance number or Home Office number ready when you apply.

Head Lice

We have had a number of cases of head lice reported in school. Please check your child's head on a regular basis.

How to get rid of head lice

Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. You can treat head lice without seeing a GP.

Check everyone you live with, or have close contact with, and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day.

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You do not need to wash your laundry on a hot wash.

Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits.

There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

- wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)

- comb the whole head of hair, using the detection comb, from the roots to the ends

It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair. When you've finished combing the hair, comb through all the hair again for a second time.

Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

For further advice, please visit [Head lice and nits - NHS](#) which also has a video about wet combing.

Pyjama Day

On Thursday 5th March, as part of World Book Week, children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas and slippers ready for story time — don't forget your coats and shoes for breaktimes!



Menu Changes

On Tuesday 3rd March the lunch options will be:

Chicken Curry

Breaded Bean & Vegetable Grill (Ve)

Jacket Potato

World Book Week Menu—Thursday 5th March

Storytime Sausage & Mash with Gravy—Pork or Plant Sausages

or

Jacket Potato

Served with: Paperback Potatoes

Page-Turning Peas & Chapter Carrots

Dessert

Readers Rice Crispy Squares

Or

Wordy Watermelon Wedge

Diary Dates

January

26th Toy workshop visit—N-Yr 2

27th James Aston visit Yr5&6

27th Reception Parents/Carers phonics workshop—2pm in the school hall

February

2nd Year 4 lunchtime concert at St Mary's

2nd SATs parents info evening—school hall

13th KS1 Grandparents coffee morning 10-10.30am

13th Year 3 Royal Day

16th—20th half term

23rd INSET day—school closed to pupils

27th KS1 Reading morning

March

2nd Year 3 lunchtime concert at St Mary's

3rd Year 1 Learning Cafe—2.30pm *

5th Pyjama Day

5th Year 2 Learning Cafe—2.30pm *

12th Reception screening

26th KS1 Reading morning—please note change of date

27th school finishes at 1.15pm

30th—10th April—Easter holidays

Spring Term 2025/2026

5th January—27th March 2026

5th January—INSET Day—school closed to pupils

Half term 16th—20th February

23rd February—INSET Day—school closed to pupils

Summer Term 2025/2026

13th April—17th July 2026

Half term 25th—29th May

4th May—Bank Holiday—School closed

FOSC Corner

For more information please visit <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/foscware/>

Facebook—search for FOSC Community Corner

Instagram—FOSWARE

HSO'S
HERTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONCERTS FOR CHILDREN

NATALIE CASSIDY
PRESENTS...

MUSICAL STORIES

FEATURING PROKOFIEV'S
'PETER AND THE WOLF'

A wonderful collection of inspiring classical music for young people

Sunday
1st February 2026
2:00pm & 3:45pm
BEAM, Hertford

Guest Conductor: Michal Oren

Tickets Adults £12 Children £8

Available from www.beamhertford.co.uk

BEAM, The Wash, Hertford SG14 1PS

www.hertfordsymphonyorchestra.org.uk Registered Charity No. 270513

BEAM
Stage Screen Social

Keyboard Collective Workshop

- Does your child play the piano or keyboard? Are they aged between 5 and 11? If you answered yes to these, this workshop is for them!
- Led by our experienced teachers, children will learn fun pieces with a short informal concert for parents and carers at the end of the session.
- This is an exciting new opportunity for pianists and keyboard players to meet each other and make music in a fun and supportive environment.



Friday 6th March 2026



4.30pm - 5.30pm



**East Herts Music Centre based at the
Broxbourne School, EN10 7FU**



**£5 per student, adults accompanying, no
charge**



Scan me for more



01992 556698



www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/HMSEastHerts



**Hertfordshire
Music Service**

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Hertfordshire