



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 292, 6th February 2026
Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

News from the Head.....

It has been such a busy half term, following our Christmas break. Singing workshops have started for our Y3 & Y4 children, Y2, Y1 and F/stage have organised learning cafes, and phonics meetings for parents & families, Y6 and Y4 have attended concerts at St Mary's, Y6 - Y1 have listened to a 'humanist' presentation, and we have had the Big Book Swap! Next week we have planned a visit to Presdales for our Y6s, a presentation on autism/ADHD for Y5 & Y6 pupils, a 'grandparents coffee morning' and Y3's 'Royals day'! I am always thankful that the school team works so hard to provide so much for our children and families

Free School Meals

The local authority has informed us that the government has now stopped the Holiday Food Voucher Scheme, which some families were in receipt of. Please let the school know if you are struggling financially - we will always try to help.

It is vital that families who are entitled, receive Free School Meal Funding - please check via the following link [Free school meals and other benefits | Hertfordshire County Council](#) this will help support at school with things such as trips and uniform, and also supports the school's funding

Please be aware that Infant free school meals cease at the end of Y2, so do please double check your entitlement. You may be entitled Free School meals 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)

If you are unsure, please speak to 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

Sports Updates

Hope Cup 2.2.26

On Monday, we played football against Morgans in the Hope Cup. The team worked hard and played well together. In the end, they lost 2-0 but will go through to Plate competition. We also have some friendlies coming up for the B teams.

Evans Trophy 3.2.26

On Tuesday, we played against the Federation of Widford and Hunsdon in the Evans Trophy. The team did well to win 16-1 and they swapped around to gain experience of playing different positions. The team is now through to the second round of the Evans Trophy. There will also be some friendlies coming up for the B Team.

Pyjama Day

On Thursday 5th March, as part of World Book Day, 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

World Book Day tokens

The children should bring their World Book Day tokens home today, Friday 6th February. They can be used from 12th February.



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.

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.

**DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning, 18th March,
St Catherines School, Ware, SG12 0AW**

DSPL3 Delivering Special
Provision Locally



10.00 - 11.30



You are invited to a relaxed and supportive coffee morning designed to offer valuable information and networking opportunities. Connect with other parents and carers, Share experiences and gain insights into various topics that matter to you. We offer Practical advice & emotional support Meet and chat with others in a similar situation, Bring any questions or topics you'd like to discuss
Professionals in attendance including Early Years, Outreach, Family Support, Behaviour Support, DSPL, ADD Vance and Angels
We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!

Every Tuesday between 24 February and 17 March, come to Ware Library for an exciting after school group! Aimed at children aged 7-11, we'll be exploring all things 'How To Train Your Dragon' with fun activities based on the books. It's just £2.75 per session to join and you can book at the library - spaces are limited.



£2.75 per session

Are your winter afternoons dragon... on?
Join us at Ware Library for fun activities based on

How to Train Your Dragon

Tuesday 4.00-5.00
24 February
3, 10, 17 March

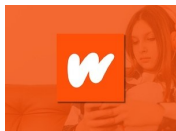
For ages 7-11 - Sign up at the desk or call 0300 123 4049

PAGE ONE Hertfordshire

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

What is Wattpad? Is it safe?

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/apps/wattpad-parental-controls>



App Store rating 17+

FOSC Corner

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

Facebook—search for FOSC Community Corner

Instagram—FOSCWARE

Spring Discos

FOSC have organised Spring Discos for all of the children.



24th N & R Spring Disco 2.45—3.45pm—Nursery children that finish at 11.45 or 12.45 can be brought back to the school hall for 2.45pm if they would like to attend the disco.

24th Yr3&4 Spring Disco 4—5.15pm

25th Yr1&2 Spring Disco 3.15—4.15pm (children going to the disco will get changed in class and be taken straight to the disco)

25th Yr5&6 Spring Disco 4.45—6pm

For more information and to book your child's place, please visit [Friends of St Catherine's School](#)

Are you at a loose end during the half term break?!

ECO CLUB HALF TERM ART CHALLENGE

Get creative this break with our **Winter Art Competition!** The Eco Club is looking for masterpieces that celebrate winter and the environment.

- **The Task:** Create a sculpture from recycled "junk," a nature drawing, collage, painting or an eco-poster.
- **The Green Rule:** Please **no plastic glitter or foam stickers**—let's keep it sustainable!

Deadline: Bring your entries in on Tuesday 24th February. Clearly labelled with your name and class
Eco Club judges will be looking for the most creative work ✨ Prizes will be awarded for each Key Stage. We can't wait to see your "green" creations!

Half Term Holiday club

Mr Chivers, Mr Simpson and the team of coaches from Football's Future hope to see Football & Sports thirsty children of St Catherine's during the half term break!

(Please note this is a non screen, non sitting for long (only during lunch and down time) purely FUN environment!)

Please visit <https://footballs-future.com/product/ware-february-holiday-club-2026/> for more information and to book

Diary Dates

February

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

24th N & R Spring Disco 2.45—3.45pm—Nursery children that finish at 11.45 or 12.45 can be brought back to the school hall for 2.45pm

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25th Yr1&2 Spring Disco 3.15—4.15pm (children going to the disco will get changed in class and be taken straight to the disco)

25th Yr5&6 Spring Disco 4.45—6pm

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

17th July—term ends 1.15pm

School year 2026/27

Autumn Term: 1st September—18th December 2026

INSET Day— Tuesday 1st September—school closed to pupils

Children return to school—Wednesday 2nd September

Half term : 26 October 2026 – 30 October 2026

INSET Day—Friday 27th November—school closed to pupils

Occasional Day—Monday 30th November—school closed

18th December—term ends 1.15pm

Spring Term: 4th January 2027—25th March 2027

INSET day—Monday 4th January—school closed to pupils

INSET day Friday 12th February 2027—school closed to pupils

Half term : 15 February 2027 – 19 February 2027

25th March—term ends 1.15pm

Summer Term: 12th April—22nd July 2027

Bank Holiday—Monday 3rd May—school closed

Half term : 31 May 2027 – 4 June 2027

21st July—term ends 1.15pm

INSET day Thursday 22nd July 2027