



## ST CATHERINE'S NEWS UPDATE

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

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Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

### News from the Head.....

Welcome back after the summer holidays - I really do hope everyone managed to have some rest over the break. I have regularly visited the classrooms and the children seem to have settled in very well.

We are delighted to share our Ofsted visit report - some highlights include: 'pupils play, cooperate & learn happily in this safe, nurturing environment'; 'pupils, including those with SEN, are learning and achieving well'; 'children in early years benefit from a stimulating learning environment'; 'the school has designed a curriculum that is ambitious for all pupils'.

The inspection was rigorous - and these outcomes show what we know to be an accurate reflection of our amazing school. None of this provision for our children would be possible without the fantastic whole school team here! All of whom show wisdom, dedication and care for all of our children, every day. I am hugely proud, and grateful for their hard work, and of course to our supportive, positive parent body for their constant and overwhelming support - whether we have visitors, or not! Thanks also to last years Yr6 for their part in the visit. Well done us!



Please follow the link to read through all the lovely comments <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50256463>

### Please do not walk across the school carparks at the end of the school day.



ALL WELCOME! On Friday 27th September at 9am, St Catherine's is very proud to be hosting a Macmillan Cancer Support "World's biggest coffee morning". The event will be run by school staff and the St Catherine's school council and is a friendly social event for parents, carers and other adults in our school community, please feel free to invite grandparents, aunts and uncles to come along too. Cakes and tea/coffee/squash will be available for a donation into the Macmillan buckets.

In preparation for this, we will be holding a **non-uniform day on Thursday 26th September for donations of cakes or £1**. Any £1 donations will be spent on extra cakes to be sold at the coffee morning. The event will take place on Friday 27th September at 9am and will be held in the school hall. At the end of the school day, we will hold a cake sale where anyone can buy the cakes left over from the coffee morning. Older children may bring in money if they are not usually collected by parents, but they will be responsible for looking after this themselves. Last year, we raised over £650 which contributed to helping to support families affected by cancer all over the UK. Macmillan nurses are trained to provide the best cancer care possible and your donation will help them to make sure everyone gets the help they need. With your help we can make this year's event an even greater success. Every penny of profit raised will go directly to the charity. We look forward to seeing you there.

We will be talking to the children about cancer during that week. Obviously this will be a general overview and at an age appropriate level, but children may come home with further questions. If there is anything you feel we should be aware of (eg, particular relevant family circumstances) or you would like to know more about the content of the session(s) please contact the school office.



## Class WhatsApp Groups

Please take care when sharing discussions via group WhatsApp about events in school. School will always endeavour to inform parents about events in a timely fashion, so please avoid Chinese whispers causing confusion (and a lot of additional calls to/work for the office).

## Harvest week

October 21st is our harvest festival week. Any-one wishing to make donations to our local foodbanks, please send in non-perishable goods on Monday 21st/Tuesday 22nd October. This year we will be supporting Hertford and District Foodbank. Please see the below list of suggested items. Many thanks.



# HARVEST APPEAL

## HELP LOCAL PEOPLE FACING HARDSHIP

Could you support the Hertford & District Foodbank and donate an item or two this Harvest?

All we ask is that items are in date and undamaged please

### SUGGESTED ITEMS TO DONATE

#### Food

Tinned Meat - Tinned Fruit - Tinned Fish - Baked Beans  
Tinned Tomatoes - Tinned or Packet Soup - Tinned Spaghetti  
Tinned Vegetables - Pasta - Rice - Jars of Pasta or Curry Sauces  
Tea - Coffee - Squash - Biscuits - Tinned Rice Pudding  
Tinned Custard - Treats (chocolate bars) - Honey - Jam  
Marmalade - UHT Milk - Long Life Fruit Juice

#### Others

Toilet Roll - Toothpaste - Shower Gel - Shampoo - Conditioner  
Soap - Sanitary Ware - Nappies - Washing Up Liquid

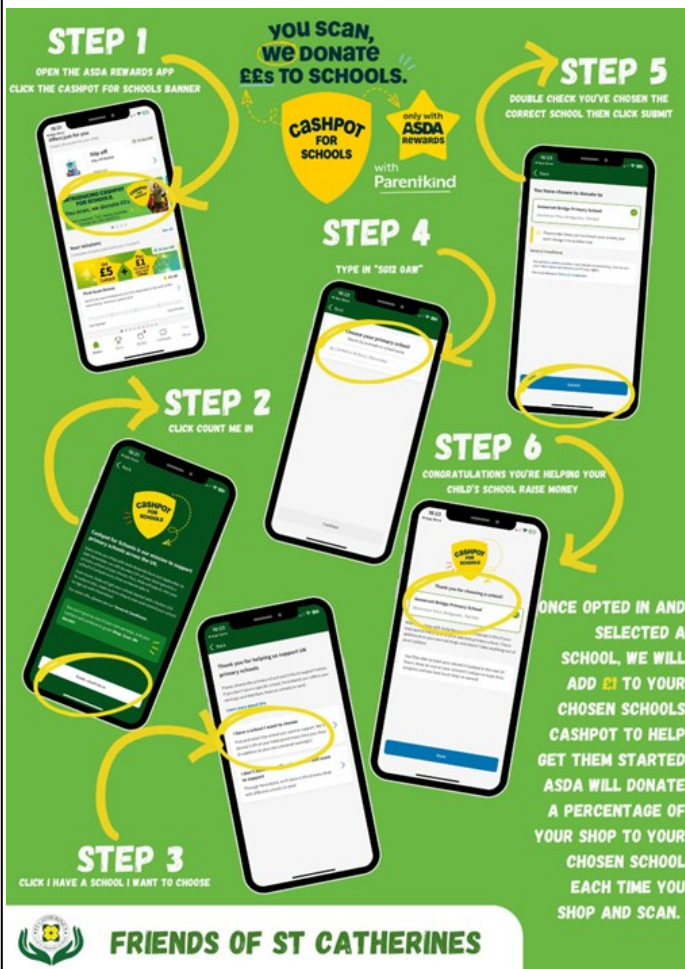


Registered Charity in England & Wales (1157028)

## Football's Future

Please find below links to both our Y1&2 and Y3&4 football clubs. Football's Future will be running fun, engaging football sessions that cater for all levels of girls and boys that wish to play football after school with their friends. For more information and to book, please visit <https://footballs-future.com/product-category/school-clubs/st-catherines-school-clubs/>

Asda Cash Pot for schools. Follow the below steps to set up St Catherine's on your rewards app and help us raise money for the school when you do your shopping! The app can be a bit fiddly and the banner link on the app sometimes doesn't open but keep trying as it's such an easy way for us to raise money as a school and let's be honest - we are all always getting something in Asda!



**FRIENDS OF ST CATHERINES**

## 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.



## Medicine during the school day

The office were inundated with medicines last term which is very hard to manage during the school day. Wherever possible, please give your child's medicine to them before and after school. Medicines such as antihistamine, that need to be taken once or twice a day, can be given at home and do not need to come in to school. Any medicines that need to be given during the school day such as antibiotics, should be brought to the school office.

### **Foundation Stage open day**

We are holding an open day on Saturday 9th November between 10.00am and 1.30pm for children looking to start in Nursery and Reception in September 2025.

### **Foundation Stage Tours**

If there are families looking for Nursery/Reception places for September 2025 (ie born between 01.09.21 and 31.08.22 for Nursery and between 01.09.20 and 31.08.21 for Reception), the school is running tours for prospective parents.

### **Moving on in 2025**

Parents of Year 6 children should have received an email with a 'Moving on in 2025' leaflet. This leaflet provides the dates and times when all Hertfordshire schools are holding their open evenings for you to visit before applying for your child's secondary school place.

Can we please remind parents that these tours and open evenings are for children in Year 6 only.

**Online applications open on Monday 2nd September and close on Thursday 31st October 2023.** For more information please visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

### **Break time Snacks**

Just a reminder that fruit/vegetable snacks are not provided for children in years 3-6. Children can bring a snack from home for morning break such as a piece of fruit or vegetable sticks. If you send your child in with grapes, please ensure that they are cut in half lengthways as they can be a choking hazard.

Children in Nursery, Reception, 1 and 2 will continue to receive free fruit/vegetables for their snack.

### **Lunchboxes**

Please can we remind parents that nuts and nut products such as **Peanut Butter** and **Nutella** are not allowed in the children's lunchboxes. We have several children in school with severe nut allergies.

Please encourage healthy eating and we ask that you do not put sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks in your child's lunchbox.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.



### **FOSC Corner**

For more information please visit [Friends of St Catherine's School \(pta-events.co.uk\)](http://Friends of St Catherine's School (pta-events.co.uk))  
Facebook—search for FOSC Community Corner  
Instagram—FOSWARE

### **Money/Payments and Schoolgateway**

Due to bank closures, we ask that all payments are made online.

Payments for Uniform, School Trips, Milk, Swimming, School Meals and Breakfast and After school clubs can be paid online via the Schoolgateway system which can be accessed by clicking on the link on the school website at the bottom of the home screen. This will open another page to sign in – when you first open an account you will need to click on the New User tab. Enter your mobile number and email address that the school use and you should receive a text message with a pin number. You should then be able to login to the system using this pin number and your email address.

Please note that the system will only show an actual balance for school dinners for children in Nursery and Years 3-6. All other payments are what you can pay not what you owe.

**If you have any problems or issues with making payments online, please speak to the school office.**



### **Family Lives Autumn Term Programme 2024**

**Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group**  
Thursday 19th September to 24 October 7.00pm to 9.00pm OR  
Tuesday 8 October to 19 November 9.30am to 11.30am

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our free online group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

**Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group**  
Monday 11 November to 16 December 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Join our free online group to help you be more effective at getting your child to cooperate and listen to you.

#### **Dads Together**

**Wednesday 6 November to 11 December 7.00pm to 9.00pm**

Calling all Dads - join our free online group, come along and receive support from other dads to help you be more effective at getting your child to cooperate and listen to you.

#### **Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop**

**Thursday 10 October 7.00pm to 9.00pm**

#### **Reducing Conflict Online Workshop**

**Tuesday 26 November 9.30am-11.30am**

#### **Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop**

**Thursday 12 December, 7.00pm to 9.00pm**



**SCAN ME!**

For more information, please contact Louise on 0204 522 8700/8701, or email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk). Please scan our QR code for our referral form.

Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3877262. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: The Annex York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AD



### **Holidays during the school term**

Please see the leaflet at the end of this newsletter regarding absences during the school term and penalty notice fines.



### **Benefit related Free School Meals**

#### **Do you qualify for free school meals?**

If you feel that you might be entitled to benefit related free school meals, please visit <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx> to apply.

School may be able to help with uniform, trips, school dinners if you qualify.

#### **Please note that there has been a change to the income threshold so you may be eligible now even if you weren't before.**

If you have already qualified, you do not need to re-apply. If you have any questions please contact 0300 123 4048 or email [howcan-wehelp@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:howcan-wehelp@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

#### **Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2**

and are in receipt of Universal Free School meals, if you are in receipt of benefits you may be entitled to extra funding and support with uniform, swimming lessons and school trips. Please apply via the link above. If you need any assistance please ask the school office.

Please can we remind parents that **Year 3 are charged** for their school meals. If you are in receipt of qualifying benefits you should apply for free school meals as soon as possible, as they are not usually backdated and you will need to cover the cost of meals already taken.

#### **Children going to Year 3 from Year 2 MUST apply even if you currently qualify**

### **STAYING SAFE ONLINE**



Did you know there are three layers of parental controls on **Netflix**? Check out this link for a step by step guide...

<https://protectyoungeyes.com/netflix-updates-parental-controls-finally-locking-profiles/>

**NETFLIX**

### **Please note amended dates for the Easter Holiday**

#### **Diary Dates**

##### **September**

26th Non Uniform day in return for cake donations

26th FOSC AGM 6.30pm

27th Macmillan World's biggest coffee morning 9am

##### **October**

1st Author visit

21st—25th Harvest Festival week

15th Year 5/6—Windrush exhibition

22nd School Photographer—individual and sibling photos

22nd Parent / Teacher consultations

23rd Parent / Teacher consultations

28th—1st Nov Half term

##### **November**

1st Half term

4th Year 5 St Mary's lunchtime concert

6th Flu vaccinations—Reception—Year 6

9th Foundation Stage Open Day 10am—1.30pm

13th Flu vaccination mop-up session

##### **December**

2nd Occasional Day—School closed

13th Non-Uniform Day in return for bottle donations to the Christmas Bazaar

13th Christmas Bazaar - times TBC

19th School finishes at 1.15pm

##### **Autumn Term 2024/2025**

2nd Sep—19th December 2024

Half term 28th October—1st November 2024

2nd December—Occasional Day—School closed

##### **Spring Term 2024/2025**

6th January—4th April 2025

Half term 17th—21st February

##### **Summer Term 2024/2025**

22nd April—18th July 2025

Half term 26th—30th May

5th May Day Bank Holiday

**\* Additional INSET days to be set**

# Statutory Attendance Support Team Penalty Notice Fines – Sept 2024



## Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools.

### National Threshold

A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice **must** be considered by **ALL** schools in England, this is:

- 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.
- These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.
- For example, a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold.
- The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

### Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school.
- For example, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent/carer receiving 3 separate fines.

### Definition of Parent

- Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 states that, in relation to a child or young person, a 'parent' includes any person who is not a parent (from which can be inferred 'biological parent') but who has parental responsibility for or care of the child.
- Parent refers to a person who typically has care of a child or young person if the child lives with them either full or part time and they look after them, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid **within 21 days**.
- **If not paid within 21 days**, the fine will increase to **£160 per parent, per child**, payable between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> day.

### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

- £160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days.

### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued, and the case will be presented **straight to the Magistrate's Court**:

- **Prosecution** can result in **criminal records** and **fines of up to £2,500**.
- Cases found **guilty** in a **Magistrates Court** can show on the parent's future DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **'failure to safeguard a child's education'**