



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....

Huge thanks to Alex and the FOSC team for organising our 'deferred' Summer Fete.

Thank you to all the staff who were able to help, and to the families who came to spend their money! All in all, we raised over £2300.

Our **FOSC AGM will be held on Friday 23rd October** – do please come along if you are able.

To keep up to date with all that FOSC are doing, please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1689530441365122/>

We had our Autumn review this week, with a focus on teaching and learning, and I am proud to share that our HFL adviser was impressed with all she saw and thoroughly complimentary about the whole teaching team.



ALL WELCOME! On Thursday 15th October 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, aunties 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 15th October for donations of cakes or £1**. The event will take place on Thursday 15th October 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 £800** which contributed to helping 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 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.



Year 1 and 2 Learning Café

Parents/Carers are invited to our Learning Café in the school hall.

Year 2 – Monday 5th October at 2.30pm

Year 1 – Monday 12th October at 2.30pm

Harvest week

October 19th is our harvest festival week.

Anyone wishing to make donations to our local foodbank, please send in non-perishable goods from Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd October.

This year we will be supporting Hertford, Ware & District Foodbank.

Changes to Home Learning

Following discussions with our parent focus group and staff, we are updating our approach to home learning. Going forward, it will consist of less online and more paper-based tasks. Children should continue to expect two pieces of home learning, plus daily reading, per week. Usually, this will be on paper and sent home in a folder on Friday: children are expected to return this by the following Thursday, to be marked in class on Friday. Times tables practice and Numbots tasks may replace paper tasks some weeks, and children will have log-in details in their reading records for this. If children are unsure of a task, they should seek support from an adult in class who will be happy to help.

Thank you to the parents and staff who supported this working party.



Family Support Workers

The HWVSP Family Support Team are a local organisation that supports families of school aged children to address social, emotional and health issues that are barriers to learning: they aim to have a positive impact on the lives of young people and their families.

They are able to refer to many outside agencies to ensure you get the help you need. Speak to the school office to be referred to their services.

Visit the HWVSP Instagram page—
hvwsp_family_support_worker



Photographer

The School photographer will be in school on Tuesday 20th October to take individual and sibling photos. If you would like a picture with your younger children that are not in school or older children at secondary school, please go to the school hall from 8am. Siblings within the school will have their photo taken together during the school day. **Pret-a-portrait** have a great range of items and gifts that will be available to order in time for Christmas.

Year 1 and 2 Reading

On Thursday 8th October, Year 1 and 2 parents are invited to come and read with their children in the classrooms at 8.20am until 8.40am.

Burger Day!

Thursday 1st October 2026

Beef Burger

Or

**Breaded Bean & Vegetable
Burger (Ve)**

Or

**Jacket Potato with various
toppings**

**Baked Potato Wedges
Sweetcorn and Coleslaw**

**Chocolate Sponge with
Chocolate Custard**

Foundation Stage open day

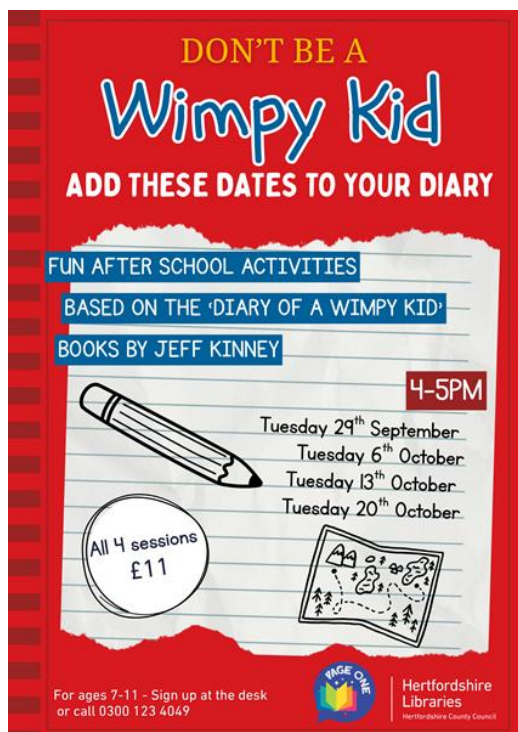
We are holding an open day on Saturday 14th November between 10.00am and 1.30pm for children looking to start in Nursery and Reception in September 2027. Please let your local friends and neighbours know.

Foundation Stage Tours

If there are families looking for Nursery/Reception places for September 2026 (i.e. born between 01.09.23 and 31.08.24 for Nursery and between 01.09.22 and 31.08.23 for Reception), the school is running tours for prospective parents.

Ware Library

Every Tuesday between 29 September and 20 October, come to Ware Library for an exciting after school group! Aimed at children aged 7-11, we'll be exploring all things 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' 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.



Coats

Can we please remind parents that children should have a coat/rain coat in school at all times. The weather can be very changeable and we like to let the children have playtime outside even in slight rain and snow. Please ensure all Coats and hats etc. are named.



Moving on in 2027

Parents of Year 6 children should have received an email with a 'Moving on 2027' 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 are now open and close on 31st October 2026. For more information please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions



Leaside Church invites you to:

Craft 4 All

Free Family-focused craft activities including mermaid peg dolls, Sand art, Dinosaur hats, card bird houses, dragonflies, origami dresses, Robot and Princess colouring and stickers.



Sunday October 11th 2.30pm-5pm

Leaside Church Community Hall, High Street Ware.

(Access through the arch behind the Isabel Hospice Shop at the entrance to East Street)

No need to book! Please note that all children or vulnerable adults must be accompanied by an appropriate adult.

Staff Vacancies

After School Club Assistant

We currently have a vacancy for an After School Club Assistant. Hours are 3-5pm, Monday to Friday, term-time only. Training is provided. Please visit [Teacher Recruitment, Hertfordshire UK - St Catherine's \(C of E\) Primary School: After School Club Assistant](#) or pop in to the school office for an application form.

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.



Development Days

Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 have had the opportunity to take part in Development Days at both Sele and Chauncy schools in the last few weeks.

They have taken part in a variety of activities and had lots of fun.



Diary Dates

September

29th Flu Vaccines

October

1st Burger Day

3rd Choir event at St Mary's Church – all children in years 2-6 welcome. 9.50-10.10am *

5th Year 2 Learning Café – 2.30pm in school hall

8th Year 1&2 Reading morning

12th Year 1 Learning Café – 2.30pm in school hall

13th Year 6 Height and Weight

15th Non uniform day in return for Cakes or £1 for our Macmillan Coffee Morning

15th Macmillan Coffee 9am in the school hall

19th – 22nd Harvest week

20th School Photographer – individual and sibling photos

20th Parent consultations *

21st Parent consultations *

23rd FOSC AGM

26th – 30th Half term

November

5th Flu vaccine catch-up session

14th Foundation Stage Open day – 10am – 1.30pm

27th INSET day – school closed to pupils

30th Occasional day – school closed

December

8th & 9th FOSC Christmas Shop *

14th Church Service – 10am – All welcome

15th KS1 Christmas Craft Day *

16th Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day

18th December—term ends 1.15pm

January

4th INSET day school closed to pupils

5th Children return to school

18th Young Voices Concert

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

* Information to follow