



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

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Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

News from the Head.....

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the parent/teacher consultations this week - it was good to see you all.

Many thanks to parents/carers for completing the parent survey - the questions are based on Ofsted questions and it is really important for us to gain views from everyone, in order to make changes if necessary. We will share all of the data from that survey after half term, but in the meantime, we can share that 100% of parents say their child feels safe in school which is lovely to hear. Please do come and speak to us if you have any concerns.

I hope you all manage to get a bit of a break over the half term.

Harvest week

We had an incredible response to our appeal for donations for the Hertford and Ware foodbank - so thank you to everyone for this. Thanks to Ysmena and our Worship Warriors for contributing towards our Harvest assembly.

If any of our families struggle financially and would like support, please, please do come and speak to us in the school office.



Cheerio to Mr Chivers!

We must wish GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK to Mr Chivers, who is leaving us to start his own new project, delivering football coaching. Mr Chivers has been part of the school for 7 years. He has been a dedicated member of the team - much loved by the children and the staff, and we thank him for his commitment to our school.

Eco Club Autumn Art Competition!

This half term the Eco Club are inviting all children to get creative with nature.

We are hosting an Autumn Art Competition and we want to see what amazing creations you can make using found objects from outdoors such as colourful fallen leaves, pinecones, twigs, acorns, conkers, and seeds.

Whether it's a leaf animal, a pinecone creature, a stick sculpture or a beautiful natural collage, let your imagination run wild!

Please bring your completed entries to school by Tuesday, 3rd November.

 Prizes will be awarded for the most creative entries across the school.

We can't wait to see your fantastic autumnal masterpieces!   

Wedding Bells!!

GOOD LUCK TO MISS BULL,
WHO IS GETTING MARRIED
DURING THE HALF TERM
BREAK



Teddies for the Christmas Bazaar

FOSC are looking for donations for the Christmas Bazaar Teddy Tombola. They would be grateful for donations of good quality clean soft toys/teddies with the CE mark.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Macmillan coffee morning last week. Thanks to all your generous donations of cakes and cash - we have raised over **£750** towards the Macmillan cancer charity.



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 can 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.

Football's Future Holiday Clubs

Football's Future are holding their school holiday clubs on the follow dates:

- October 27th, 28th, 29th (Tues/Weds/Thus)
- December 21st, 22nd, 23rd (Mon/Tues/Weds)

Please visit [Holiday Clubs Archives - Footballs Future](#) for more information and to book.

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

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.

Poppies

Our year 6 children will be visiting the classrooms the week after half term to sell poppies. We suggest a donation of **50p** for the paper poppies and a minimum of **£1** for the slap bands, keyrings etc. Please note that there is a limited number of keyrings etc.



Menu Change

BONFIRE NIGHT
3rd November

MAIN MENU

Hotdog Banger (v)
topped with Cheese and Fried Onions

Or

Pizza Catherine Wheels (v) served with
Firecracker Wedges

Or

Hot Potato topped with Baked Beans

SERVED WITH

Baked Beans and Sweetcorn

DESSERT

Hot Chocolate Sponge
and Chocolate Sauce

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.

Speech & Language Support Assistant

We currently have a vacancy for a Speech and Language Support Assistant. We are seeking a candidate that has Elklan training (5-11years) or other relevant speech & language qualification. The position is for 6 hours per week, term time only. 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.

Coats

Can we please remind parents that children should have a coat/raincoat 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.



Socks and Tights

If possible, can you please put a spare pair (or two) of socks or tights for your child in their school bag for if they get soggy feet.



We would very much appreciate donations of girls and boys school socks and tights for all ages/sizes particularly for bigger sizes. We get lots of soggy feet at this time of year and we are currently very low on spares.

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 service.

Visit the HWVSP Instagram page—
hwwsp_family_support_worker



Diary Dates

October

26th – 30th Half term

November

2nd Year 4 – lunchtime concert at St Mary's church

5th Flu vaccine catch-up session

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

16-20th Anti-bullying Week

16th Odd Sock Day *

19th Year 6 – lunchtime concert at St Mary's church

27th INSET day – school closed to pupils

30th Occasional day – school closed

December

7th, 8th and 9th EYFS singalong for parents – 2pm *

8th & 9th FOSC Christmas Shop *

9th KS1 Nativity – 9.30am – 1B & 2B parents *

10th KS1 Nativity – 2pm (tbc) – 2F & 1R parents *

11th Non uniform day in return for bottles & chocolate for the Christmas Bazaar

11th FOSC Christmas Bazaar

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

* Information to follow

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 : 26th October 2026 – 30th 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 : 15th February 2027 – 19th February 2027
25th March—term ends 1.15pm

Summer Term: 12th April—22nd July 2027

Bank Holiday—Monday 3rd May—school closed

Half term : 31st May 2027 – 4th June 2027

21st July—term ends 1.15pm

INSET day Thursday 22nd July 2027

Ware's THE BRICKS

ROBOT RUMBLE

7th Nov 2026

10:30am - 4:30pm

Christ Church Ware

Hertfordshire's Number 1 LEGO ROBOTICS event featuring some of the best brick built fighting robots in the country. Displays, Traders and Activities

www.ticketsource.co.uk/wares-the-bricks

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