



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 280, 18th July 2025
Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

Note from the Governors

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, the governing body would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes our school such a special place.

It's been a real pleasure for governors to attend events throughout the year, from performances and assemblies to parent evenings and the VE Day picnic. Seeing the pupils' enthusiasm and achievements firsthand is always inspiring. Governors have met with pupils across the school during various visits this year, and we are always impressed with how passionately and confidently they speak about their work and the school.

Throughout the year, we've worked closely with school leaders to support the school's ongoing development. A key focus for the school this year has been improving attendance, and we're proud of the positive steps the school has taken to support pupils and families in this area. Good attendance makes a real difference to children's learning and wellbeing, and we're grateful to everyone who's contributed to that progress.

We'd also like to give a special thank you to Mrs Leslie, for her exceptional leadership and tireless commitment to the school. Her support for both pupils and staff has been unwavering, and we are incredibly appreciative.

Finally, thank you to the whole staff team, and to you – our parents and carers – for your continued support and partnership throughout the year.

I would also like to personally thank the members of the governing body for volunteering their time and effort to support the school that we are so proud to be associated with.

We wish all our Year 6 pupils the very best in their next chapter, and we hope everyone enjoys a safe, happy, and restful summer break.

With warmest wishes,

Lee Bezer, Chair of Governors

News from the Head.....

Year 6

We say goodbye and good luck today to our year 6 class who have been absolutely fabulous this year! They have worked hard in class, and been kind and helpful around school, but mainly have shared great spirit and personality.

Y6 returned from their residential visit to PGL last week - with great plaudits from PGL staff, our own staff and teachers from other schools. We are super proud of them! Many thanks to Mrs Martin, Miss Keefe, Mrs Brace and Miss Elliman who gave up time with their own families to make this possible.



We would like to wish a very warm welcome to Sam Careford, Tru Robertson, Soniya Fernando, Alex White, Claire Cooper and Emily Egan who are joining the team in September.

Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to Debbie Malyan and Bell's Blinds for their kind donation of our new backdrop curtains for the school hall. For more information about Bell's Blinds, please visit <https://bellsblindsexsex.co.uk/>

Y5 /Y6 performance

A massive well done to all our budding thespians in Y5 and Y6 who gave brilliant performances this week. It really was a super show, enjoyed by all the children, staff and families and such a special experience for them all.

Saturday's school fete

Last Saturday saw the school fete - such a lovely community atmosphere with all our families. It was a brilliant day and this is down to all the hard work of our FOSC team, before during and after the event.

Huge thanks to parents and staff who gave up their Saturday; thanks to the hardy group who lugged around tables; thanks to our Y6 children who ran great stalls; thanks to everyone who came along and spent their money. In total, FOSC has raised £3513 towards school resources.

Breakfast and After School club

This is a reminder that ALL Breakfast and After School club sessions must be booked and paid for in advance. No walk-ins will be allowed at Breakfast club from September. Thank you

Summer Holiday Camp

Holiday Clubs in July

Football's Future are running two clubs during the summer holiday- Tuesday 22nd to Thursday 24th July 2025 and Tuesday 29th to Thursday 31st July 2025 (8:30-15:30), offering fun, healthy childcare to children of reception to year 6 (currently). Please visit <https://footballs-future.com/product-category/holiday-clubs/> for more information.

Spare PE kits

If you have any old PE kits that your children have outgrown or no longer need (year 6 leavers) we would be very grateful to have them for our spares cupboard. Even if they are past their best any spares are gratefully received and made use of.

FOSC AGM

Our AGM (annual general meeting) is very basically a chit chat about what we are planning throughout the year to help raise money for our school. It's a chance to catch up on last year's events and money raised and listen to new ideas and things we can do to make it another exciting year for our children & school. We offer refreshments and if nothing else it's a little social at the start of term. We would love to see as many of you there as possible

FRIENDS OF ST CATHERINE'S
AGM
MEETING

Friday 26th September
9.20am After Assembly
AT SCHOOL

Tea/Coffee and Biscuits provided

Message from our Family Support Team:

Dear Families,
Information regarding the summer break:
We are a term time only service and our service closes for the summer on Friday 18th July. We will return on Thursday 4th September.
Thank you for engaging with us and we look forward to seeing you in September.
All the best,
Viv, Stacey and Rach HWVSP team

In an emergency please contact the following services:

Children's Services - 0300 123 4043

Childline - 08001111

Mental Health - 01438843322

Domestic Violence Helpline - 08082000247

Shelter – 08088004444

Police - 999

NHS - 111

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 can 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.

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

Moving on in 2026

Parents of Year 5 children should have received an email with a 'Moving on 2026' 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 31st October 2025. For more information please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Diary Dates

September

2nd & 3rd September INSET Day—School closed to pupils

4th Children return to school

10th Smart phones meeting 4.30pm in the school hall

26th FOSC AGM 9.20am after assembly

October

16th Flu Vaccinations *

21st Photographer—individual and sibling photos

27th-31st Half term

November

11th Flu Vaccinations mop-up session *

15th Foundation Stage open day—10am-1.30pm

28th INSET day—School closed to pupils

December

1st Occasional day—School closed

19th School finishes at 1.15pm

Summer Term 2024/2025

22nd April—18th July 2025

Autumn Term 2025/2026

3rd September—19th December 2025

Half term 27th—31st October

28th November—INSET Day—School closed to pupils

1st December—Occasional Day—School closed

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

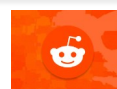
4th May—Bank Holiday—School closed

* Information to follow

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Is the Reddit app safe for kids?

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



App Store rating 17+

REMINDER—Children return to school on Thursday 4th September