



# 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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Email: [admin@stcatherines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stcatherines.herts.sch.uk) Issue No 279, 11th July 2025  
Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

## News from the Head.....

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Horton, who came 3rd in the European Sailing Championships last week. The staff, and particularly Y4H, are so proud!

**PGL**—Thank you to Y5 parents for attending the PGL meeting this week. Letters for deposits are coming out today.

**Farewells**—A special goodbye to Julie Harvey, who is retiring next week. Mrs Harvey has been with the school for 20 years and will be sorely missed. Also leaving us and moving on to new things are Laura Jackson, Lauren Britnell, Rachel Kendrick and Heather Banks (Piano Teacher). We have been lucky to have them as part of the school team and wish them all the best of luck in their new adventures.

**Community Day**—Thank you so much to Chauncy school for organising a wonderful community day today and to the students who came to St Catherine's to deliver PE sessions for our little ones and the Art students who made us this amazing mural

**!DATE FOR DIARIES!** A discussion evening re Smart phones in school, will be held on Wednesday 10th September at 4.30pm



**Don't forget the St Catherine's Summer Fete is tomorrow, Saturday 12th July, 12-2PM—Family and Friends welcome**

## Medicines

Just to remind parents that if your child has medicine in school for any reason, i.e. Epipens, Asthma inhalers, Piriton etc, please could you take them home at the end of term. All medicine left at school will be destroyed. If required, fresh medication will then need to be brought to school in September.

Whilst the school is happy to administer medicine when necessary, a signed form from parents is required first. All medicine must come directly to the school office, please do not leave it in your child's bag. Parents are responsible for ensuring that the medicines kept in school are in date. Thank you.



## Holidays during term time

Please try not to take holidays during school time; it has a huge effect on your child. We have re-organised our inset days for the next academic year in order to facilitate parents in booking more affordable holidays. **School will finish on Friday 17th July 2026, earlier than the standard dates set by HCC**—so that families have the option of slightly lower prices.

## Change to menu

On Wednesday 16th July, the meat option will be Roast Chicken and not Roast Pork.

## Dinner Money

Can you please ensure that your child's school lunch account is settled before the end of term.

It is especially important that the Year 6 children have a zero balance ready for their move to secondary school. 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.

## 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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

## Library Books

Please take a moment to check at home and return all library books before the end of term. Thank you



## Music Lessons

If you are interested in learning the :

**Clarinet, Violin or Guitar:**

We are offering these instruments in group & individual lessons. The group lessons are for 3-6 pupils to learn together.

Group lessons are £2.06 per lesson. Individual 20 min lessons are £17.32 per lesson.

**Piano:** Individual 20 min lessons are £17.32 per lesson.

**Instruments to learn on :**

We now operate a hire scheme where you are able to hire an instrument for your child to learn on, you can apply for this when you sign up for lessons.

**Register your interest below via the QR code on the HMS speedadmin portal.**

PLEASE APPLY VIA THIS LINK

To sign up please scan the QR code or visit

[Registration - Hertfordshire Music Service](#)

[speedadmin.dk](https://speedadmin.dk)



For more up-to-date information and to find out about more events follow us on Twitter and Facebook - @hertsmusic

Follow @HertsMusic



Hertfordshire Music Service  
[hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://hertsmusicservice.org.uk)



## End of term—Lost Property

We have an overflowing lost property box and several very smelly



lunchboxes sitting on various trollies. Please come and look through the lost property if you are missing anything. We will put a table at the front of the school with unclaimed items on the last week of term.

All unclaimed items from Friday 17th July will be thrown away or recycled. Thank you.

## 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.

## **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](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**

## **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—[hwvsp\\_family\\_support\\_worker](#)



## **Tiger Cheer**



To book places on cheerleading club for the Autumn term, please visit the following address:

Monday yr 1, 2 and 3:

<https://forms.gle/mHYbYXzJdniUuQJJ7>

Wednesday yr 4, 5 and 6:

<https://forms.gle/LPnDLn9jXvZ7ijmj8>

## **Diary Dates**

### **July**

12th Summer Fete 12-2pm

14th Church Service—10am—All welcome

14th Year 5/6 performance

15th Year 4 Cinema trip

16th Year 5/6 performance

18th Finish at 1.15pm

### **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

### **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