



# 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 281, 5th September 2025  
Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

## News from the Head.....

A HUGE warm welcome back to all our families, and to the new families and staff who have joined us this term.

I have visited all classes and the children have been smiley and positive about their learning.

We have had a brilliant start to the term.

Please look through the newsletter for notices and dates for this term. There is a lot going on.



**ALL WELCOME!** On Friday 19th 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, 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 18th 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 19th 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 £750 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.



Thursday 11th September, 8.30am, Teas and Tissues for Nursery and Reception parents in the school dining room.



## Moving on in 2026

Parents of Year 6 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 are now open and close on 31st October 2025. For more information please visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)



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

## 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 this 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.

## Medicines



Can all medicines such as inhalers and epi-pens that are kept in school, please be returned to the school office as a matter of urgency.

Thank you

## 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.

## Harvest week



October 20th is our harvest festival week. Anyone wishing to make donations to our local foodbanks, please send in non-perishable goods on Wednesday—Friday that week. This year we will be supporting Herts Young Homeless Foodbank.

Please see the below list of suggested items. Many thanks.

### Harvest Festival Collections for Herts Young Homeless



Please note, we can only accept non-perishable food items that are still within their best-before date, are sealed and are not homemade.

This list isn't exhaustive, but we hope it helps with gathering some ideas.

#### Most useful food items:

- Pasta / spaghetti / macaroni etc.
- Rice
- Baked beans / tinned spaghetti
- Basic tinned vegetables e.g. potatoes, carrots, peas, sweetcorn
- Tinned tomatoes
- Soup (tinned & packet)
- Pot noodles / instant pasta or rice meals – always very popular!
- Sandwich spreads e.g. paste, marmite, jam, marmalade
- Rice pudding / custard / tinned fruit / instant desserts
- Breakfast cereal
- Canned ready meals e.g. hotdogs, meatballs, stews, curry, bolognaise, tinned sausages, corned beef, tinned ham etc. – another favourite!
- Pasta and meal sauces
- Easy to prepare foods (i.e. add hot water / microwavable)
- 'Treat' food e.g. biscuits, chocolate, crisps, cakes

#### Most useful drink items:

- Tea, coffee, drinking chocolate, sugar
- UHT milk

#### Most useful toiletries:

- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Hand soap
- Deodorant

#### Please do not include:

- Anything out of date or very near to out of date (we cannot give it out and have to throw it away)
- Anything perishable / fresh
- Anything homemade
- Mixed pulses e.g. lentils, chickpeas, kidney beans, cannellini beans, haricot beans
- Luxury items e.g. tinned asparagus
- Alcohol
- Anything that your average teenager would not eat! (We end up with surpluses that either go out of date or have to be given away to other places)

Also, the young people these items are distributed to often have very few cooking skills and sometimes limited cooking facilities, meaning some items are just not suitable for them.

So while we are always extremely grateful for everything, please bear this in mind when making your harvest donations.

### **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.

### **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/>

### **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.



### **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](#)



### **Diary Dates**

#### **September**

11th Teas and Tissues for Nursery and Reception parents at 8.30am in the dining room, after drop off

**17th Smart phones meeting 5.30pm** in the school hall—**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

18th Non School uniform in exchange for cakes or £1 donations

18th **Thursday assembly** —8.50am—families welcome

18th Year 6 Wodson Games

19th MacMillan Coffee Morning 9am in the school hall (no assembly)

26th FOSC AGM—after assembly —ALL welcome

#### **October**

20-24th Harvest Festival week

#### **November**

15th Foundation Stage Open Day—10am-1.30pm

28th INSET Day—School closed to children

#### **December**

1st Occasional Day—school closed

9th AM—Nursery & Reception Nativity \*

9th PM—KS1 Nativity—1B & 2G parents to watch \*

10th AM—Nursery & Reception Nativity \*

10th PM—KS1 Nativity—1C & 2F parents to watch \*

15th Church visit 10am—Parents welcome

16th KS1 Christmas craft day \*

17th Christmas Lunch

\* information to follow

#### **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