



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.....

Smartphones

Thank you for your interest and support, which has been overwhelming, in our recent smartphone discussions. If parents are able to continue the conversation at home with their child, to help explain the reasoning and the risks, we recommend you watch the video via the link below, with your child. It is very good!

<https://smartphonefreedom.us21.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5378b40846e0948620c8eb668&id=c26131c7cd&e=4264da1c59>

Foundation Stage Open Day—The Foundation Stage will be open for visitors on Saturday 15th November - please encourage your local friends/neighbours with young children to pay us a visit ☺☺

Dress up day!

We have had a lovely request for a 'dress up' day, from some of our Y6 pupils, which was hard to resist! SO... on Friday 24th October, children may dress up either in Halloween outfits, or just come into school in their own clothes in exchange for a donation of 50p Crazy hair is allowed, but definitely not a necessity! NO MAKE UP, NO MASKS (we still have some learning to do!)

Photographer

The School photographer will be in school on Monday 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. Stanley Baker Studios have a great range of items and gifts that will be available to order in time for Christmas.


Holiday Club

The Football's Future holiday club is running during October half term - Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday (28th—30th October). For more information and to book please visit: <https://footballs-future.com/product/ware-october-holiday-club-2025/>

Football and netball matches

This week, Bengo came to play against our football and netball teams. We were proud of the super sportsmanship that all our players showed. The netball team enjoyed swapping positions and we were pleased to include some of our newer players. They beat Bengo 14-2. The footballers played brilliantly to secure a 4-0 victory.

Harvest week

October 20th– 24th is our harvest festival week. Anyone wishing to make donations to our local foodbank, please send in non-perishable goods on Tuesday – Friday next 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 / microwaveable)
- "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.

Staff Vacancies

KS2 Teaching Assistant

We are looking to appoint a flexible, enthusiastic and experienced KS2 TA to join our school. Our teaching assistants are able to support all primary aged pupils and sometimes change year groups in order to widen their experience, or depending upon the needs of the school and pupils. We have a great team of TAs, who are supportive, dedicated and fun - come and join us!

This position is for 30 hours per week. Hours will be 8.30 - 3.30pm (with an hour for lunch), Monday - Friday, term time only. We would also like the candidate to consider some 30 minute lunch duties each week.

Midday Supervisory Assistant

We currently have a vacancy for a lunch time supervisor. Hours are approximately 11.45 – 1.15, Monday to Friday, term-time only. Training is provided. Please pop in to the school office for an application form.

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 check lost property if your child has lost their coat as we have lots unclaimed in our overflowing lost property box.



Parent/Teacher consultations

You have hopefully received your slips with the time for your consultation for next week. If you haven't received one, please contact the class teacher or email the school office.

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.



Thanks for remembering this is a



Peanut/Nut Free School

Grapes

To avoid a choking hazard, please remember to cut your child's grapes as shown



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SCAN TO BOOK

HWVSP

Second Christmas Appeal 2025

We need your help to support vulnerable families this Christmas 2025.

You can help us spread the joy of Christmas to families whose children would otherwise not receive a gift. Donations will then be wrapped and distributed to those in need.

We believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas.



We are a local organisation that supports vulnerable families and school aged children, we currently support across 27 schools.

All donations can be made to our team, please contact us to arrange collection/delivery.

07487633259 OR 07745374901



Meet the Author: Abiola Bello

Saturday 1 November
Hertford Library at
2pm



Join Abiola Bello to hear all about her Wild Magic series and her journey from professional street dancer to award-winning and bestselling children's author - with top tips on how to follow your dreams!

This event is part of our Winter Reads promotion.

Tickets £5 each



Diary Dates

October

- 20-24th Harvest Festival week
- 20th School Photographer—individual and sibling photos
- 21st Parent consultations
- 22nd Parent consultations
- 27th—31st Half term

November

- 11th Flu vaccinations catch-up
- 15th Foundation Stage Open Day—10am-1.30pm
- 25th Yr4-6 'Christmas Explored' at Christchurch
- 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

Moving on in 2026

Reminder that online applications for September 2026 secondary places **close on 31st October 2025** however it is recommended that you apply before then in case of issues. For more information please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Foundation Stage open day

We are holding an open day on Saturday 15th November between 10.00am and 1.30pm for children looking to start in Nursery and Reception in September 2026. Please let your local friends and neighbours know.

Foundation Stage Tours

If there are families looking for Nursery/Reception places for September 2026 (ie born between 01.09.22 and 31.08.23 for Nursery and between 01.09.21 and 31.08.22 for Reception), the school is running tours for prospective parents.

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](#)