



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 286, 7th November 2025
Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

Giving Trees for Christmas

Following the success of previous years' trees and donating over 250 presents, here at St Catherine's, we are very excited to announce the return of the Christmas Giving Tree. These giving trees will be full of laminated tags which will have a gender, age and a suggested present attached. The main trees will be located at the front of the school near the car park on Monday 10th November in the morning and Tuesday 11th November after school. Children can come, **accompanied by an adult**, and take a tag on either day. The goal is to provide a gift, up to the cost of £5, for a resident at a local refuge home. We will be donating the presents to various safe homes with a mixture of adults and children. **Please attach your laminated tag to your wrapped present**, before handing it into your child's class teacher by Friday 12th December. If you pick a laminated tag and are no longer able to provide a gift, please return the tag to either a class teacher or the main office.

We are asking for donations of old cardboard boxes and wrapping paper for the collection packages. We hope you are as excited as we are to be able to spread Christmas cheer throughout our community this Christmas and we thank you in advance for your donations!

Miss Gray



Odd Sock Day

As part of our Anti-bullying week, and celebrating uniqueness, children can choose to wear their favourite odd socks, on Friday 21st November - the odder the better!



FOSC Quiz night

Come and join us for the FOSC Quiz night on Friday 21st November from 7pm.

To book, please visit www.pta-events.co.uk/foscware
Get a team together, bring some nibbles (no nuts please) and drinks and come and join the fun

Photographer

The children should have now brought home their photo proofs for you to order school photos in time for Christmas. The deadline to have your order delivered free to school is 17th November. After this date delivery charges will apply. If you are having any difficulties, please email the school office.

Flu Vaccination Catch-up

Vaccination UK will be returning to St Catherine's on Tuesday 11th November to administer flu vaccinations for anyone that missed the previous session.

Year 1 and 2 Reading

On Wednesday 19th November, Year 1 and 2 parents are invited to come and read with their children in the classrooms at 8.25am .

Year 2 Habitat work

Year 2 parents/carers are invited to come in to school on Friday 14th November at 2.30pm to view the children's work on habitats.

Table Tennis

Well done to our table tennis team for representing St Catherine's at Sele this week. A huge congratulations to our girls, who were the overall winners. They will be representing Hertford and Ware schools at the County Finals at Edge Grove School later this month.



Lost Property

We again have an overflowing lost property box. Please come and look through the lost property if you are missing anything.

Can we please remind you to label EVERYTHING to help us to return items to their owner. Thank you.



Head Lice

We have had a couple of cases of head lice reported in our Nursery and Reception classes.

Can we please ask all parents to check their children's hair regularly and treat as required. Children can come in to school as soon as they have been treated.

Football and netball matches

Yesterday our Football and Netball teams played against Christchurch. Our Football team lost 1-0 and our Netball team lost 11-8. Both teams worked really hard and represented our school well.

Nursery Applications—30 hours free childcare funding

St Catherine's is offering funded places to Nursery children from September 2026, giving:

- Flexible, longer days from 7.45am to 5.30pm.
- Morning and afternoon sessions led by qualified teachers.
- Wrap around care available before and after care sessions (breakfast and after school club).

Admissions are now open. Please contact the school office for an application form or to arrange a visit.

Reception Applications for September 2026

Reception applications for September 2026 open on 1st November **until 15th January 2026**. You should receive a leaflet directly from Hertfordshire County Council admissions. Children in Nursery are not automatically allocated a Reception place and will need to apply through School Admissions. For more information please visit:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx

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.

Finger nails

Can we please remind parents that gel and acrylic nails are not appropriate for school. Thank you

Diary Dates

November

- 11th Flu vaccinations catch-up
- 14th Year 2 parents to view Habitat work—2.30pm
- 15th Foundation Stage Open Day—10am-1.30pm
- 17th-21st Anti-bullying week
- 19th Year 1 and 2 parents are invited to come and read with their children in the classrooms 8.25am .
- 21st Odd Sock day
- 21st FOSC Quiz night—7pm
- 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—children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumper/t-shirt on this day
- * information to follow

January

- 5th INSET day—School closed to pupils
- 6th Children return to school

2025/2026

- 13th April—17th July 2026
- Half term 25th—29th May
- 4th May—Bank Holiday—School closed



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