



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 287, 21st November 2025
Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

News from the Head.....

Parent Survey

Thank you so much to all those who responded to our parent questionnaire during parent consultation week. We have been overwhelmed by the number of positive responses and staff are grateful for the lovely comments.

We have 300 families at the school, and 247 completed the survey.

99% of parents felt their child was happy, and felt safe at school. 98% of parents would recommend the school to others.

There are so many kind and complimentary comments: "Our children love coming to school to learn and enjoy sharing their learning at home"; "they are developing lovely friendships"; "Thank you for always giving the best opportunities and going above and beyond"; "fantastic school".

There was a query as to whether the school has a SENCO - just to clarify - we do - please contact the office if you would like to speak to someone about SEN.

There were 2 queries about home learning. We would like to organise a working party to discuss - please email the school office if you would like to join us for this.

Here is the link for the parent survey results [St Catherine's CofE Primary School - Parent Survey October 2025](#)

[Results](#)

Antibullying week and Odd Sock Day



Parking

Please park carefully whilst in the school area. We have had a number of reports from neighbours and parents regarding inconsiderate driving, and unsafe parking. Hostile interactions are not acceptable in the vicinity of Primary/Secondary children—or for anyone to witness, in fact. Please walk, where possible, or park at Asda and walk along.

FOSC

Our new Chair of FOSC, is looking for an assistant (or two!) to create a team to help with planning and organising events such as the Christmas bazaar, school discos, quiz nights and Summer fete.

Our FOSC team raise money for the school which has helped purchase school equipment, take children to the pantomime, organise Santa to give books at Christmas, Easter egg hunts and much much more!

Mrs Gibbs (Alex) would be very grateful for some volunteers to create our new key FOSC team.

Please email hello@friendsofstcatherines.co.uk.



ECO CLUB

Eco-squad need your help!

We want your books! Want to clear space before Christmas? Please donate adult's or children's books, in good condition for us to sell at the Christmas Fete.

We can then use the money we raise to help improve the school grounds even more.

Thank you



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 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.

Giving tree

Thank you to everyone that took tags from our Giving Tree. Can presents be returned to school by 12th December. Thank you

Table Tennis

A huge congratulations to our three amazing girls, Darcie-Mae, Lily and Sophie for taking part in the U11 Girls Table Tennis County Finals 2025 at Edge Grove School, Aldenham Village, Hertfordshire. The county organisers were extremely proud of the girls' dedication and determination throughout the competition. As are we! Well done girls.



Diary Dates

November

25th Yr4-6 'Christmas Explored' at Christchurch

28th INSET Day—School closed to children

December

1st Occasional Day—school closed

9th Year 5 Greek Day *

9th AM—Nursery & Reception Nativity *

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

10th AM—Nursery & Reception Nativity *

10th Yr4-6 Choir singing at Snowdrop House

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

12th Non uniform day in exchange for bottles/chocolate for the Christmas Fete

12th Christmas Fete 3-5pm

15th Church visit 10am—Parents welcome

16th KS1 Christmas craft day

16th Yr 4-6 Choir singing at Asda from 12.30pm—parents welcome to come along

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

February

2nd Year 4 lunchtime concert at St Mary's

13th KS1 Grandparents coffee morning 10-10.30am *

16th—20th half term

23rd INSET day—school closed to pupils

March

2nd Year 3 lunchtime concert at St Mary's

27th school finishes at 1.15pm

30th—10th April Easter holidays

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

Ware's THE BRICKS ROBOT RUMBLE

30th Nov 2025
10:30am - 4:30pm
Ware Priory

Hertfordshire's New LEGO ROBOTICS event featuring some of the best brick built fighting robots in the country. Displays, Traders and Activities
 Tickets are now on sale
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wares-the-bricks

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance **MASTER BUILDERS PARTIES**

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School and Family Partnerships

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 father christmas church farm Ardeley

Selected dates in December

Festive Farm Entry includes
 Christmas Activity Pack * Festive Woodland
 Walk the farm & see the farm animals

Meet Father Christmas
 Father Christmas in his outside grotto (includes a quality toy)
 Meet the Elves
 Write a letter to Father Christmas
 Write a wish for the Wish Tree
 Bag up reindeer food & carrot to take home to Rudolph

Additional Activities
 Santa Paws – bring your beloved pooches to meet Father Christmas include treat & toy
 Harvest your Own Christmas Tree
 Festive Tractor & Trailer Ride
 Feed the farm animals

Book online www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk

This is an outdoor event so plenty of fresh air. Wrap up warm & wear wellies!

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 A Free Range Experience