



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 288, 5th December 2025
Head Teacher—Hazel Leslie, Deputy Head—Andrew Carless

News from the Head.....

It was lovely to see so many visitors for our Y6 open afternoon today - thank you all for making the time. There was so much wonderful work to see, and such a positive experience for the children to share their creations. Thank you to staff for organising.

We look forward to seeing everyone next Friday, at the school Christmas Fair 3pm-5pm

Menu Change

Wednesday 17th December—Christmas lunch

Turkey with Chipolata Sausage

or

Roast Quorn Fillet with Plant Sausage (v)

with sage & onion stuffing

gravy

roast potatoes

choice of seasonal vegetables

and a choice of Christmas desserts

Please note there will be **no jacket potato**

On Wednesday 17th December we are having our Christmas lunch and the Children are welcome to come to school wearing Christmas jumpers/Christmassy clothes if they would like.



Giving tree

Please return all giving tree gifts to your child's class or the school office by Friday 12th December. If you have been unable to buy a gift, please return your tag to school as soon as possible to enable someone else to buy a gift. Thank you

Trampoline cover

If anyone has a spare cover for a trampoline that they are willing to donate, we would be very grateful. Our current cover is broken and we are looking for a replacement.

FOSC Corner

Helpers Needed



We are looking for volunteers to help run a stall at our Christmas bazaar. If you can spare half an hour to help on Friday 12th between 3pm and 5pm, it would be a great help to the team.

Teddy Tombola

If you have any good quality soft toys for the Teddy Tombola, please drop them into the school office as soon as possible

Non uniform day

We have a non uniform day on Friday 12th December in return for donations of bottles or chocolate for the Christmas bazaar

For more information please visit <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/foscware/>

Facebook—search for FOSC Community Corner
Instagram—FOSCWARE

Year 1 and 2 Reading

On Thursday 15th January, Friday 27th February and Monday 23rd March 2026, Year 1 and 2 parents are invited to come and read with their children in the classrooms at 8.25am until 8.40am.

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

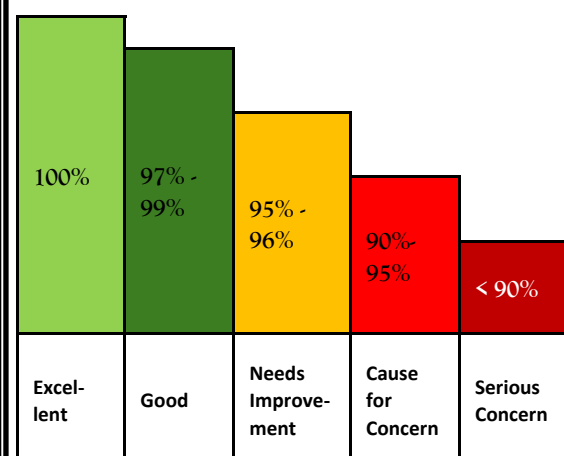
Foundation Stage Tours

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.

Did you know that you can now view child's attendance on the Arbor Parent Portal? If your child's attendance is above 97%, well done! If your child's attendance is 96% or below, this needs to be improved; research suggests that missed sessions = DROP in achievement.

Children whose attendance is less than 90% will be bringing home their attendance certificate for your attention shortly.

Please do speak to us if you would like any advice or help with improving your child's attendance.



Football's Future

Football's Future are running their Christmas Sporty Cracker, Monday 22 & Tuesday 23rd December (08:30-15:30) for St Catherine's Families!

With St Catherine's school closed and taking a well earned break, FF are still able to provide FUN, Healthy Childcare just down the road at Allenbury's Sports & Social.

They will have access to the large sports hall as well as outdoor astro giving plenty of space for footballers and multi-sporters to burn off some pre-festive energy!

<https://footballs-future.com/product/ware-allenburys-fun-christmas-holiday-club-2025/>

Diary Dates

December

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

FREE Courses & Workshops for Parents. These are all funded by Herts County Council so are free for parents to attend.

Courses: Phone 07512 709 556 to book

6-Weeks	Location	ID	Dates 2026	Day	Time
Talking Additional Needs	Online	797	6th Jan to 10th Feb	Tue	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Additional Needs	Online	796	3rd Feb to 17th Mar	Tue	9.45-11.15am
Talking Families	Online	799	8th Jan to 12th Feb	Thu	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Families	Online	798	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	9.45-11.15am
Talking Families	Online	800	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Anxiety in Families	Online	801	4th Feb to 18th Mar	Wed	9.45-11.30am
Talking Teens	Online	804	5th Jan to 9th Feb	Mon	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Teens	St Albans	802	4th Feb to 18th Mar	Wed	7.00-9.00pm
Talking Teens	Online	803	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Anger in Teens	Online	805	6th Jan to 10th Feb	Tue	7.45-9.30pm
Talking Dads	Online	806	7th Jan to 11th Feb	Wed	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Dads	Online	807	2nd Feb to 16th Mar	Mon	7.45-9.15pm

Parents can book by phoning **07512 709556** or email bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

Please include your phone number as places cannot be booked without speaking to you.

Full details can be found at <https://www.supportinglinks.co.uk/whatson.html>



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!

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience