



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 Chair of Governors.....

As the festive season approaches, we wanted to reflect on a busy first term of the year. Governors regularly visit the school, attending meetings or walking round to see the children hard at work. This term, we enjoyed watching the Foundation and KS1 nativity plays which were absolutely lovely. In addition, some of us had the opportunity to attend the Christmas service at St Mary's Church on Monday 15th December, where the Year 6 pupils beautifully told the story of Christmas and the church was filled with singing voices. A huge well done to all the children and staff who put in so much effort – you have truly captured the magic of Christmas. We also joined students, staff and parents at the Christmas Fair, which was an amazing afternoon and a wonderful way to celebrate the festive season together.

We are delighted to welcome Debbie Malyan as our newest school governor. Debbie brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role, and we look forward to the positive impact she will have within our school community.

Christmas is a wonderful time for reflection and thinking about others, with that in mind we send our warmest wishes to everyone, especially those facing challenges, for a joyful and peaceful Christmas!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Lee Bezer
Chair of Governors



News from the Head.....

SO MANY THANK YOUS!!

HUGE, huge thanks to all those who organised and helped prepare the school for the fete last Friday! I am so grateful to parents, grandparents and staff who gave up their time to make this such a success. Thank you to the choir and to Mrs Calaz's POP FUNK DANCE for their entertainment, and of course, thank you to all the families who came to spend their money! Overall, FOSC raised £4,600 - which is just amazing. This money helps the school continue to provide resources and super experiences for the children.

Thanks also, to SANTA - who took a special detour on his travels, delivered gifts for every child, and managed to visit our Foundation Stage on Tuesday.

Thank you to FOSC for arranging a FAB PANTO ("Oh no they didn't") this week to entertain children from Y1 - Y6.

Thank you to KS1 and Foundation Stage, for their AMAZING performances!

Thank you to Y6 who delivered the Christmas Story so well, on Monday at church.

Thank you to Chauncy students for inviting us to their Christmas Show!

Thank you to FOSC for organising our annual FOSC shop - the children LOVE to visit!!

Thank you to all those who were able to join KS1 to help with their craft day on Tuesday.

Thank you to all your donations towards the Giving tree.

Thank you to the whole team who put up (and take down again!) our Christmas decorations - and THANKS to Miss Bull and her Y1 class for the HOT CHOCOLATE!!

Have a restful Christmas - we look forward to seeing you all in January 2026



Reminder—school finishes at 1.15pm on Friday 19th December. We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 6th January when school reopens

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/>

Chess Club

Well done to our Y6 chess club, who have been so good in chess club this term that Mr Buswell (governor) has agreed to come back after Christmas 🎁



They have developed their chess playing skills, and this term's competition winners were Teddy, Rafael and Lochlan!

Thanks to Mr Buswell, and also to Hertford Chess Club for their kind donation of chess equipment.

Parking

Please park carefully whilst in the school area. We have had a number of reports from neighbours and parents regarding inconsiderate driving, unsafe parking including parking on the yellow zig-zag lines. 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.

Poppy appeal

Together we raised £268.99 for the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal which will help support those in the Armed Forces community



Lunch menu

We return to school on Tuesday of week 1 on the lunch menu



Y5 Greek Day

Well done to our Year 5's who entered into the spirit of Ancient Greek day on Tuesday 9th - they had a brilliant day investigating all things 'Greek'. Thank you to the staff for organising this, particularly at the end of such a busy term.



Lost Property

We again have an overflowing lost property box. Please come and look through the lost property if you are missing anything. **Any items left at the end of term will be either donated to charity or thrown away.**



Can we please remind you to label **EVERYTHING** that comes in to school to help us return items to their owner. Thank you.

Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone that donated to our Giving Tree. The presents have been delivered and will make lots of people happy on Christmas day. Thank you also to Miss Gray for all her hard work organising. Funding has been cut for this charity so our donations were even more welcome.



Home learning

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, 2 comments from the recent parent questionnaire mentioned home learning.

We would like to hold a couple of meetings, as a working party, to discuss further. If anyone would like to join us for this, please contact the school office.

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.

Flu Vaccinations

Respiratory and flu-like cases are rapidly on the rise. We urge you to ensure your child receives the flu vaccination. You have a choice between the quick and painless nasal spray or the Injection which is porcine & gelatine free. This not only protects your children against being seriously ill but also protects vulnerable members of your family and community. We have several community catch-up clinics available. Please use the link below to book an appointment.

[Vaccination UK Immunisation](https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/book) <https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/book>

If you previously declined consent for your child when we visited the school, you **CAN CHANGE** your consent. Please call our office on 01462 427008, and we will book a clinic appointment for you.
Hertfordshire Immunisation Team



FOSC Corner

For more information please visit <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/foscware/>
Facebook—search for FOSC Community Corner
Instagram—FOSCWARE

Big Book Swap

On **Friday 23rd January 2025 at 3pm** we are holding our Big Book Swap and children may bring any good quality books they no longer want and pass them to their Teacher to exchange for a different book. We are particularly looking for books for older children.



Please bring in your books to be swapped on Thursday 22nd January.

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.

Diary Dates

January

- 5th INSET day—School closed to pupils
- 6th Children return to school
- 26th Toy workshop visit—N-Yr 2
- 27th James Aston visit Yr5&6

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
- 3rd Year 1 Learning Cafe—2.30pm *
- 5th Year 2 Learning Cafe—2.30pm *
- 12th Reception screening
- 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

