



St Ippolyts CE (Aided) Primary School

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# NEWSLETTER



Issue 37: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022



St Ippolyts CE Primary School  
1847-2022



175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Service of Thanksgiving

## 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary

We had a wonderful service of thanksgiving in Church on Friday. Young Worship took us on a journey through time, telling us of the history of our school from first opening in 1847 to the present day. We also sang some of our favourite hymns (including a Christmas Carol in July!)

After school it was fantastic to see so many families join us for a picnic at the school field, a time to unwind, have fun and just enjoy being together as a school family.

At the end of the newsletter is a copy of the History readings done by Young Worship, we thought you might find them interesting.







# Annual reports

Annual reports were sent home last week via email. Please could you acknowledge receipt of your child's report by emailing the class teacher before the end of term. Many thanks.



## LAST DAY FOR TICKET BOOKINGS!

The children are practising hard for their production which takes place next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. For the evening performance on Wednesday, all children need to be **back at school by 5.30pm**. At each performance, the PTA are selling refreshments and there will be a collection at the end.

**Please note that evening tickets are fully booked. If you have booked evening tickets but find that you won't be using them, PLEASE let us know asap because we have a waiting list.**

## SAFEGUARDING

PLEASE COULD ALL PARENTS NOTE THAT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING THE PERFORMANCE.

AT THE END OF THE SHOW, THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR OWN CHILD ONLY. Thank you!

## Class 4 Trip to Verulamium

Class 4 spent a wonderful day learning all about Roman life last week at Verulamium Museum in St Albans. Take a look at the photos on the school website to see what a great day they had. Thank you, Miss Walker!



## Class 3 Trip to Celtic Harmony

On Monday, Class 3 travelled to Celtic Harmony Camp to take part in an Iron Age Farmers Day.

They got to try lots of different activities such as grinding flour, cooking and carding wool.

Thank you to Mrs Archer and Mrs Hoar for organising such a special day.

## Important: School Milk

If you would like your child to have milk for the autumn term, please ensure you have ordered it via Arbor no later than the 12th July.  
Thank you.

## Swimming

In the autumn term, Years 3 and 4 (current Y2 and Y3) will be having swimming lessons on Wednesdays. Parents will soon receive a letter with all the details and dates.

We are putting the payments on Arbor before the end of term so that you can make 'little and often' payments over the summer holidays if this would be helpful.



# The fabulous Dance Festival!



Miss Gale's Dance Club have been practising for months for their piece at the SSFT Dance Festival at Stevenage Leisure Centre yesterday. The Dance Festival has been postponed several times (originally scheduled for Feb 2020!) so it was wonderful to finally see it come together. Groups of dancers from across the SSFT district took part, putting on a fabulous show of 'dancing through the decades.' There were two performances, a matinee and an evening show, so it was a long day for the children, but they were AMAZING, and it was so lovely to see them on stage having a fantastic time. A huge well done to them all, and an especially big thank you to Miss Gale for giving them this wonderful opportunity.





# Transition day: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Next Thursday will be a day of all change! We will be welcoming our new Reception children into school for the morning and our Year 6 children will be spending the day at their secondary schools. All the other children will be spending time in their new classes, getting to know their new teachers, classrooms and classmates.

Miss Palmer will also be joining us for the day to meet the new Class 3.



A reminder that all after school clubs are now finished until September.



## Jubilee Book

You may be aware from the media that the government have given every child a commemorative Platinum Jubilee book.

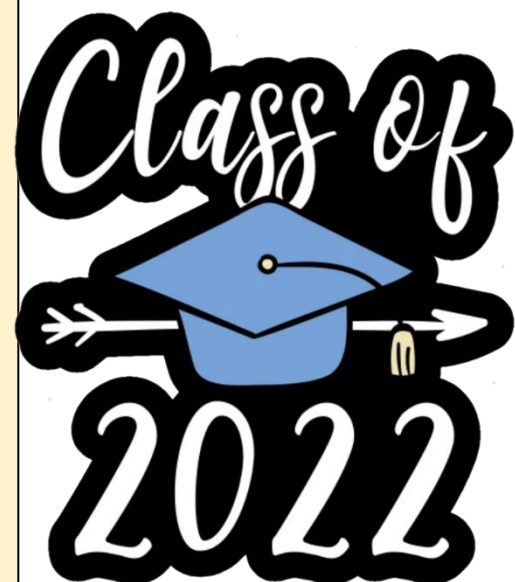
Our delivery has arrived this week, so today each child will bring home a copy of the book as a special keepsake.

## Year 6 Leavers Service

Parents of Y6 children are invited to join us in Church on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 2.15pm for the Leavers Service.

As there is very limited seating available, a **maximum of two attendees per family** can attend. Please also be aware that it may be a tight squeeze and that photos/video cannot be taken during the service.

After the service, Year 6 and their parents are invited to come into the hall for refreshments.



## THIS WEEK'S REPORT FROM OUR PUPIL JOURNALIST, ROSE



Last Friday, the whole of St. Ippolyts school gathered in the church for our 175 years thanksgiving service, in which we listened to what Young Worship had found out about our school's history. We learnt about the first headteacher and how the students of St. Ippolyts helped the Army during the Second World War (WW II) by knitting clothes and making blackberry jam as well as attending lessons.

As well as hearing about the people who had taught, and been taught in our school, we were told about how the building itself had grown bigger over time. From the first of the classrooms, like class 4, to the slightly more (although not very) recent development of class 5 and 6. The oldest parts of our school are now 175 years old and the thanksgiving service reminded us of the fact. It also allowed us to express our current value (thankfulness) for our school.

During the service, we sang many of our favourite hymns, including Christmas ones, in order to celebrate the school and its history. Each class had its bit to say about the school and its teachers that keep the school day interesting and fun. The one message that stood out throughout the service was... Thank you!





## KS1 Rounders

Well done to the children who competed in the Key Stage 1 SSFT rounders tournament. For some children it was their first event and they came in first place!



## Y3/4 Golf

Last week a team of children took part in the SSFT Tri-Golf competition. They came in first place, which took them through to the county round on Monday, bringing home bronze county medals! Well done!

## Y5/6 Rounders

On Tuesday, three teams of children competed in the SSFT rounders tournament. They all played brilliantly and finished in 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place. Well done everyone!



# Our History: readings from the Anniversary Service

## **Part 1: The beginning**

St Ippolyts School, referred to in the beginning as 'St Ippolyts National School' was constructed in 1846 by Joseph Bates. It initially was an open school room parallel to the road with a smaller room attached to the schoolhouse. The school has always been a 'church school'. Thomas Henry Steel was Vicar when the school was opened in 1847, and on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 43 children arrived to meet their new teacher, Miss Jefford. Her monthly salary was £2.1s.8d, plus half the children's fees of tuppence a week. An older child, Eliza Pedder was paid 6d a week to help keep order, and Miss Ross came in several times a week to teach plaiting.

In order to furnish the building with desks and chairs, money needed to be raised. On the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1870 ratepayers met to discuss the best way to fulfil the education requirements. The plan was to convert the existing school room into an infant's school and build a large new room for older pupils. This was then remodelled and built in 1871. There were now 90 children on the register.

Victorian lessons were mainly concerned with the '3R's' – reading, writing and arithmetic. Teachers often made the children learn the reading book by heart, so they would pass the yearly test. Young children learnt to write by copying letters from the blackboard onto a slate. Older children used a pen with a nib, which had to be dipped into the ink using a copper plate style of writing. Science was taught by showing children objects and the teacher reading about it.

## **Part 2: The War Years**

During the first war years the school children subscribed £2 to the Belgian Refugees Fund, they also subscribed for wool, the girls knitted it into helmets and socks for the Sailor's and Soldier's Relief Fund. A new plot of land was also lent to the children for gardening during the war. On the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918 the children gathered 77lbs of blackberries for jam making. Children were also



given the task of stoning the raisins ready for the teacher to make Christmas puddings.

As St Ippolyts is a church school prayers and hymns were sung every morning. Pupils attended services to celebrate the various religious festivals the highlight was the children were given the remainder of the day off after the service had ended. Children had to do some schooling at the village hall due to giving up time to evacuees. The headteacher was Mr J.J.P. Cole a strict man who was respected by his pupils.

By the time of the Second World War the headmaster at the time was Mr Taylor. When the war started all the children went to St Ibbs to be fitted with gas masks. The expectation was that the children would carry them to school each day in a cardboard box, hung round their necks with string. Children would practice getting into lines to go to the air raid shelter once a week, which was situated where the playground now is. The area at the side of the school was dug up into trenches. School dinners were provided at the British Legion Hut on the London Road, where thick vegetable soup and toast, semolina pudding and jam tart and custard for afters. Toilets were also outside. The big bell in the school used to ring every morning and afternoon to call the children to school.

During the harsh winters children would toboggan down the hill to the foundry and in the summer months children were walked down to the bus stop to get the bus into Hitchin, where they had swimming lessons or went to the rough meadow at the corner of Ashbrook Lane and played rounders, trying to avoid the cows. The school had very little outside activities but on very rare occasions somebody would come to give a puppet show after school hours, for which a small charge was made.

School closed for 2 days on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1945, a National Holiday to celebrate V.E. Day on the conclusion of the war. A large tea party took place in the village hall followed by organised sports in the park.

### **Part 3: The Extension in the 1950's**

October 1951 saw the beginning of meetings to discuss with the Vicar the possibility of additional buildings to the school. The school architect Mr Muncey and Mr New attended a meeting three years later to discuss the plans for the new classroom and kitchen.

In 1953 Queen Elizabeth II was crowned and a day's holiday was granted. Building work had begun on the north boys' playground for new classrooms and indoor toilets and the girls' south playground for a new kitchen. The school didn't have central heating but was warmed by open fires, where the free milk was lined up to give a warm drink at mid-morning break.

A year later, on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1955 there was a School Dedication Service of the extension (where Class 5 and 6 are now) by the Lord Bishop of St Albans which was then followed by lunch provided by the new canteen and attended by the children and 35 invited guests.

After a beautiful service there was a procession to school. When the Bishop reached the door of the School, the Vicar said the following:

*Reverend Father in GOD, we ask you to dedicate these classrooms and other extensions of our school*

*The Bishop: We, Michael, by divine permission of the Bishop of St Albans, do hereby dedicate these buildings to the perpetual service of Almighty GOD, for the education of children: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*

In 1957 the Headmaster Mr Sargeant, was also the church warden and so he did a great deal to foster the links between school and church.

### **Part 4: The new hall**

As the new millennium dawned, with Mrs Nelson as Headteacher, plans were afoot to build a much-needed extension to the school. The number of children attending was growing and it was becoming difficult to provide a modern curriculum in a cramped building.



In the early 2000s work began on building a new hall, classrooms and offices, which would dramatically increase the size of the school. It was a complex project because the new build had to be in-keeping with the style of the original Victorian building. Funding had been secured from the Diocese, but the Governing Body had to pay 10% of the costs. A fundraising committee called the SHARP Appeal was set up (this stood for School Hall And Refurbishment Project). Over a number of years and countless events to raise funds, over £120,000 was raised to enable to build to go ahead.

The building was completed in the late autumn of 2004 and was officially opened with a service of blessing in St Ippolyts Church on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The new building was blessed by the Bishop of St Albans and there was a celebratory tea in the hall afterwards. The new hall marked the start of a new era for St Ippolyts School. Mrs Peddie became Headteacher in September 2009 and is still in post as we celebrate 175 years.

### **Part 5: Growing....present day**

St Ippolyts village is a growing and thriving community with the school at its heart. Increasing numbers of children were applying for places and by 2017, the school expanded from 5 classes to 6. This enabled the school to take more children.

Our creative, vibrant curriculum has been a strength of the school for a sustained period of time. We know that all children have differing strengths, interests and passions and we endeavour to provide wide ranging opportunities for them to shine. Learning is enriched through things like arts days, science days, trips, wellbeing week, and a wide range of fantastic sports.

We help children ***‘learn how to learn’*** using Learning Powers. Pupils are given the opportunity to guide their own learning with confidence and independence, using the four Learning Powers: Reflectiveness, Resourcefulness, Resilience and Relationships. Support for children’s mental, physical and emotional health is woven throughout the curriculum and the school’s Christian values are at the heart of everything we do.

Spring 2020 saw the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic. School was closed to most pupils from March – September 2020 and then again from January –

March 2021. Children had to do their lessons remotely and teachers had to learn how to teach over video link. There were live PE lessons, music lessons and Wellbeing Wednesday videos to name a few. It was a very strange time for everyone, but the school community remained united under a tagline of 'Stronger Together'.

As for the future... as children we will grow up, move on and leave our primary school days behind us. But we will take with us precious memories and values for life, just like the generations of children who have gone before us and those who are yet to come. One thing is for certain - we will always be part of the St Ipps Family.

**This beautiful poem was written by Maddy in Class 6, which she read at the start of the service:**

Earning a place here at this fantastic school  
Really is a dream come true  
From the first school trips to the Friday Fellowships,  
You will make unbreakable friendships.  
One hundred and seventy-five years, our school has survived,  
Since 1847 it has thrived.

The teachers motivate us, driving us to succeed,  
We work hard together, and we always achieve.  
Twelve values holding the structure of our school together,  
Strong beliefs that will last with us for ever.  
Love one another as I have loved you,  
We respect and trust each other through and through.

Engraved in our hearts, our legacy shall live on,  
Until a new generation takes over and we are then gone...