



SCHOOL OF THE YEAR!

We had a wonderful evening at the Sports Awards on Tuesday and are SO proud of all our achievements! We were Highly Commended (2nd) in the categories of Primary Team of the Year, Service to Mental Health and KS2 Sportsman of the Year – well done all!

Our Sports Ambassadors Crew were winners in 'Crew of the Year' and we were absolutely thrilled to receive the highly contested 'SCHOOL OF THE YEAR' award. This is an award for **everyone** in our school – for the sports staff and teaching staff for providing quality PE and clubs, the teaching assistants and parents who tirelessly provide transport and support at events and fixtures throughout the year and of course our amazing, committed children. It has been a fantastic year for sports at St Ippolyts and this award has rounded it off perfectly!



MYSTERY AT MAGPIE MANOR

Wow wow wow! The children in Years 3-6 did SO well performing their summer show this week. It was truly magical to see them all on stage singing and acting so brilliantly, especially as we have not had a proper show since 2019.

A huge thank you to all the staff, but especially Miss Walker, Miss Abbott and Mrs Stewart who have worked tirelessly for weeks to ensure the children shone!

We are also delighted to tell you that one of our parents, the lovely Mr Dohil, offered to video the evening performance for us, so we will soon be sending home a link for you to be able to watch it again. We are so grateful to Mr Dohil for his generosity and time!

Thank you also for supporting the PTA by buying refreshments and for your donations. These donations go directly towards music and drama in school, such as performance licences, props, scripts, instruments etc.

Keep an eye on the school website for a full photo gallery!





In a few short days we will waving goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children as they fly the nest for secondary school. It doesn't seem 5 minutes since they were arriving for their first day in Class 1, but we are so very proud of the remarkable, resilient and caring young people that they have become.

As we have returned to normality over the course of the year, it has been especially wonderful to see them have so many opportunities to shine – either through sports, their academic work, their artistic flair and of course their dramatic abilities in the wonderful end of year show!

We have no doubt that they will continue to shine at secondary school and beyond...go for it Year 6, we will miss you all very much but know you are ready for the next chapter – Be Bold Be Strong!

Leavers Service

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

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

Last Day of term

When we break up for summer on Tuesday, Year 6 will exit from the back of the school and come up the driveway rather than their usual gate by their classroom. Please could Y6 parents wait there for us at hometime, it's a lovely time for photos and goodbyes. All other families are welcome to join us to wave them off too!

A message from our Chair of Governors, Mrs Luxton

As I look back my first year as Chair of Governors at St Ippolyts and contemplate the political and global machinations that have been the backdrop to all our lives for the last 12 months, I feel so grateful that, in this our 175th anniversary year, our pupils are surrounded by the love and stability of our enduring school community.

Our focus over the last year has been to build back resilience in our pupils, supporting their mental health and wellbeing and working hard to catch up on the education they missed during Covid lockdowns. The Governors are eternally grateful to our exceptional team of staff who have navigated the ordeal the last 2 years with dedication and creativity and adapted to everything the pandemic threw at them, enabling our pupils to bounce back from adversity with renewed strength and resourcefulness. We are also indebted to our parents who have offered unwavering support throughout.

The reinstatement of collective worship, Friday Fellowship, church services and class assemblies has allowed us to celebrate our return to normality; hearing the children sing and simply be together again has given us all some wonderful and emotional memories to treasure.

In addition to the day-to-day delivery of the national curriculum we have been able to enjoy again the various whole school events that are such a strength at St Ippolyts; wellbeing week, Science days, Arts days, World Book Day and sports day to name but a few have allowed us to immerse our pupils in high-quality, in-depth activities and, throughout the year, our pupils' sporting successes have been outstanding.

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the St Ippolyts School 175th anniversary party provided great opportunities for us all to let our hair down, have fun and forget about world events that have shown us just how precarious peace and prosperity can be. No one can have failed to notice the blue and yellow doves displayed outside the school over recent months, each one carrying a heartfelt Prayer for Peace written by our pupils not only in solidarity with Ukraine but with all who suffer. Their messages exemplify our school motto "love one another"; love not only for each other within our school community but love for everyone in the global community in which we play a tiny but powerful part.

As we prepare to say goodbye to our wonderful year 6 children who are moving on to secondary school, I wish them well and know they will carry the spirit of this motto with them into their future lives.



Goodbye Mrs Nichols!

At the end of term we are saying goodbye to Mrs Nichols as she leaves us to take up her new role as SEND Advisor at HfL. Mrs Nichols has been linked to St Ippolyts for many years, as she did her initial teacher training with us many moons ago. She has also worked as a class teacher and obviously as our excellent SENCo. We are so sad to see her go but know that she will be fabulous in her new role. We are also very lucky that Inclusion is being left in the capable hands of Mrs Stewart from the autumn.

Thank you for all your years of service Mrs Nichols, we will miss you dearly; good luck for your new job!

Transition day today

Today we welcomed our new Reception children into school for the morning and our Year 6 children have spent the day at their secondary schools. All the other children spent time in their new classes, getting to know their new teachers, classrooms and classmates. Miss Palmer also joined us for the day to meet the new Class 3. Each child has been given a leaflet with lots of useful information about their new class for September, they are also on the school website.



More exciting sports news

On Wednesday we heard the exciting news that we have once again been awarded the School Games Mark at Gold Level.

This recognises the quality of PE and Sport across the whole school, not just competitive events, but also things like sports day and inter-house competitions. Well done everyone!



French Café

Last week children in Key Stage 2 had a fantastic time practising their conversational French skills by ordering food at our French Café! They had a lovely time sampling a selection of pastries and drinks. Thank you so much to Madame Twomey for bringing our language learning to life! There are lots of photos on the school website.

Swimming

In the autumn term, Years 3 and 4 (current Y2 and Y3) will be having swimming lessons on Wednesdays.

Parents have been sent a letter with all the details and dates.

Payments are now on Arbor so that you can make 'little and often' payments over the summer holidays if this would be helpful.

Important: current Year 2 children, free school meals

When children move into Key Stage Two, they are **no longer eligible for universal infant free school meals**. However, your child can get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Please ask at the office about how to apply if you are unsure.

READING BOOKS BEING COLLECTED IN FOR SUMMER

Between now and the end of term we will be collecting in all reading and library books so that we can do our annual summer stock check. Please can you have a check at home for any school books which may be lurking and send them in please. Thank you!

Can you help Class 1?

We are currently trying to source new resources for our Reception class and wondered if you could help. We are looking for the following items....

- Pieces of astro-turf/ artificial grass (all sizes)
- Log slices (all sizes)
- Pieces of plastic guttering to create 'water trails'
- An assortment of natural/ wooden objects such as pine-cones, dried flowers and pampas grass.
- Plastic animals for small-world role-play activities
- Lots of natural/ wooden/ hessian boxes, baskets and storage pots.

If you happen to have any of these going spare, we would be so grateful!

Thank you from Miss Ingle and The Class 1 Team!

THIS WEEK'S REPORT FROM OUR PUPIL JOURNALIST, ROSE

Mystery at Magpie Manor

Three performances in three days is definitely exhausting but at the same time, this is definitely one of the best weeks of the year. Mystery at Magpie Manor is a book and production that is all about saving Magpie Manor from wrack and ruin. Lord and Lady Pica are in trouble because they don't have enough money to pay for the repairs until Mr Fortune tells them about his plan to save the manor, now that he has taken over the bank from Mr Deed of Dun, Dark and Deed. The plan involves auctioning off the Pica Pica Solid Silver Pitcher with the Magpie Picture at a ball that is to be attended by the rich and famous. Mr Fortune gets an auctioneer (Ivor Gavel) and security (Ex-Inspector Spectre of the Yard) while his two ridiculously funny assistants write the invites. Then we have a look into everyone's lives while the Inspector looks at the possible suspects for any crimes that take place.

At the ball all is starting off well, even royalty attends! When the time comes for Lady Pica to unveil the Pica Pica Pitcher, there is pandemonium, the jug is gone! The Inspector starts his investigations and everyone tries to prove their innocence, while one of the guests, an author called Agatha Christie seems to be doing some snooping herself and finds two interesting items that Basil Bud (the gardener) has found in the moat. The Inspector is near the end of his investigation, but Agatha Christie reveals him to be the former heir to the manor, Percy Pica! Percy was found guilty of spying in 1917 and disappeared which meant that the inheritance had gone to Lord Pica! Then Agatha Christie revealed another of her discoveries: the fake Inspector had stolen the jug which was in one of the two sacks that Basil Bud had found in the moat! But what was in the other one? A long Lost fortune of course! Magpie Manor was saved!

We are really proud of our performances and would like to say a big thank you to all the staff that made it possible!

I am sure that you will agree, Rose has done an outstanding job as Pupil Journalist this year. She has been fully committed to the role, always finding time to write an interesting article about something that has been happening in school each week.

Thank you Rose, you have been fantastic!

IMPORTANT: PHOTO PERMISSIONS

Shortly you will receive notification from the office about updating your child's photo permissions. This will not be a paper form as in previous years but will be done electronically via Arbor. Please keep a look out for the email and respond before the autumn so that we have all photo consents in place. Thank you.

PTA Round up

We know that fundraising has been tricky in the last couple of years and that we have not had a PTA Chair in place. However, we have managed some events and are so grateful for your support! I would especially like to thank **Helen Gooden and Helen Twomey** who have worked closely with school to ensure that things have been able to happen. We couldn't have done anything without them! We are also thankful to parents who have stepped up to help at those events.

Money raised in 2020-2021

Summer Disco - £450

Spring Disco - £416

Christmas Raffle - £829.20

Movie and Munch - October, December, February - £866

Year 6 cakes - £83

Amazon Smile donations - £63

Bags to School - £88

Xmas Eve Bags - £116

Xmas Trail - £90

Donations via the website - £226.50

Lollies - final total still to come ... currently £65

From September we hope to reinstate a proper committee and are grateful to the parents who came along to our recent meeting to share ideas and give their support.

SAVE THE DATE! Friday 7th October: Quiz Night



Important information for the autumn

Morning start times

Over the last year we extended the morning arrival window to 9am to allow the opportunity for greater social distancing due to the prevalence of Covid.

However, from September, we need to revert back to our **official start time of 8.45am, with the doors closing at 8.55am**. Arrivals after this time come through the main doors via the office and will be recorded as late.

When children first enter their classroom, there is learning for them to be doing straight away, so being in class for 8.45am is preferable.

Homework

This last year we know that there has been some inconsistencies in homework across the whole school. From September we will be implementing a more consistent approach so that you know what to expect and when. More details will be sent in the autumn, but this is an overview so you can see how it builds up as children get older.

All spellings and homework tasks will be set on Google Classroom on a Tuesday, with the deadline being the following Monday, allowing plenty of flexibility for completing things.

We will send reminders of log ins etc in the autumn, but this is just a 'heads up'!

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| Daily reading | Daily reading | Daily reading | Daily reading | Daily reading | Daily reading | Daily reading |
| Bug Club Phonics 10 mins twice a week | Bug Club Phonics 10 mins twice a week | Bug Club phonics and reading | Bug Club | Bug Club | Bug Club | Bug Club |
| | Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday | Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday | Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday | Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday | Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday | Spellings – out on Tuesday, tested Monday |
| | From the spring term one short task per week either English or Maths, around 10 mins | From the autumn term, one short task per week either English or Maths. 15 mins | From the autumn term, one task per week either English or Maths. 20 mins | From the autumn term, one task per week either English or Maths. 25 mins | From the autumn term, two tasks per week, one English and one Maths. 20 mins per task | From the autumn term, two tasks per week, one English and one Maths. 30 mins per task |
| | | Times Tables Rockstars | Times Tables Rockstars | Times Tables Rockstars | Times Tables Rockstars | Times Tables Rockstars |

Term Time Holidays

Please avoid taking children out of school for holidays. You might think that a week doesn't make much difference, but it absolutely does and children can miss key concepts of learning that they find it difficult to recover from, especially when trying to build new learning on shaky or missing foundations.

However tempting it may be, please do not take children out of school for the beginning of terms, especially September. This is the most critical point of the school year, for children to settle into new classes, learn new routines and expectations and start new topics and units of work. Missing this vital time really does put your child at a disadvantage from the very start of the year. Please also be reminded that holidays are not authorized and may incur a fixed penalty notice.



Term dates 2022 – 2023



| AUTUMN TERM 2022 | |
|--|--|
| 1 st September | <i>INSET Day, no school for children</i> |
| 2 nd September | <i>INSET Day, no school for children</i> |
| 5 th September | Autumn term begins for children |
| 24 th – 28 th October | Half term week |
| 20 th December | END OF TERM 2pm |
| SPRING TERM 2023 | |
| 4 th January | <i>INSET Day, no school for children</i> |
| 5 th January | Spring term begins for children |
| 13 th – 17 th February | Half term week |
| 31 st March | END OF TERM 2pm |
| SUMMER TERM 2023 | |
| 17 th April | Summer term begins for children |
| 29 th May-2 nd June | Half term week |
| 18 th July | END OF TERM 2pm |
| 19 th July | <i>INSET Day, no school for children</i> |
| 20 th July | <i>INSET Day, no school for children</i> |
| 21 st July | <i>Occasional Day. School closed to staff & children</i> |

Our end of year prayer

We always use this prayer on the last day of term in July for our leavers

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the happy times we have had at St Ippolyts School. For the fun times we have had playing games on the grass in summer, for the sports days, fairs, and school productions. We thank you for the fun school trips we have experienced and the interesting visitors we have met.

We thank you for the teachers and grown-ups who have worked with us over the years, who have prepared us to move onto secondary school with confidence.

We thank you for our friends through the years who have cared for us, helped us with our work and shared our troubles. As we venture off in different directions, help us not to feel sad, but to remember the good times we have shared together. Help us as we move to new schools and new classes, to make good friends and be happy, facing the future with courage.

As we leave school today to enjoy the summer holidays, we ask that you are with each and every one of us in all that we do in the coming weeks. Help us to rest and to enjoy spending time with our friends and families ahead of our next big adventure.

Most of all, we thank you for loving us. May we always remember to love one another, just as you have loved us.

Amen

Summer Reading Challenge 2022

GADGETEERS

Presented by The Reading Agency
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

Power up with a new talent

3D PEN WORKSHOP!
Learn how to draw in 3D
at Hitchin Library

Friday 12th August
2.00pm

Book your place:

Suitable for children **age 5 and over**



Children under 8
must be accompanied
by an adult

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

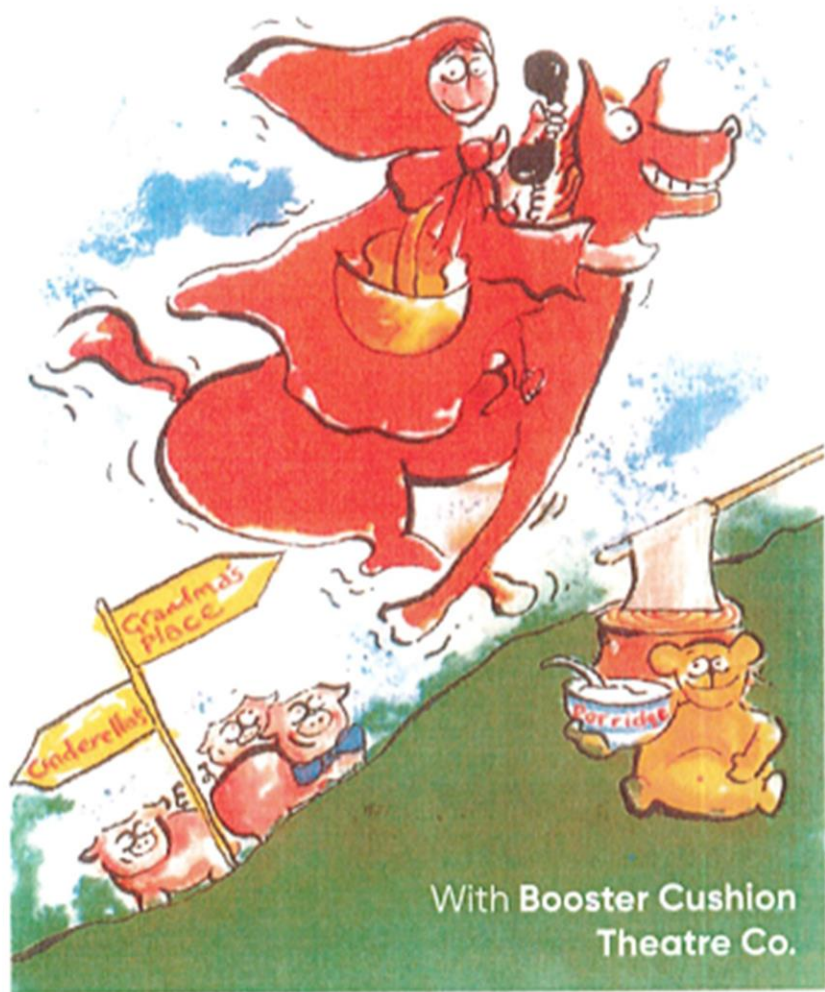


Illustration: Alan Goodall
and The Reading Agency 2022

Inspired



LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD and friends



Hitchin Library
Saturday 23 July 2.30pm

Tickets £3.00 per person
available in library and online

0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Inspired



"My story" Fest.

Hitchin Library
Sunday 17 July
12.30 – 5pm

Stay or drop in and out

An afternoon for all ages
featuring creative activities
and an exhibition of artwork

£5 per person

Children 3 years and under **free**

<https://bit.ly/MyStoryFestHitchinLibrary>

Live music

Open mic. poetry

Story sharing

Craft activities

Local artists

Hitchin Library, Hitchin, SG5 1EW



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