



St Ippolyts CE (Aided) Primary School

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# NEWSLETTER

Class Of



Issue 39:

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

# 2025



Tomorrow, we will be saying a heartfelt goodbye to our Year 6 children as they prepare to leave the nest and begin their exciting journey into secondary school. It feels like only yesterday they were walking through the doors for their very first day in Class 1, and yet here they are, ready to take the next big step. We couldn't be more proud of the determined, confident, and capable young people they have grown into over the years.

This Year 6 group has given us so many wonderful memories. From their impressive sporting achievements to their brilliant SATs results, and not to mention their incredible musical and acting talents showcased so brilliantly in *Pirates of the Curry Bean*! We have every confidence that they will continue to shine brightly as they move on to secondary school and beyond.

As our Year 6 children move on, it also marks the end of the St Ippolyts journey for 18 families, some of whom have been part of our community for many years. To these parents, we extend an enormous thank you for your continued support and involvement throughout the years.

So, Year 6, go out there and embrace this new chapter with confidence and courage. We know you are more than ready for what lies ahead. Remember to always 'Love One Another' and carry with you all the wonderful lessons and memories from your time here. We will miss you all dearly and wish you every success for the future.



Today we also say goodbye to some well-loved members of staff as they move on to pastures new and new chapters.

## Mr Smith

After many years at St Ippolyts in various guises, Mr. Smith, our Class 5 teacher, is preparing to embark on an exciting adventure travelling the world! Mr. Smith's connection with our school runs deep — he was a pupil here himself and returned as an apprentice in 2017, where he was proud to be named Hertfordshire Apprentice of the Year. Following that, he trained to become a teacher, and we have been lucky to have him with us ever since.

Although he is leaving to explore new horizons, Mr. Smith will still be around for a few weeks in the autumn term and will be returning to St Ippolyts as a supply teacher from time to time. So he won't be too far away!

We wish Mr. Smith an incredible journey filled with unforgettable experiences and look forward to hearing all about his travels. Safe travels, Mr. Smith — and thank you for all you've contributed to St Ipps!

## Mrs Gemmell

After 10 years as a teaching assistant here at St Ippolyts, Mrs. Gemmell will be leaving us to take on an exciting new role as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA). Over the years, Mrs. Gemmell has become a much-loved member of our school family. She has been a familiar face leading our Early Bird Club every morning, always welcoming the children with a smile and lots of kindness.

We will miss her hugely but are thrilled for her as she takes this next exciting step in her career. Please join us in sending Mrs. Gemmell lots of love, best wishes, and thanks for all she has done for St Ippolyts over the past decade. We know she will continue to shine in her new role!

## Mrs Bean

Mrs. Bean leaves us tomorrow to begin her maternity leave—what an exciting time for her and her husband! Everyone at St Ippolyts is sending them lots of love and best wishes as they prepare to welcome their new arrival. We can't wait to hear the wonderful news and look forward to meeting Baby Bean for a cuddle!

Enjoy every special moment, Mrs. Bean—you'll be missed but we're all so happy for you!



## Leavers V Staff rounders match

Congratulations to the Y6 leavers for their victory in our traditional end of term rounders battle against the staff on Monday. They played brilliantly of course!

Thank you so much to the staff team (who to be fair, were rather outnumbered this year!) for being such good sports, and to the rest of the school for cheering everyone on!

### A message from our Chair of Governors, Mrs Luxton

As we come to the end of another busy and successful year at St Ippolyts School, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Governing Body, to thank everyone in our school community for making this such a positive and memorable year.

As we say a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils, who are moving on to the next exciting chapter of their education at secondary school we are so proud of everything they have achieved here we can say with pride that they leave us as confident, capable young people. Today's Leavers' Service was a fitting celebration of their time at St Ippolyts — full of memories, smiles, and a few tears! We wish them every success and happiness in their new schools.

We were delighted to see the fantastic SATS results this year which reflect the children's hard work, resilience and determination. They also highlight the incredible commitment of our teaching and support staff, who continue to go above and beyond to give every child the best possible start. On behalf of the Governors, I'd like to express our sincere thanks to all the staff for everything they do for our pupils day in and day out.

This year has also been a busy one for the Governing Body. Behind the scenes we continue to work closely with Mrs Peddie and her staff to support the school's development and to ensure that all decisions keep the children's best interests at heart. It is a privilege to serve such a vibrant and caring school community, and I'd also like to thank my fellow governors for the time and expertise they contribute.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you — the parents and carers — for your continued support of the school and of your children's learning. Whether through helping with homework, supporting school events, or just cheering your children on each day, you play a vital role in our school's success.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I wish all our families a wonderful, restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at St Ippolyts School.

# An end of term 'Thank You' from Revd Tricia

It has been an absolute pleasure spending time with the students and teachers at St Ippolyts School this year. Many of you will know that I am a Curate, which is a kind of 'learner vicar', and my time spent with the children, hearing their thoughts and experiences, trying to answer their questions, has not only been a blessing, but has taught me so much.

To parents: thank you for your welcome into this community,

To teachers: thank you so much for all that you give to these young people in your care,

To the children of St Ippolyts School: thank you for sharing your thoughts and prayers with me, for making me feel so welcome. I pray that you have a fabulous break over the summer holidays (and try to remember to take some time to be still as well as having lots of fun!).

Both I and Revd Ginni look forward very much to September when we shall be joining you again.

With love in Christ,

Revd Tricia Reed.



## OUR SCHOOL IS FULL OF UNSUNG HEROES!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our **site team**, Mr Dickens and Mr Lawless who ensure our school is clean and safe every day. Mr Dickens also does lots of background jobs like putting up gazebos and transporting equipment for school events too.

Our **wonderful office team**, Mrs Joyce and Mrs Islam – thank you SO much for all your hard work and for being the first point of contact for all our families and visitors.

Our **wonderful TAs** – an enormous thank you to them all – the list of what they do is quite literally, endless!

Our **dinner ladies and kitchen staff** – thank you so much for all you do to keep our children fed!

*Not All*  
**HEROES**  
**WEAR**  
*Capes*

# Premises update and summer works

Lessons may be paused for the summer break, but the work doesn't stop!

Over the summer, site improvements will continue—this time it's Upper Key Stage Two's turn for a major refurbishment.

The whole unit is getting an upgrade: new flooring throughout, redecorated classrooms, upgraded cloakroom facilities, and a refreshed layout. When the children return in the autumn, I'm sure Classes 5 and 6 will love their new learning environment!

We clearly have a busy summer ahead. A big thank-you in advance to Mr Dickens for overseeing all the projects!

## Early Bird Club

From September, The Early Bird leader will be Mrs Holmes. Please make sure that children are booked onto Arbor in advance as we arrange staffing according to how many children are booked in. Please do not just turn up or drop your children off unattended. Many thanks.



If you are considering using the new Cookie Club after school facility in September, there is a form to register your interest on the Cookie Club website:

[www.cookie-club.com](http://www.cookie-club.com)

## Attendance all year

Thank you for supporting our efforts to improve children's attendance levels this year. With your help in ensuring children are in school unless absolutely unavoidable, our whole school attendance has risen this year and is now above the national average. We have also managed to reduce the number of children who fall into the category of 'persistent absentees' which is brilliant.

Reception	96.5%
Year 1	96.1%
Year 2	96.0%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	95.6%
Year 5	96.9%
Year 6	95.9%
Whole school	96.2%

**Congratulations to the 12 children who have achieved 100% ALL YEAR! They will be receiving a special award in Friday Fellowship tomorrow. What an achievement!**

# WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM

After the summer holidays we change to back to autumn/winter uniform:

## Uniform:

navy blue skirt/pinafore dress  
navy blue tailored trousers: **(No leggings or joggers)**  
white blouse/shirt, not polo shirts  
school tie  
navy blue cardigan/jumper – (*V necked, no sweatshirts*)  
white or navy socks  
white or navy tights  
navy or black sensible shoes (not trainers)

### OR

grey trousers (long or short)  
white shirt (long or short sleeved) not polo shirts  
school tie  
navy V-neck jumper, **no sweatshirts**  
grey socks  
black sensible 'school shoes' **NOT Trainers**

## PE kit:

navy blue shorts  
white T-shirt  
plimsolls/trainers  
Navy blue tracksuit  
or joggers / hoodie for outdoor PE



## Other:

Ties are available from the school office:  
Infants (Years R, 1 & 2) have elasticated ties  
Juniors (Years 3,4,5,6) have traditional ties

School fleeces with logos are optional for **outdoor wear** but are not an alternative to school jumpers.

## Footwear: please read

All children should have black school shoes; they can be laces, buckle or Velcro fastening.

'Barefoot shoes' are allowed provided they do not look like sports trainers.

**Designer branded or fashion trainers are not permitted as school shoes, for example Nike Air Force etc**

The final article from our Pupil Journalist Amy!

## SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!

Can you believe it's finally time to break up for the summer holidays? It feels like this school year went so fast. It doesn't seem long ago that we were coming back after Christmas, and now we've done our end-of-year assembly and all the classrooms are getting packed up. Loads of people got certificates for things like being kind, working hard, or getting better at sports. The teachers said they're really proud of us all, which is a great achievement.

The best part about breaking up is we don't have to get up early for school every day. We can sleep in and have chill mornings instead of rushing around trying to find our uniform or pack our bags. We'll definitely miss seeing everyone every day, but we'll keep in touch on messages or maybe even video calls.

Lots of people have made plans for summer. Some want to go camping, even though sometimes it rains and the tent leaks! Others can't wait to eat loads of ice cream, have barbecues, and go to the beach. We all hope the weather stays sunny because everything's better when it's warm. Even PE is more fun in the sunshine (except running laps—that's still hard!).

We hope everyone has the best summer ever. Remember to wear sun cream if it's hot, drink plenty of water, and have fun. We can't wait to hear everyone's stories when we come back to school in September. Have an awesome summer holiday, and see you soon!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!





Thank you...

...to everyone who has supported our school over the past year:

Our Governing Body, particularly Mrs Luxton, our Chair, and Mrs MacInnes, Vice Chair who provide such excellent support and leadership for the school.

Our FANTASTIC and dedicated PTA committee especially Marta, who work tirelessly to host an array of events and raise such valuable funds ~ you are more of our unsung heroes! The work of the PTA makes such a difference to what we offer in school, and we are so grateful for your involvement however big or small.

To you as parents for all the support you give to the school through working in partnership with us to achieve the best outcomes for your children, your input is vital. Thank you especially to those of you who have provided us with transport to sports fixtures, helped at special events, fundraising and on trips.

Last but by no means least, the St Ipps team. We have a fantastic group of dedicated professionals who **always** give 100%. St Ippolyts School is so lucky to have them all. So THANK YOU to all our skilled teachers and wonderful support staff; they deserve a well-earned sleep over the summer!

It has been a fantastic year in school with so many highlights: continued sports success, brilliant creative learning, class trips, PGL, church services, themed weeks, ...the list goes on!

We wish you all a wonderful summer break,  
See you in September!



# 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.

Today especially we ask that you are with the members of staff leaving for new adventures. We ask that you bless Mrs Bean, her husband and her new baby. Please bless Mrs Gemmell as she takes on a new job and please bless Mr Smith as he prepares to see more of your beautiful world. We thank you for all of them and for the love they have shown us at St Ippolyts School.

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



# DIARY DATES

## AUTUMN TERM 2025



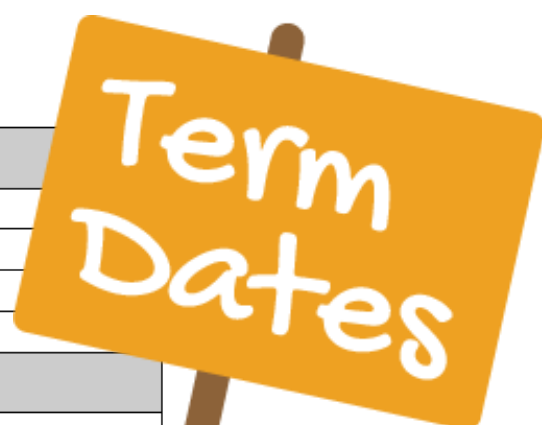
Date	Event	Information
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>INSET Day</b>	Staff training, no school for children
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Autumn term begins</b>	
12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Class 1 Coffee Morning</b>	Class 1 parents, 9.00am in the hall, younger siblings welcome
18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Class 1 Curriculum Evening</b>	Class 1 parents, 6pm in the school hall.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Little Stipps</b>	Stay and Play for parents with babies/toddlers 1.30-3.00pm
29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>OPEN SESSION 3.30-5.00pm</b>	A chance for parents & families to visit classrooms, look at books and chat informally to teachers, no appointment needed
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Harvest Festival</b>	Service in church for children and staff. Children are asked to bring a harvest gift of non-perishable food items.
w/c 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WELLBEING WEEK</b>	A week of themed activities and visitors to support children's mental health and wellbeing
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Class 6 Cake Day</b>	Class 6 are asked to provide the cakes to sell at breaktime. All children can bring money to buy a cake instead of their usual snack.
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Class 6 Assembly</b>	Assembly for C6 Parents at 9.15am
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	<b>HALF TERM</b>	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Back to school</b>	
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>School photos</b>	Individual portraits and sibling groups (of children in school)
w/c 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AUTUMN ASSESSMENTS</b>	
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Remembrance Day</b>	Service in church for children and staff
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Children in Need</b>	Charity fundraising day
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Little Stipps</b>	Stay and Play for parents with babies/toddlers 1.30-3.00pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Class 5 Assembly</b>	Assembly for C5 Parents at 9.15am
w/c 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PARENT CONSULTATIONS</b>	A blend of face to face, vide and telephone appointments will be on offer.
<b>DECEMEBER</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>PTA Movie and Munch</b>	After-school fundraiser, finishes around 5pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PTA Christmas Fair</b>	3.30-5.30pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Class 1 Nativity</b>	2pm in the hall for Class 1 parents
12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Class 5 Cake Day</b>	Class 5 are asked to provide the cakes to sell at breaktime. All children can bring money to buy a cake instead of their usual snack.
16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Carol Service</b>	In church for children and staff
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Parties</b>	Children can wear non-uniform/ Christmas outfits for the day
19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of term 2pm</b>	

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO MAKE A NOTE OF

*(please note that there is always the possibility that dates may need to change as the year goes on; make sure you keep an eye on newsletters for any changes)*

Spring term 2026		Summer term 2026	
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Little Stipps	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Little Stipps
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Open Session	8 <sup>th</sup> May	C2 Assembly
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	C4 Assembly	w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATs week
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Y6 Parent Consultations	20 <sup>th</sup> May	SPORTS DAY
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Little Stipps	w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Summer assessments for Y1-5, Inc Y4 MTC & Y1 phonics
w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Spring Assessment Week	5 <sup>th</sup> June	C1 Assembly
13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	C3 assembly	12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5/6 PGL School Journey
w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Parent Consultations	15 <sup>th</sup> June	Little Stipps
		22 <sup>nd</sup> June	PGL Assembly
		3 <sup>rd</sup> July	PTA Summer Fair
		6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Production
		9 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day
		15 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Service
		16 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term 2pm

AUTUMN TERM 2025	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>INSET Day, no school for children</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Autumn term begins for children
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half term week
19 <sup>th</sup> December	END OF TERM 2pm
SPRING TERM 2026	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET Day, no school for children</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring term begins for children
16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term week
27 <sup>th</sup> March	END OF TERM 2pm
SUMMER TERM 2026	
<b>13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>INSET Day, no school for children</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer term begins for children
25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term week
16 <sup>th</sup> July	END OF TERM 2pm
<b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET Day, no school for children</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET Day, no school for children</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Occasional Day. School closed to staff &amp; children</b>



**ALL CHILDREN ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN SCHOOL UNTIL 2pm on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026. No absence for any reason will be authorised at the end of the summer term.**