



St Ippolyts CE (Aided) Primary School

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# NEWSLETTER



Issue 19: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## OPEN SESSION



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A huge thank you to all the parents and families who joined us for our spring term Open Session on Monday. We loved welcoming you into school and hope you enjoyed looking through the children's books, chatting with staff, and exploring the fabulous 'Journey through Europe' exhibition.

It was wonderful to see so many of you sharing in your child's learning; lots of the children seemed delighted to show you round! We hope you found the session useful.

## PAPAYA

Thank you to the parents who joined us at Pirton School for a really useful session on children's use of technology. The slides from this talk are being sent out with this week's newsletter.

## Important information about food vouchers

Since December 2020, the Local Authority has been able to provide supermarket vouchers to families, supported through government funding streams. From October 2021 onwards, this was funded through the Household Support Fund, a national programme from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) designed to help households with the cost of living.

The government has now confirmed that the Household Support Fund will come to an end in 2025. Unfortunately, this means we will no longer be able to issue vouchers to children who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals for the holiday periods.

We understand that this change may be difficult for some families, and we want to reassure you that support is still available. If you feel you may need additional help, we encourage you to visit the Hertfordshire County Council 'Cost of Living Support' pages on the council website, where you can find information about a range of services and assistance options.



Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council

# staff news

Next week when we finish for half term, Miss Ingle will be leaving us to prepare for the arrival of baby number 3. We send Miss Ingle and her family lots of love at this special time. After half term, Mrs McCabe will be rejoining us to cover Class 1 while Miss Ingle is on maternity leave, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her back.

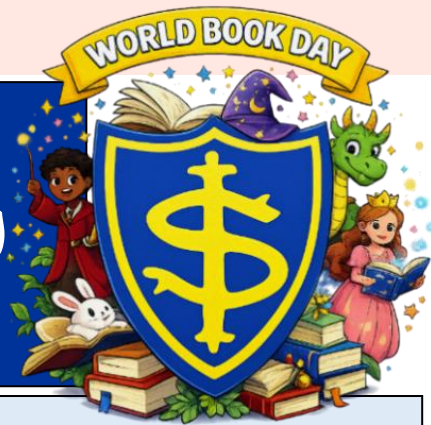
While Miss Ingle is away, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has been remodelled to cover her leadership roles.

Miss Walker will be stepping up temporarily to take on the position of Acting Assistant Headteacher alongside Mrs Stewart who will continue with her Assistant Headteacher and SENCo role.

★ ENJOY ★  
♥ YOUR ♥  
MaTeRNiTY  
♥ LEAVE ♥

## World Book Day 2026

Advance notice for costume planning purposes! Thursday, 5th March



## Winter footwear

A reminder that our school uniform consists of shoes *not boots/ankle boots or trainers* for both boys and girls. Children are most welcome to wear boots or wellies to travel to and from school and wear at playtimes, but they need to have their usual school shoes to change into in school. Please make sure footwear is named and it is also really useful to provide your child with a peg to clip their boots together in the cloakroom. If we have snow, we still have outdoor play but only if children have wellies/boots so that they don't end up with wet, cold feet all day.

## MOVIE & MUNCH

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Last day for bookings today

Charlie chicks available from the main office





## Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics

A brilliant morning for Y5/6 at the SSFT Sportshall Athletics on Tuesday! The team competed very well, setting some personal bests and even breaking some school records along the way! They won their heat and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the whole tournament. Well done team!



## Y3/4 Sportshall Athletics

Another great day at the athletics yesterday, this time with Y3/4. They did brilliantly in their individual events and won their heat AND the whole tournament of 17 schools! Congratulations!



# PUPIL JOURNALIST

*Felicity Year 6*

## ENGLISH THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL

Class 1 – Class 1 have had a very interesting topic of dinosaurs and they have a dinosaur egg in their classroom and are waiting to see what it is. Also, they have been learning about fiction and non-fiction books.

Class 2 – Class 2 have read a book and have done a big write about it, but now they are learning about conjunctions, and as a class 2 pupil told me, they make sentences longer!

Class 3 – In class 3 they have been reading a book that is called traction man. After reading the book, class 3 have made their own traction men or girls!

Class 4 – Class 4 have also been reading a book, it is called friend or foe and have written a diary entry in the role of the main character. This book is set in the world war and the main character is going to be evacuated so it explains how he is not looking forward to his day.

Class 5 – The intriguing book class 5 is reading is letters from the lighthouse. In the book, the main character sends a postcard home saying what a nice time she is having when actually it was horrible. So, class 5 have written their own postcards being truthful about how dreadful of a journey she had.

Class 6 – In english, class 6 have been looking at mystical creatures from a book. Firstly, they made a warning poster about the Cockatrice, which is very dangerous, then class 6 wrote a poem about the River troll.

### Open session

As many of you know, on Monday it was open session. This was a great way for lots of the students to show their parents all the fantastic learning that has taken place this year.

## FACT OF THE WEEK

- Earth: 1 day = 24 hours
- Venus: 1 day = 243 Earth days



So while you experience 243 sunrises on Earth, Venus hasn't even finished one full spin yet!



## Shining a Light: Our Christingle Assembly

This week, our school hall was filled with a warm, orange glow as we gathered for our special Christingle assembly. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about this beautiful tradition and the meaning behind each part of the Christingle.

### What is a Christingle?

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light.' It is a symbolic object used by many people during the winter months to celebrate the message of hope and light in the world.

To help everyone understand, we broke down the four main parts:

- \* The Orange: Represents the world.
- \* The Red Ribbon: Symbolizes the love of God wrapped around the world.
- \* The Four Sticks: Point to the four corners of the earth and the four seasons.
- \* The Sweets and Dried Fruit: Represent the fruits of the earth and the many gifts we enjoy.
- \* The Candle: Placed in the centre, it represents Jesus as the Light of the World, bringing hope to dark places.

The highlight of the assembly was when Revd Tricia invited some children to dress Revd Ginni up as a giant Christingle!! We talked about what each part represented as Revd Ginni was adorned with ribbon, sticks, sweets and a giant candle on her head!

As well as enjoying having a bit of fun together, the children were incredibly respectful, and it was the perfect way to reflect on how we can all be "lights" in our own school by showing kindness and helping others.

*Rev Ginni*

