St Ippolyts CE (Aided) Primary School
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NEWSLETTER

Love One Another AS I HAVE Loved You JOHN 13:31

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Issue 1: Thursday 10th September 2026

A very warm welcome to you all, and especially to those children and families who are new to St Ippolyts Primary School. We hope that everyone has had a lovely summer break and enjoyed some precious time together as a family.

Our new Reception children have settled in brilliantly, and it has been lovely to welcome new children in other year groups across the school too. We look forward to getting to know all of our new families and building a long, happy and positive partnership with you throughout the years ahead.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Miss Power, our new Class 3 teacher, who has joined our staff team. I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome, and we hope she will be very happy here at St Ippolyts.

We have had a lovely first week back in school. Everyone has settled beautifully into their new classes, and it has been wonderful to see the children returning with such enthusiasm and excitement. Our new Year 6 children are looking particularly grown up already, ready to embrace their final year at St Ippolyts and all the opportunities and responsibilities that come with being the oldest children in school!

I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the staff, to say a huge thank you for your incredibly kind words, cards, gifts and good wishes at the end of last term. They were very much appreciated and were such a lovely way to end the school year. As we always say, these things are absolutely not expected or necessary, but we are very grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you!

There is always a lot of important information in this first newsletter of the year, so please do find a moment to read it through carefully. There are lots of dates and reminders to take note of, particularly as we look ahead to what promises to be another busy and exciting term. And, please be assured, our newsletters aren't always this long!

Reception

Coffee morning tomorrow 9 – 10am

This is a lovely opportunity to chat informally with the Class 1 staff and get to know other parents and families. Younger siblings are very welcome to come along too and we will have some toys to keep them entertained while you chat.

Curriculum evening for Reception parents

Mrs McCabe, Mrs Hoar and Mrs Holmes will be holding our annual Reception Curriculum Information evening for parents on **Wednesday 16th September** at 6pm in the main hall. Do come along to find out more about how the children learn in Reception. You can park on the playground for this event.

Food Safety

We would like to remind families about the food safety guidance we follow in school, particularly when sending fruit and vegetables in children's packed lunches or snacks. For younger children especially, whole grapes, cherry tomatoes, chunks of apple, carrots and other firm or round foods can present a choking risk. In line with current food safety guidance, these foods should be prepared appropriately before being brought into school.

Please remember to:

- Cut grapes and cherry tomatoes lengthways into quarters
- Cut apples, carrots and other hard fruit and vegetables into thin, manageable pieces rather than large chunks.
- Remove stones, pips and other potential choking hazards where appropriate.

We appreciate that this may take an extra few minutes when preparing your child's snack, but it makes a real difference to keeping children safe. There is a useful information sheet at the end of this week's newsletter.

Celebrating our 2026 Year 6 Results

We were delighted to receive our Year 6 assessment results on the very last day of the summer term, just as the children and staff were heading off for their well-earned summer break!

It was a wonderful way to end the year and a lovely moment for us to celebrate the achievements of our Year 6 pupils. As you can see from the results below, our children have performed exceptionally well, with outcomes significantly above the national figures in every measure.

76% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined, compared with 63% nationally.

Even more impressive is the proportion achieving the higher standard: 28% achieved the higher standard across Reading, Writing and Maths, compared with just 9% nationally.

Our Writing results are especially noteworthy, with 40% of pupils achieving the higher standard, compared with 13% nationally.

These results are a testament to the hard work, determination and resilience of our children, and to the dedication and expertise of our staff. We are incredibly proud of what this group of children achieved and of the excellent foundations they have taken with them into secondary school.

2026 KEY STAGE TWO (Y6) ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Subject / Measure	St Ippolyts 2026	National 2026
Reading – EXS	**84%**	75%
Writing – EXS	**80%**	73%
Maths – EXS	**84%**	75%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling – EXS	**80%**	74%
Reading + Writing + Maths – EXS	**76%**	63%
Reading – GDS	**36%**	31%
Writing – GDS	**40%**	13%
Maths – GDS	**28%**	27%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling – GDS	**32%**	30%
Reading + Writing + Maths – GDS	**28%**	9%

EXS = % achieving the expected standard | **GDS** = % achieving a high standard

Packed lunches

We want to help all our children enjoy a healthy, balanced lunch that gives them the energy they need to get through the afternoon. Thank you for supporting us by making sure lunchboxes follow our school guidelines.

A few helpful reminders:

- Healthy and balanced: Please include a good variety of foods to give your child a nutritious and filling lunch.
- No chocolate or sweets: These aren't permitted in packed lunches.
- No hot food or flasks.
- No drinks needed: We provide unlimited drinking water throughout the day
- Nut-free school: Please do not include nuts or products containing nuts, including peanut butter, some cereal bars and Nutella. This is really important for the safety of children with allergies.
- Cutlery: If your child's lunch includes something they need a spoon or fork to eat, such as yoghurt or a salad, please remember to pop the appropriate cutlery in their lunchbox.

We know that finding lunches your child enjoys can sometimes be a challenge! If you would like any advice about healthy lunch choices or ideas for encouraging your child to eat well, please speak to Mrs Stewart, who will be very happy to help.

IMPORTANT: ALLERGIES

We would be grateful if all parents and carers could make sure they have received and read the important letter sent by email earlier this week regarding allergies in school. Keeping our children safe is a shared responsibility, and the information in the letter will help us all to support pupils with allergies and ensure they can enjoy school safely. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and support.

Watches, jewellery & hair

A polite reminder of the following:

- Children can wear a simple analogue or digital watch for school. ***Smart watches, Fitbits, Airtags etc are not permitted.***
- If your child has pierced ears they may wear simple stud earrings which need to be removed for swimming or PE. If they cannot be removed, please supply your child with a roll of micropore tape in their PE bag so that they can cover them for sports. ***Hooped earrings of any kind are not permitted.***
- To avoid the spread of head lice, please ensure that hair beyond shoulder length is tied back for school; plaits are particularly effective for this.
- Nail varnish and make up are not allowed.
- Friendship bracelets, ankle bracelets and wrist ties are not permitted.

Mobile Phones in School

As you may be aware, new Department for Education guidance on mobile phones in schools became statutory in June 2026, with schools expected to follow it from September. The guidance makes it clear that schools should be mobile-phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions being agreed by the school.

In line with this guidance, our expectations at St Ippolyts are very clear:

- Only children in Years 5 and 6 who have permission to walk home independently may bring a mobile phone into school.
- Phones may only be brought in on the days that the child is walking home.
- This arrangement must be agreed with the school office in advance.
- On arrival at school, the phone must be handed in to the school office before the start of the school day. Phones will be securely locked away and will not be accessible to children during the school day.
- Phones can be collected from the office at the end of the school day before the child goes home.
- Children in all other year groups must not bring a mobile phone into school under any circumstances

We appreciate that some children in Years 5 and 6 may need a phone for their journey home, and our arrangements allow for this while ensuring that school remains a phone-free environment during the school day. Please note that the school will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage of phones brought to school.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a calm, focused and distraction-free environment for all our children.

Year 3 and Year 4 swimming

Swimming lessons for children in Years 3 and 4 start next week, on Wednesday 16th September. Parents should have received an email earlier this week with all the information you need, including details of what children need to bring and the swimming arrangements.
Please check your emails if you haven't seen this information. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

After school clubs start next week on Monday 14th September.

If your child is in Y5 or Y6 and usually have consent to walk home at 3.15pm, please let us know your arrangements for club days.
Many thanks

Here is a reminder of which staff to contact in school when you need assistance		
Your query	**Who you need to talk to**	**How to get in touch**
Anything to do with **your individual child**...their progress, behaviour or something that has happened in school or on the playground	***Your child's Class Teacher is always the first port of call*** for any of these queries; they may then involve the Senior Leadership Team or the Headteacher if necessary.	**Make an appointment** via the office or drop them a short note; each teacher will have different times available due to after school clubs and meetings etc. **Please try not to 'catch' your child's teacher in the morning as they need to make a prompt start to the day.** **Class email accounts:** class1@stipps.herts.sch.uk class2@stipps.herts.sch.uk **etc**
Anything to do with your child's **Special Educational Needs** (SEN) provision or any concerns you may have about possible SEND	The **'Inclusion Manager'** Mrs Stewart	**Make an appointment** via the office or email **senco@stipps.herts.sch.uk**
Any queries with **administration**, for example pupil records, dinner money, school trip payments	**Office Manager:** Mrs Joyce **Office Administration:** Mrs Islam	Pop in, telephone or send an email **01462 432080** **admin@stipps.herts.sch.uk** **Office Post box** in the main entrance for reply slips, letters etc (Not cash)
Any queries about **fundraising** in school such as ideas for events and to volunteer to help	**Chair of the PTA** or any PTA Committee members	Leave a message via the office or send an email to **pta@stipps.herts.sch.uk**
Anything to do with whole school issues or ideas for the future or to give some feedback	Headteacher: Mrs Peddie Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Stewart Chair of Governors Mrs Luxton	Make an appointment via the office or write a short note Email head@stipps.herts.sch.uk OR governors@stipps.herts.sch.uk
Any concerns regarding **child welfare** or family circumstances which we need to be aware of or to discuss **serious issues or concerns.** **For Child Protection or Safeguarding matters**	**Safeguarding Team** **DSL: Mrs Peddie** **DDSLs: Mrs Stewart, Miss Walker,**	**Make an appointment** via the office, telephone, write a short note, or email **head@stipps.herts.sch.uk**
Messages about medical appointments, childcare arrangements, who is collecting your child etc	**Office Manager:** Mrs Joyce **Office Administration:** Mrs Islam	**A short note or email** is best for these matters. The office team will then ensure Class Teachers know and we have a record in case of any problems.

DIARY DATES
AUTUMN TERM 2026

Date	Event	Information
SEPTEMBER		
1st and 2nd	INSET Days	Staff training, no school for children
3rd	Autumn term begins	
11th	Class 1 Coffee Morning	Class 1 parents, 9.00am in the hall, younger siblings welcome
16th	Class 1 Curriculum Evening	Class 1 parents, 6pm in the school hall.
21st	Little Stipps	Stay and Play for parents with babies/toddlers 1.30-3.00pm
OCTOBER		
2nd	Harvest Festival	Service in church for children and staff. Children are asked to bring a harvest gift of non-perishable food items.
5th	OPEN SESSION 3.30-5.00pm	A chance for parents & families to visit classrooms, look at books and chat informally to teachers, no appointment needed
w/c 12th	WELLBEING WEEK	A week of themed activities and visitors to support children's mental health and wellbeing
16th	Class 6 Cake Day	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.
23rd	Class 6 Assembly	Assembly for C6 Parents at 9.15am
26th – 30th Oct	HALF TERM	
NOVEMBER		
2nd	Back to school	
6th	School photos	Individual portraits and sibling groups (of children in school)
w/c 9th	AUTUMN ASSESSMENTS	
11th	Remembrance Day	Service in church for children and staff
13th	Class 5 Cake Day	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.
16th	Little Stipps	Stay and Play for parents with babies/toddlers 1.30-3.00pm
20th	Class 5 Assembly	Assembly for C5 Parents at 9.15am
w/c 23rd	PARENT CONSULTATIONS	A blend of face to face and telephone appointments will be on offer.
30th	PTA Movie and Munch	After-school fundraiser, finishes around 5pm
DECEMEBER		
4th	PTA Christmas Fair	3.30-5.30pm
10th	Class 1 Nativity	2pm in the hall for Class 1 parents
15th	Carol Service	In church for children and staff
16th	Christmas Dinner	
17th	Christmas Parties	Children can wear non-uniform/ Christmas outfits for the day
18th	End of term 2pm	

AUTUMN TERM 2026	
1st & 2nd September	***INSET Day, no school for children***
3rd September	Autumn term begins for children
26th – 30th October	Half term week
18th December	END OF TERM 2pm
SPRING TERM 2027	
4th January	***INSET Day, no school for children***
5th January	Spring term begins for children
15th – 19th February	Half term week
25th March	END OF TERM 2pm
SUMMER TERM 2027	
12th April	***INSET Day, no school for children***
13th April	Summer term begins for children
31st May – 4th June	Half term week
20th July	END OF TERM 2pm
21st July	***INSET Day, no school for children***
22nd July	***Occasional Day. School closed to staff & children***

Year 6 Parents: secondary applications

Applications for secondary schools are now open. All the information you need to apply can be found online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk .

The deadline for secondary applications is Saturday 31st October 2026.

If you are attending secondary school tours with your child, please let the office and Miss Walker know in advance, many thanks.

Early years food choking hazards

Below is a table of advice on key foods for care givers who are involved with preparing and serving food for babies and young children (under 5 years old)

Vegetable and fruits	Advice
Pips or stones in fruit	Always check beforehand and remove hard pips or stones from fruit.
Small fruits	Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces: cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters).
Large fruits and firm fruits	Cut large fruits like melon and firm fruits like apple into slices instead of small chunks. For very young children, consider grating or mashing firm fruits, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Vegetables	Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. For very young children consider grating or mashing firm vegetables and legumes like butter beans, chickpeas and tofu, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Skin on fruit and vegetables	Consider removing the skin from fruit and vegetables, especially for very young children. Peeled fruit and vegetables can be swallowed more easily.
Cooking fruit and vegetables	Consider softening firm fruit and vegetables (such as carrots, broccoli, yam and apples) by steaming or simmering until soft. Serve cut into slices or narrow batons.
Meat and fish	**Advice**
Sausages and hot dogs	Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways or as thinly as possible. Peeling the skin off the sausages helps them to be swallowed more easily.
Meat or fish	Remove bones from meat or fish. Cut meat into strips as thinly as possible. Remove skin and fat from meat and fish, it will help the food pass smoothly down the throat.
Cheese	**Advice**
Grate or cut cheese	Grate or cut cheese into short strips. Cut lumps of cheese as narrow as possible.
Nuts and seeds	**Advice**
Chop or flake whole nuts	Chop or flake whole nuts, peanuts and seeds. Whole nuts should not be given to children under five years old.
Bread	**Advice**
White bread and other breads	White bread can form a ball shape with a dough-like texture at the back of a child's throat, if not chewed properly. Brown bread or toasted white bread are good alternatives. Cut bread, chapatis, naan bread and other breads into narrow strips.
Snacks and other foods	**Advice**
Popcorn	Do not give babies and young children popcorn.
Chewing gum and marshmallows	Do not give babies and young children chewing gum or marshmallows.
Peanut butter	Do not give babies and young children peanut butter on its own, only use as a spread.
Jelly cubes	Do not give babies and young children raw jelly cubes.
Boiled sweets and ice cubes	Do not give babies and young children boiled, hard, gooey, sticky or cough sweets, or ice cubes.
Raisins and other dried fruits	Do not give babies under the age of 1 whole raisins or dried fruits. Cut them into small pieces.

Make sure food is prepared appropriately for children under 5 years old, see: https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/

It is also advisable that care givers are familiar with how to respond to a choking incident, see: How to stop a child from choking: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/

and How to resuscitate a child: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/

St Ippolyts CE Primary School

Little Stipps

FREE to attend

Fun, friendly 'stay and play' sessions in the school hall for parents with babies and toddlers.

1.30pm – 3.00pm

Activities include:

- Storytime and singing
- Arts and crafts
- Toys and play
- Tea and chat for grown ups!

- 21st September 2026
- 16th November 2026
- 11th January 2027
- 1st March 2027
- 19th April 2027
- 21st June 2027

You don't have to have a child at the school, everyone is welcome!

Contact Us:
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Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts SG4 7PB
01462 432080