



CASSIOBURY JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER No 24

Friday 20th March 2026

Dear Families,

Message from Miss Sherry..

Belated St Patrick's Day Wishes

Happy St Patrick's Day wishes from my family to yours. It is a special day for my family although I just celebrate with Irish soda bread, butter and tea.

Eid Mubarak

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Eid to all the families celebrating this week.

Meningitis Guidance

Yesterday, the local authority issued guidance for the current outbreak. It is worth reading through. I do wish to point out that the rash mentioned is an indicator. I think it is important to note that NHS guidance the meningitis rash 'may be harder to see on brown or black skin'.

Tight Budgets

We sometimes discuss limited budgets in parent rep meetings and always in governors. It is true that all school budgets are tight and we work hard to submit a balanced budget each year. It might be interesting for you to know that, because we have low deprivation levels within our school community, we get a much lower premium payment known as the Pupil Premium payment. As a point of comparison, ours is about £25k a year where other schools in Watford, receive £125k. For each parent entitled to free school meals, we receive an additional £1,400 per year.

Saturday Dad's Coffee Meet

Mr Rutherford has run a few Saturday meet ups for Dads. Please note, Mr Rutherford does these in his own time and for free as he wanted to offer some support.

Events

It has been another busy week in school, Year 4 performed their Sherlock production, Year 3 had a science workshop, Year 5 have made some fantastic pizzas, some Year 6 pupils have presented to some governors and Year 6 are on trips into London next week whilst Year 3 visit the church. Huge thanks to all of the parents supporting and helping the staff run these.

Year 3 Class Mixing

Straight after Easter we will start class mixing. In the past we have worked with parent reps to make sure that you, as parents, have some input. We will ask the children about which people they might wish to be with in Year 4. We then send those notes home to you as parents so that you can review and comment before we start the class mixing.

Changing for PE

Following on from feedback from some Year 3 parents, we have spoken with Parent Reps and Governors. We will be conducting a survey on uniform and PE kit. More details will be sent when it is ready.

School Council

The School Council has chosen to run a Talent Show in the Summer Term. Mrs Harrison and I need to finalise the plans and then we will send out more information.

Room 101 Speeches Year 6

Our Chair and Vice Chair of Governors had the privilege of listening to some of Year 6's speeches for items that they would put into Room 101. Some of them were truly meaningful and others made us chuckle. We went from putting war into Room 101 to even putting embarrassing parents into Room 101! The standard was excellent.

Charging for events

In the Parent Rep meeting, we recently discussed charging. As part of the conversation, we discussed whether the school makes money out of trips and hosting events. We are not allowed to profit from anything unless we have openly said it is a fundraising event for the school. If we charge for trips, we cannot make any profit or put in a higher charge to cover costs of people who haven't paid. This means that generally we lose money on trips as we cannot over charge. The Parent Reps suggested that I share this with you.



Thank you for your donations

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Comic Relief today – if you haven't donated already, the School Gateway is still open for donations until Monday 23rd March 2026.

No access to the school site until 3.15pm

To help us keep all pupils safe, please note that we ask the following:

- **Children or adults should not enter the Junior School site/playground area before 3:15pm**, when the school gates officially open.
- **Please do not walk across from the Infant School before the gates are open. This means that there will not be people outside the classrooms whilst the children are still in their lessons.**
- **Scooters and bikes must not be ridden on the school site** at any time including after school. Please ensure children dismount before entering.
- School gates need to be locked for the security of the after school clubs so we ask that you leave the site as soon as possible avoiding the climbing equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

End of Spring Term 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026 - school finishes at 1.05pm

We have a "*Break the Rules*" Day on Friday 27th March 2026 – see flyer below. School ends at 1.05pm that day – please collect your child promptly. Thank you

Polite Request

We kindly ask all parents and carers not to drive down Capel Vere Walk for turning or drop-off purposes. This path is heavily used by children and families walking or cycling, and vehicle access creates a significant safety risk. We have tried to manage this voluntarily for many years. Thank you for your cooperation.

CSE Wraparound and Summer Term clubs

Please see the flyer below regarding the Wraparound Childcare and Summer Term clubs being run by Challenge Sport & Education

PE Kits/Water Bottles/Forgotten items

Please ensure that your child arrives at school each day with all the necessary items required for their learning. PE kits should be brought to school on Monday and taken home on Friday, ensuring they remain available throughout the week. Please note that the School Office is unable to contact home regarding forgotten water bottles and trainers. Thank you for helping with this.

Careers Fair – Tuesday 21st April 2026 – 9.30am to 11.30am

As part of the Year 6 transition to secondary school and beyond, we aim to inspire our children by introducing them to the wide variety of careers and industries they might one day pursue. **To make this happen, we need your help!**

During this event, we would like professionals from different fields to set up interactive stalls to showcase their work. This could include demonstrations, hands-on activities, equipment displays and informative conversations.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in participating and sharing your professional experience with our students, we would love to hear from you!

Please comment on the School Gateway by Friday 27th March 2026 if you would like to be involved and state your occupation.

CSA Readathon

If your child has completed the CSA Readathon challenge, please bring the Readathon Reading Record and any sponsorship money to the School Office by Wednesday 25th March 2026.

Book Fair

Thank you for supporting the book fair this year – we will let you know how much we have raised for our school....watch this space!

Watford Junior Challenge – Saturday 21st March 2026

See flyer below regarding the Fun Run Challenge.

Protective Behaviour Course for Parents and Carers

Please see flyer below from Hertfordshire County Council.

DSPL9 – Weekly Newsletter – 4th March 2026 & 18th March 2026

Please see the links for the DSPL9 Newsletters:

<https://www.dspl9.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=144&type=pdf>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t9PO3vJvAOnqvNLZ9hVvkQk8f0PP07Ca/view?usp=sharing>

DSPL 9 EBSA Support Package - 6 week parent skills group: secondary aged children

Please see flyer below.

CSE Holiday Camp – Easter holidays

Please see the flyer below from Challenge Sport & Education regarding their Easter Holiday Camp.

Cassiobury Easter Tennis Camp

Please see below the link for the Cassiobury Easter Tennis Camp from Tuesday 7th April 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/STEVENSHEACoaching2/Coaching/Camp/12fed61f-789d-4356-9b8c-570c9786a322>

If your child is interested in attending, please contact the club directly.

Comic Art Masterclass – Tuesday 7th April 2026 @ Watersmeet Theatre

See flyer below regarding this event at Watersmeet Theatre.

Samurai Kickboxing – Summer Term 2026

See flyer below to book for the Summer Term 2026.

Creative Minds Art Club – Summer Term 2026

See flyer below to book for the Summer Term 2026.

Special Mentions

3 Alder - Molly M - for using lots of expression and actions to engage her listeners when retelling a known story. Well done! **Maanvi V** - for her hard work and focus in maths this week when partitioning and multiplying numbers. Great work!

ALL of 3 Apple - for showing great perseverance, team work and engagement in our science workshop - well done!

3 Ash – Isabel M - and **Haaris A** - for improving their scores on their Year 2 common exception word tests - well done!

4 Hawthorn – Myla G-P - for always producing thoughtful writing and work across the subjects and **Adhira N** - for showing kindness and consideration around the classroom.

4 Hazel – Kayla R - for always following school rules inside and outside the classroom and for showing excellent consistency and pride in her learning. She is a true role model - well done!

4 Holly - Erol R - for working hard to improve his handwriting and **Aria P** - for applying her problem solving skills in maths.

5 Pear - Emelia L - for her thoughtful questions and observations when looking at our book for English and **Maysa M** - for her research and presentation of a lifecycle in Science.

5 Pine – Sebastian A - for producing a lovely piece of assessment writing and **Alice C** - for continued participation in class.

5 Poplar - Ravi S and **Louis L** - for working well with other children in the year group, showing kindness and respect. Well done!

6 Oak – Diya P - for excellence in arithmetic and **Shaan N** - for a striking art page on Basquiat.

6 Maple – Aryanna K - for showing creativity and care with her new art project. **Reyansh D, Katrin C and Leona V** - for writing passionate and well-researched speeches and being chosen to deliver them to all of Y6, Miss Sherry and some governors.

6 Beech - Bella S - for always being kind, thoughtful and considerate towards others, and being a helpful friend and **Shray P** - for setting a great example to others and producing some great ideas across all his learning this week.

Well done to..

Ethan T – 4 Hawthorn – took part in the **final Inter-County Chess Tournament** held on Saturday 15th March. The **Hertfordshire County Under-11 Minor team** finished in an impressive 4th place. Ethan was part of this team and contributed to this achievement – well done!



George Mc – 3 Ash – for surviving the County Cub Bushcraft Event at Tolmers Activity Centre on 14th March 2026 with the Hertfordshire Cub Scouts – well done!



Zayn A – 3 Alder - has achieved Swim England Stage 3 – well done!



Zaki A – 6 Maple - has achieved his Swim England Water Safety 1 Award – well done!

James D – 6 Beech – has passed his Grade 2 ABRSM violin exam – well done!

Ruqaiyah H – 6 Oak – has passed her Grade 2 ABRSM violin exam – well done!



Arulmozhi B – 4 Hawthorn – was awarded a Bronze medal at the Watford Festival 2026 for Carnatic Music – well done!

Thank you to..

Thea K and Nikita N – 6 Oak – for being excellent Office Monitors this week – thank you!

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Sherry and the School Office Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2026	
23 rd	Year 6 Ben Kinsella Trip – 6 Maple
24 th	Year 6 Ben Kinsella Trip – 6 Oak
24 th	SEND Support Plan Meetings
25 th	Year 3 St Luke's Church visit – AM only *note change of date
26 th	Year 6 Ben Kinsella Trip - 6 Beech
27 th	Spring Term 2026 ends @ 1.05pm – BREAK THE RULES DAY – see separate correspondence
APRIL 2026	
13 th	Back to school for the Summer Term 2026
17 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry's Office
20 th	Year 6 SATS and Residential Parent Talk – School Hall – 5pm to 5.45pm
21 st	Careers Fair – Year 6 – see separate email
22 nd	Year 3 – Roman Day – History off the Page – see separate correspondence
23 rd	Author Visit – Richard Coles – see separate correspondence

MAY 2026	
4 th	Bank Holiday
5 th	Year 5 Pear & Year 5 Poplar – River Study Trip – more details to follow
6 th	Class Photographs
8 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry’s Office
11 th to 14 th	Year 6 SATs Breakfast and SATs week
14 th	Year 5 Pine – River Study Trip – more details to follow
15 th	Year 6 Dress Up Day – see separate correspondence
18 th to 22 nd	Year 6 Bikeability – more details to follow
25 th – 29 th	Half Term
JUNE 2026	
5 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry’s Office
5 th	“Human Library” – see separate correspondence
JULY 2026	
3 rd	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry’s Office
6 th	Crucial Crew – Year 6 – see separate correspondence
6 th & 7 th	Parent/Teacher Consultations – more details to follow
21 st	Year 6 Leavers Production and Assembly – see separate correspondence
23 rd	Summer Term 2026 ends @ 1.05pm – non uniform
SEPTEMBER 2026	
1 st	Inset Day – school closed
2 nd	Inset Day – school closed
3 rd	Autumn Term starts
OCTOBER 2026	
26 th – 30 th	Half Term
NOVEMBER 2026	
27 th	Occasional Day – school closed
DECEMBER 2026	
18 th	Autumn Term 2026 ends at 1.05pm – non uniform
JANUARY 2027	
4 th	Inset Day – school closed
5 th	Spring Term 2027 starts
FEBRUARY 2027	
15 th – 19 th	Half Term
MARCH 2027	
24 th	SEND Support Plan Meetings after school
25 th	Spring Term 2027 ends at 1.05pm – non uniform
APRIL 2027	
12 th	Summer Term 2027 starts
MAY 2027	
31 st – 4 th June 2027	Half Term
JUNE 2027	
25 th	Inset Day – school closed
JULY 2027	
21 st	Summer Term 2027 ends at 1.05pm – non uniform
22 nd	Inset Day – school closed

BREAK THE RULES DAY!

MARCH 27TH

£1 PER RULE BREAK

- 1. WEAR YOUR OWN CLOTHES**
- 2. CRAZY HAIRDO**
- 3. WEAR TEMPORARY TATTOOS**
- 4. WEAR NAIL POLISH**
- 5. PUT SQUASH IN YOUR WATER BOTTLE**

**PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT VIA
THE SCHOOL GATEWAY!**



HOLIDAY CAMP AT CASSIOBURY!

NEW LOOK COURSES offering Sports, Games, Arts & Crafts, Indoor Activities, Outdoor and Nature activities, Scavenger Hunts & more!

WD17 3PD

AGES 5-11 YRS

**FLEXIBLE TIMINGS
BETWEEN 8AM - 5PM**

STARTING FROM £22

**CHOOSE FROM SPORT ALL DAY
OR A MIX OF ACTIVITIES**



**SCAN QR OR CLICK
HERE TO BOOK**

For more information, please email
info@challengesporteducation.co.uk
or text/call 07719315932



**LED BY THE
CASSIOBURY TEAM
INCLUDING**

Malachi & Ella



CHALLENGESPORT.EDUCATION



WATFORD JUNIOR CHALLENGE

Sat 21st
March 2026



The Junior Challenge is an exciting, fun run road race held annually in Cassiobury Park!

10:00 - 13:00 Cassiobury Park, Gade Ave, Watford WD18 7LG, UK

This is open to all children in Primary School and Secondary School Years 7-9, regardless of ability. It is a great opportunity for athletes to represent their schools in a competitive event. We have two races in the following age categories: **Under 8s (from age 5 upwards) & Under 10s-Under 14s.**

Races will start and finish on the path between the **Stratford Way entrance to Cassiobury Park and the bandstand.**

See Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/@51.6604607,-0.4136463,16z?entry=ttu>



DUE TO EXPECTED NUMBERS, THERE WILL BE TWO SEPARATE RACES:

The first, for **UNDER 8s** of approx. 1.2 km, will start at **11.45 am.**

The second, for **UNDER 10s, UNDER 12s and UNDER 14s** of approx. 2.5 km, will start at **12:15 pm**

Please arrive by 11.30 am for a warm up!

A runner's medal will be given to all finishers.

The first three boys and girls in each category will be presented a prize as soon as possible after the races

Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

Register at: <https://www.atwevents.co.uk/e/watford-junior-challenge-9306>

If you have any queries, please contact our Watford Harriers Club Race Organiser at whogm@watfordharriers.org.uk

For KS2 students
in
Yr 3 to Yr 6

£12 per class (Pay in
advance for the term)

All material will be
provided



CREATIVE MINDS ART CLUB

After School Art Club at
Cassiobury Junior School

Monday 3.20-4.30pm

You will:

- learn painting and drawing techniques
- use a variety of medium
- create your own fantastic artwork

To book please contact
Namita Jain via email at
njain212@gmail.com or via
phone at 07976967824

*Hurry up, spaces are
limited!*



Challenge Sports Club & Wraparound Childcare Summer Term 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The information below outlines what clubs Challenge will be running at Cassiobury after Easter and when you can book.

HOLIDAY COURSES

We will be running Holiday Courses over Easter, May ½ term and throughout Summer at Cassiobury. Join us for sports, arts & crafts, fun and games and loads of activities from 8am - 5pm each day (shorter days are available). Prices start at £22 per day and full details can be found by clicking [here](#)

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS

All clubs run from 3:20 pm to 4:20 pm and combine skill-based games with match play. The main emphasis for clubs is participation and fun. Sessions cost £6 per session. Booking is made on a termly basis. If, once booked, your child no longer wishes to attend (either before the start of the term or during the term), we will cancel your space and refund you. Unfortunately, we don't offer refunds for individual sessions missed.

All clubs run from the first day back, Monday 13th April until Tuesday 22nd July.

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Dates
Mon	Netball on the Y5/6 playground	Netball on the Y5/6 playground	Netball on the Y5/6 playground	Netball on the Y5/6 playground OR Football on the field	13th April - 20th July
Tues	Girls Football on the field	Girls Football on the field	Girls Football on the field OR Boys football on the field	Girls Football on the field	14th April - 21st July
Wed	Dodgeball in the dance studio	Dodgeball In the dance studio or football on the field	Cricket on the field	Cricket on the field	15th April - 15th July -
Thurs	Football on the field OR Athletics & Rounders on the field	Football on the field OR Athletics & Rounders on the field	Athletics & Rounders on the field	Athletics & Rounders on the field	16th April - 16th July

Booking will be open from Tuesday 24th March at 8pm [Please click here to book](#)

To book, please click [here](#) and scroll down to Cassiobury Junior School (please note, summer term courses will not show until 8 pm on Monday 24th March)

WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE (Monday - Friday)

Prices:

- Morning: £6 (7.30 am - 8.40 pm)
- Afternoon: £13 (3.20 pm - 6 pm) or £8 (if attending after a different club that finishes at 4.15 / 4.30 - 6 pm)

In the **morning**, children will be served a choice of cereal, toast or fruit. Children can either play board games, jigsaws, Lego, puzzles, or colouring in the dining hall, or participate in sports and games in the dance studio. Please drop your child off at the main office at the Junior school

In the **afternoon**, children can play sports or active games outside on the MUGA / Playground (and then field after 4.30pm) or choose to colour, play board games, card games, LEGO, magnet-tiles, chess or read a book etc in the hall. Fruit and vegetables snacks are provided and children can of course bring their own. Please collect your child from the main office at the Junior school (ring the bell on the door).

Booking Info:

You can book individual days or weekly bookings. We take bookings in advance or on the day. As always, should you wish to cancel a pre-booked date, as long as you provide notice (even if last minute), we will offer you the following:

1. A free day swap
2. A voucher for 100% value to book another day
3. A refund back to the card used to make the booking - 100% of the value, less £3 per day.

You can notify us via email or WhatsApp (preferable)

Booking will be open from Tuesday 24th March at 8pm. [Please click here to book](#)

To book, please click [here](#) and scroll down to Cassiobury Junior School (please note, summer term courses will not show until 8 pm on Tuesday 24th March).

If you have any questions, please email us at info@challengesporteducation.co.uk or message WhatsApp 07719 315 932



Wake Up, Get Energised & Learn Kickboxing Before School - Boost Focus!

Start the day strong with Samurai Kickboxing! Our before-school classes are a fantastic way for children to wake up their bodies and minds - setting them up for a focused, positive day of learning ahead.

With over 12 years of experience and a growing network of 1500+ students across Jersey and the UK, Samurai Kickboxing is proud to offer high-quality, engaging sessions that help children thrive.

Samurai Kickboxing continues next term (April-July) at:

Cassiobury Junior School | Thursdays 7.40 - 8.40am | Years 3-6

£135

NEW STUDENTS: TRY US FOR FREE!

[Book your free trial](#)

RETURNING STUDENTS: REBOOK NOW!

Rebook your child's place for next term now via [Class Manager](#)

For ease, log in or download the **Class Manager - Customer Portal** app

- Go to **Classes > Enrol**, find your class, then **Add to Enrolment List > Confirm**

Spaces are limited so don't delay!

SPLIT PAYMENTS

If you'd like to set up or continue with split payments, drop us an email: info@samuraikickboxing.com

DISCOUNTS

- 15% sibling discount for 3 or more children
- 25% off your second class - *if attending more than once a week & not including Elite classes*

TERM DATES

Please make a note of the class term dates (including dates when the class isn't on): [Class Manager](#) > **Classes** > **Upcoming**

STAY UP TO DATE!

Visit www.SamuraiKickboxing.com for more info about our Classes, Gradings, Holiday Camps & Birthday Parties!

FOLLOW US

Facebook: [SamuraiKickboxingUK](#)

Instagram: [@SamuraiKickboxing](#)

If you have any questions or are experiencing financial hardship, please reach out - we'll always do our best to help.

e: info@SamuraiKickboxing.com
t: 07828 534817
www.SamuraiKickboxing.com



Dear colleagues

We are pleased to provide details of our Protective Behaviours courses for parents and carers funded by Hertfordshire County Council starting after Easter. Places are fully funded (free) for parents who may need some additional support. Courses are running term-time online and in-person. We would really appreciate it if you could pass on the details to your colleagues, networks, parents and carers:

In person:

For parents & carers of children 5-19yrs

Hertford - Thursdays 16 April – 11 June 9.30am – 11.30am
[Please click here for the poster](#)

Broxbourne - Fridays 24 April – 26 June 9.30am – 11.30am
[Please click here for the poster](#)

Online:

For parents and carers of children 0-19yrs

Mornings - Wednesdays 6 May – 1 July 9.30am – 11.30am
[Please click here for the poster](#)

Evenings - Wednesdays 6 May – 1 July 7.00pm – 9.00pm
[Please click here for the poster](#)

For Dads and male carers of children 0-19yrs

Evenings – Thursdays 7 May – 2 July – 7.00pm – 9.00pm
[Please click here for the poster](#)

This is an evidence-based course to help build skills to create a calmer, safer family life and:

- Understand how Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour link together
- Understand what may be influencing their child's behaviour
- Respond to a range of feelings e.g. stress, anger, anxiety and worries
- Improve communication to build better relationships
- Build on their own and their child's strengths
- Learn strategies to help them and their child/ren feel safe

Places can be booked by professionals referring and by parents and carers using this link

<https://forms.office.com/e/iz949mReq8>

or QR code



*To be eligible for a place, either parent, child/ren or both need to live in Hertfordshire and will need to provide some information about their needs however, no other services need to be involved to be eligible.

Any questions or for more information, please email enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk or call 07850 518216

With thanks and kind regards

Fiona

Fiona Benjamin

Director and Protective Behaviours
Trainer

Mobile: 07850 518216
Landline: 01462 700021

www.familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk

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DSPL 9 EBSA Support Package 6 week parent skills group: secondary aged children

DSPL 9 are pleased to provide secondary school parents with an opportunity to access a 6 week parent skills group in the summer term. To ensure the content of the group meets local needs please can we ask that you complete the short google form. Following this further details including booking instructions will be sent out:

The 6-week parent skills group focused on supporting children's emotional wellbeing at home. The sessions will be practical, supportive and grounded in psychological approaches, with a strong emphasis on skills they can use straight away in everyday family life.

Parent/Guardian ideas matter most.

Please complete the short questionnaire by Tuesday 10th March:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfW9aFbF2PLo85RjxyY3ZmAavc6rmgo3ECVFgCal0WACoXuhg/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Examples of what the group might cover :

- Co-regulation and calming strategies (what to do in the moment when emotions run high)
- Helping children manage worry and anxiety, especially around tasks and upcoming events
- Confidence-building and motivation (supporting independence without battles)
- Boundaries, routines and transitions (reducing conflict and improving predictability)
- Communication skills (supportive language, reducing escalation, problem-solving together)
- Managing parental stress and maintaining consistency when you're tired or under pressure

We look forward to receiving your feedback and developing a parent skills group based upon your ideas.



Kev F Sutherland

COMIC ART MASTERCLASS

Tuesday 7 April 2026 10am, 2pm & 7.30pm



Join legendary comic artist Kev F Sutherland for a one-of-a-kind Comic Art Masterclass at Watersmeet this Easter! After sold-out workshops last year, Kev returns to inspire budding artists of all ages.

With credits including The Beano, Doctor Who and Marvel Comics, Kev brings expert skills and infectious humour to a fun, fast-paced session. Create your own comic strip from scratch, take home a printed class comic, and receive a unique caricature drawn by Kev himself.

Perfect for ages 7-107, this workshop blends creativity, laughter, and learning.

Tickets: **£20**