



CASSIOBURY JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER No 21

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Families,

Message from Miss Sherry..

Lunar New Year

Amongst the important celebrations or significant religious events occurring this February, I am correctly informed that Lunar New Year is a better name for last week's festival than Chinese New Year. I am very happy to learn new things.

Secondary School Allocation Day

Next Monday, is allocation day for Secondary places. Please remember my advice. Never reject any schools, accept a school and stay on the continuing interest list. Never leave yourself without a place, as you will go to the bottom of the list. On Tuesday morning, between 9am and 10.00am, I will be available for a drop in chat should you want to discuss your child's secondary place offer.

Secondary Allocation Day Conversations

Each year we deal with incidents where children chat online via Whatsapp, Snapchat, game platforms and other methods when they find out which school they have been allocated. These conversations can become upsetting for some. I would advise/ask that you keep the children off messaging for a couple of days or check the chat. Please remind your child to be kind and positive about ALL of the schools. Thank you.



Thank you for your donations! We did it!

Thank you so much for your donations for non-uniform day! We are delighted that we have raised **£375.36** towards Electric Umbrella's visit NEXT Thursday 5th March 2026. If you were unable to donate this week, the School Gateway payment request is still available for you. Thank you again for the donations and we will pass on all of this money to Electric Umbrella.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026

Your child has been issued a £1 book token for World Book Day. These can be redeemed from 12th February 2026 until 15th March 2026. In addition, they can also be redeemed at our Book Fair from Thursday 12th March 2026 to Tuesday 17th March 2026 (more details to follow).

Thinking Day/Founders Day ~ Tuesday 24 February 2026

We had a lovely array of colour in our school hall on Tuesday as our Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts and Guides wore their uniform for Thinking Day/Founders Day. We hope you enjoyed telling your friends all about the Guiding and Scouting movements. A selection of photos will be added to our Gallery on the school's website.

Reminder regarding Safeguarding

Please **DO NOT** drive down or park on Capelvere Walk due to concerns regarding pupil safety at the end of the day. Thank you.

Readathon

Please see separate email regarding the Readathon starting from 5th March 2026 to 15th March 2026.

Watford Junior Challenge – Saturday 21st March 2026

See flyer below regarding the Fun Run Challenge.

Spring Term Concert – Wednesday 11th March 2026 – Audience Tickets

If your child is in the *School Band*, *School Orchestra*, *Recorder Club* or *Year 5 & 6 Choir*, please book your audience tickets ASAP! Once everyone has booked their tickets we will hopefully be able to offer you some more tickets, if required.

Year 4 Production – Monday 16th March 2026 (PM) and Tuesday 17th March 2026 (AM)

Don't forget to order your tickets on the School Gateway ASAP! The Year 4 children have been working extremely hard to learn their lines and the songs

Thank you – Year 5 Parents and Carers

Thank you to the Year 5 Parents and Carers who came and helped at the "Life in Ancient Greece Day" on Wednesday – we couldn't have done it without your support!

Message from Mrs Newman re Family Support Worker

South West Herts Partnership Family Support Worker Weekly Drop in for parents and carers.

As of Tuesday 3rd March, Sam Ward, our Family Support Worker is available every Tuesday from 14:30 to 15:30 to meet with parents for a chat or signposting to relevant services. Please phone the office to book in a 15 minute slot.

Online Safety Newsletter – March 2026

Please see below the Online Safety Newsletter for March 2026.

CSE Holiday Camp – Easter holidays

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

Special Mentions

3 Alder - Wiam B - for having a positive attitude towards her learning and engaging and focussing well in all lessons this week. Well done! **Darcie F** - for challenging herself as a learner by taking on additional tasks and always striving to achieve her best.

3 Apple - Clara P - for writing a lovely diary entry about the Great Fire of London. - Well done! **Sophia R** - for sharing her ideas with the class, always being ready to learn and for showing a good understanding of adding and subtracting fractions - keep it up!

3 Ash – Ayd M-C - for his creative, descriptive sentences in English this week and **Cleo B** - for her detailed diary written at the time of the Great Fire of London - well done both!

4 Hawthorn – Sienna P - for displaying clear thinking in decimal work this week and **Olha P** - for working extremely hard in geography when comparing Campania with Greater London.

4 Hazel – Haaris U - for putting in fantastic effort in our maths lessons this week and for showing kindness to staff and other children.

4 Holly - Aleeza A - for contributing lots to class discussions and **Kira C** - for making wonderful improvements with her handwriting.

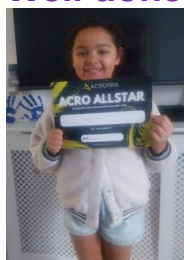
ALL of Year 5 – for showing great behaviour and participation at their Ancient Greek day. From your creative costumes and powerful role-play to your thoughtful questions and enthusiasm for learning, you showed incredible effort and teamwork throughout the day, well done!

6 Oak – **Araiz R** and **Nikita L** - excellent formal, persuasive writing.

6 Maple – **Cooper H** - for showing consistent focus and effort in Maths lessons and **Abbas-Ali H** - for taking the initiative in Reading lessons by taking notes during the teaching to support him in his written answers

6 Beech - **Ali A** - for his effort in writing, and being proactive in looking for ways to improve his work and **Hannah H** - for always being a great role model, and helping to support others.

Well done to..



Sophia R - **3 Apple** - for her outstanding performance for her Ariel on 7/2/2026 at Acrotrix – well done!

Saffron C - **5 Pine** – for passing her Grade 1 piano exam – well done!

Charlotte J – **5 Poplar** – for playing the piano to the whole school in Singing Assembly this week – well done!

Thank you to..

Shaan N and **Juliette L** – **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	
5 th	 Electric Umbrella visiting our school!
6 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry's Office
6 th	CSA Quiz Night – more details to follow
11 th	Spring Term Concert – see separate correspondence
12 th to 17 th	Book Fair – open to parents and children
13 th	Year 4 Dress Rehearsal to whole school
16 th	Year 4 Production – AM – more details to follow
17 th	Year 4 Production – PM – more details to follow
19 th	Year 3 Science Workshop – see separate correspondence
20 th	EHCP Support Plan Meetings – see separate correspondence
23 rd	Year 6 Ben Kinsella Trip – 6 Maple
24 th	Year 6 Ben Kinsella Trip – 6 Oak
24 th	Year 3 St Luke's Church visit
24 th	SEND Support Plan Meetings after school * CHANGE OF DATE
26 th	Year 6 Ben Kinsella Trip - 6 Beech
27 th	Spring Term 2026 ends @ 1.05pm – non uniform
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
MAY 2026	
4 th	Bank Holiday
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
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
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



Watford Harriers Athletics Club
watfordharriers.org.uk

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



Online Safety Newsletter

March 2026

YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and 'take a break' reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/march-2026/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then 'Which?' provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Virtual Private Networks

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps make your connection between a device and the internet more secure and can help protect personal information and add privacy. However, whilst a VPN has benefits, it is important that you are aware that if your child is using a VPN, they may be able to get round Wi-Fi restrictions, access blocked or restricted websites and bypass parental controls. It may also mean that their browsing history is hidden.

The NSPCC provides a helpful overview of VPNs, plus top tips and conversation starters here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/vpns-and-online-safety/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

Further information

- <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwkn3qt>

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Five Nights at Freddy's

Five Nights at Freddy's is a horror game designed to frighten players with jump scares or creepy characters. It can be accessed from several places, for example on an Xbox (PEGI rating of 12) and on the App store (age rating of 13+). There is merchandise available, which may suggest that it is child friendly. We would recommend that you preview the game first to ascertain its suitability for your child. You can view Bark's review here:

<https://www.bark.us/content-review/five-nights-at-freddys-review/>

Screen time and online harms

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have created a page that brings together key resources on screen time. Find out more here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

New government campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?

The Government have launched a new campaign providing guidance to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts and advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. It also includes a quiz to help you and your child spot misleading or unreliable information online. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/is-your-child-influenced-by-toxic-content-new-government-campaign-supports-parents-to-talk-about-harmful-online-content>

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