



CASSIOBURY JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER No 6

Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Families,

Messages from Miss Sherry..

Happy Diwali

Happy Diwali to our Cassiobury families for Monday – please remember to request absence if you are celebrating.

Harvest

Whilst we will have a Harvest assembly this term, we have made the decision to do a food collection at a time of the year when the Foodbank need our help. January and February are times when the Foodbank struggles for donations so we will do a food collection then. I also feel that it is one less thing for you at the moment.

Non - Uniform Day – Friday 7th November 2025

That said, we do still have our annual non-uniform day for collecting soap or tissues. This year we are adding a link to an Amazon wishlist if you would like to purchase an item for the school. There is no obligation to do the Amazon wishlist - it is just there as an option.

Lunchtime Activities

We are adding more and more activities for children to do on the 3-4 playground. I have raided my loft for toy cars but wondered if anyone else has any toy cars or other play equipment for lunchtimes? Trainsets, jigsaw puzzles, toy cars or small play figures are all great. We have boxes to store and lock away equipment to keep it safe. Thank you.

Inset Day – NEXT Friday 24th October 2025

Just a reminder that next Friday 24th October 2025 the school will be closed for Inset Day.

Ice Packs

Do you have any of the school ice packs in your freezer or cupboards? Over the last 6 months we have had 200 ice packs that have gone missing from school. Unfortunately, the ice packs are very expensive and we cannot afford to keep replenishing the stock. If you do have an ice pack, please return to the School Office ASAP – thank you for your continued support.

Music Making Day – NEXT Fri 24th October 2025 @ Watford School of Music

Please see the [flyer below](#) regarding the Music Making Day at Watford School of Music. If your child is currently learning an instrument and they would like to attend, please book directly.

Halloween Drawing Competition

Drop your best A4 size drawing off to DKH in Cassiobury parade for a spooky goodie bag and a chance to win a spook-tacular prize! Drop off between 24 - 31 Oct 2025.



Autumn Term Concert – Thursday 6th November 2025 @ 6pm

Our School Band, School Orchestra, Recorder Club and School Choir are busy rehearsing for their Autumn Term Concert. Please see separate correspondence regarding purchasing your audience tickets if your child is participating.

Challenge Sport & Education – October Half Term Holiday Camp

Please see the below flyer regarding the October Half Term Holiday Camp.

Online Safety Newsletter – October 2025

Please see below October's online safety newsletter.

Fun Run 2025 – total received

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Fun Run in July and for all of the sponsorship you received! We raised a total of £2,720 for our school funds!!! Well done!

Invitation for parents to attend the SEN & EHCPs Information Session with Gemma Hall (DSPL9) and Mandy Brandon, SEND Implementation and Support Officers (SISOs) – Weds 3rd December 2025 at 9.30am – School Hall

We invite you to an information session focused on provisions for children with **Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND)** and those requiring **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)**. This session is designed to provide guidance, answer questions, and support you in navigating the process of securing the right provisions for your child.

Date: Wednesday 3rd December 2025 Time: 9:30 -11am

Location: Cassiobury Junior School.

During the session, we will cover:

- Ordinarily Available provision
- The EHCP process: eligibility, application, and reviews
- The ways in which DSPL9 and Ask Sali support schools in meeting individual needs

We hope you can join us for this important discussion..

If you would like to attend, please consent on the School Gateway so we have an indication of numbers attending.

Special Mentions

3 Alder - **Seb K** - for writing a fantastic piece of work which looked at different settlement types in Prehistoric Britain and **Emilia M** - for working really hard in maths this week when regrouping numbers.

3 Apple - **Sophia R** - for being resilient with her maths learning this week on subtraction and for always demonstrating excellent behaviour for learning - keep it up! **Miles P** - for showing excellent care and attention to his work by always using his best handwriting - well done!

3 Ash – **Finlay K** - for making some fantastic contributions in lessons and sharing his knowledge with the class and **George M** - for showing progress and determination to make sure he is following behaviour expectations throughout the day - keep it up!

4 Hawthorn – **Imogen C** - for a great use of fronted adverbials in her English paragraph about a magical world and **Aayan P** - for putting in hard and focused work on column addition in maths.

4 Hazel – **Parshva K** - for showing excellent effort in his writing and skilfully using fronted adverbials and **Alayna K** – for becoming more independent and for taking on new challenges.

4 Holly - **Sienna P** - for applying her skills learnt in maths and **Kira C** -for working hard to improve her handwriting.

5 Pear – **Aadev B** - for his excellent effort in maths when multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000 and **Emelia L** - for helping me, and the other children in our class, with the new library system.

5 Pine – **Saffron C** - for her commitment shown to her writing this week and **Kyle P** - for showing excellent manners.

5 Poplar – **Louis L** - for great work in guided reading this week when retrieving information from the text and **Chloe G** - for brilliant participation in class, well done

6 Beech – **Zahra M** - for showing great enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards singing and young voices and **Bhargav P** - for some great work in writing and creating some descriptive sentences.

6 Maple - **Leona V** and **Aryan B** - for consistently showing excellent behaviour for learning.

6 Oak – **Bob H** - for contributing and participating enthusiastically in maths this week and **Hiyasvi P** - for an enthusiastic attitude to singing and leaning young voices songs.

Thank you to..

Freya T and **Haytham K** – **6 Oak** – for being excellent Office Monitors this week – thank you!

Well done to..

Serene C – **3 Alder** - for playing the piano to the whole school in Singing Assembly this week – well done!

Miles P – **3 Apple** – for playing the piano to the whole school in Singing Assembly this week – well done!

Saanvi R – **3 Ash** – for singing a solo to the whole school in Singing Assembly this week – well done!

Jessie K – **5 Pear** – achieved her Stage 7 swimming this week – well done!

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Sherry and the School Office Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 2025	
20 th	F2F - Parent/Teacher Consultations – see separate correspondence
23 rd	Paterson Joseph – Author Visit – see separate correspondence
24 th	Inset Day – school closed
27 th – 31 st	Half Term
NOVEMBER 2025	
6 th	Autumn Term Concert @ 6pm – see separate correspondence
7 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry's office
7 th	Non-uniform day in exchange for tissues and anti-bac soap
25 th	Year 6 First Aid training – see separate correspondence
25 th	Flu immunisation catch up day
26 th	Year 4 Advent visit to St Luke's Church – more details to follow
28 th	Occasional Day
DECEMBER 2025	
2 nd	* NB – date changed from 7 th Nov 2025 - Year 4 Anglo Saxon Day – more details to follow
8 th	Year 3 & 4 Pantomime – more information to follow
9 th	Year 5 & 6 Pantomime – more information to follow
12 th	Christmas Jumper / Festive Outfit Day / Christmas Dinner Day
15 th	Year 3 Nativity Dress Rehearsal to whole school and Year 2
15 th	Year 3 Nativity PM performance – doors open 1.45pm and prompt start at 2pm
16 th	Year 3 Nativity AM performance – doors open at 9.30am and prompt start at 9.45am
19 th	Autumn Term 2025 ends at 1.05pm
JANUARY 2026	
5 th	Inset Day – school closed
6 th	Back to School for the Spring Term 2026
16 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry's Office
19 th	Watford Foodbank collection week for Harvest
FEBRUARY 2026	
4 th	Young Voices 2026 – Year 6
6 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry's Office
16 th – 20 th	Half Term
MARCH 2026	
6 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry's Office
27 th	Spring Term 2026 ends @ 1.05pm
APRIL 2026	
13 th	Back to school for the Summer Term 2026
17 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry's Office
MAY 2026	
4 th	Bank Holiday
8 th	Parent Rep Meeting @ 9am – Miss Sherry's Office
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
23 rd	Summer Term 2026 ends @ 1.05pm
SEPTEMBER 2026	
1 st	Inset Day – school closed
2 nd	Inset Day – school closed
3 rd	Autumn Term starts
OCTOBER 2026	
23 rd	Author Visit – Paterson Joseph visiting – see School Gateway
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

JANUARY 2027	
4 th	Inset Day – school closed
5 th	Spring Term 2027 starts
FEBRUARY 2027	
15 th – 19 th	Half Term
MARCH 2027	
25 th	Spring Term 2027 ends at 1.05pm
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
22 nd	Inset Day – school closed

Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2025

Risks of using AI for mental health

AI chatbots and wellness apps are becoming increasingly popular, which may lead to your child accessing them to support their mental health.

What should I be concerned about?

- The information/advice given may not always be accurate.
- Privacy concerns of how data is collected and used.
- Children may use these apps rather than seeking help from an adult.

What can I do?

- Chat to your child regularly about what apps and websites they are using and why.
- Remind them AI is a tool and not a substitute for qualified professionals who provide tailored advice/support.
- Talk to them about how they should fact check information.
- Check age ratings.

Further information

<https://stigmafreementalhealth.com/blog/supporting-youth-mental-health-with-ai-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

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/october-2025/>

YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc. **YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13**, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



1. YouTube Kids – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

2. Supervised accounts – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screentime** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. **Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.**

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

- **Group chats:** Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.
- **Inappropriate content:** users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.
- **Location sharing:** talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.
- **Chat lock/secret code:** users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting so a chat does not appear in the main chat.
- **Screentime due to addictive nature**
- **AI:** WhatsApp includes Meta AI.

What can I do?

- Check privacy settings, for example check who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time. Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

Further information

Find out more here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vvg8>
- https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq_content

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Italian Brainrot

Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate/offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

iOS 26

Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari. Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

Managing Digital Spending

Parent Zone have created a guide to help teach your child how to manage their online spending. You can read it here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/managing-digital-spending-guide-parents>

ADHD, Screen Time, and Healthy Boundaries

Bark have created this guide for parents of children with ADHD to support you in helping your child create a healthy relationship with technology. You can access it here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/adhd-kid-and-tech/>



Competition Details:

Poster size: A4, portrait

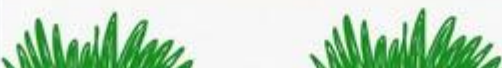
Eligibility: Artists must be under 18 and attend a school in the borough of Watford

To enter, snap a clear photo or scan the art and send it to

enquiries.watford.vesuk@veolia.com

with the artist's full name and age, and the parent/guardian's name and contact details

Deadline: 5pm Monday 20 October 2025



Poster Competition

Calling all young artists in Watford!

This Recycle Week, we're asking you to design a poster to help encourage our town to recycle.



West Herts - KS2 Music Making Day

Join us for a fun filled day of music making. Open to all Key Stage 2 instrumentalists of all abilities. Make friends, make music and perform.

Must be having instrumental lessons in school or centre and must have permission from head teacher to attend. Please bring a packed lunch (no nut products allowed).



Friday 24th October



9.30am - 3.00pm (Concert at 2.45pm for parents/carers)



Watford School of Music



£30 per student



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www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/HMS-Watford



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Challenge Sport Education

HOLIDAY CAMP AT CASSIOBURY!

Offering Sports and Arts & Crafts!

WD17 3PD

AGES 5-11YRS

8AM-4:30PM



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