



# Headteacher's Newsletter

September 2025



## **THIS NEWSLETTER INCLUDES:**

Parent Workshops and Socials

Parents evening reminder

School voluntary Fund update

Major Works

Behaviour @ St Ursula's

Wellbeing

NSPCC Pants Week

Harvest Festival Celebrations

## MAJOR WORKS COMPLETION

Over the summer we had works completed to create an outdoor learning area for our St Joseph's pupils. The cost for this project was fully funded by the local authority, having been 1 of 27 who created a bid. Our bid being one of the higher scoring in the borough.

This funding has enhanced our SEND provision by providing dedicated outdoor learning space adjacent to St. Joseph's, our specialist SEND provision. This new environment will eventually incorporate a mud kitchen, water play area, sensory activities, and a vegetable patch, all sheltered by a canopy to allow year-round access.

The creation of this multi-sensory outdoor learning area aligns with our vision of providing stimulating, inclusive, and innovative learning experiences for all pupils. It will primarily benefit the 25-30 pupils accessing St. Joseph's daily by supporting their communication, social interaction, and self-regulation skills through hands-on, nature-based activities tailored to their unique learning styles. This outdoor provision complements the calm and focused indoor environment by offering sensory-rich experiences that cater to pupils with ASD and sensory processing needs.

The new playground also provides physical activity and movement opportunities, which are vital for managing emotions and energy levels and thereby sustaining engagement in classroom learning. This outdoor space fosters enhanced social and communication development through collaborative and exploratory play, while encouraging a connection with the natural environment that promotes wellbeing and holistic development.

**"With God at the heart of our St Ursula's family, we welcome all as we learn and grow together."**

# PARENT WORKSHOPS

As we continue our commitment to supporting you and your child's learning journey, we are excited to extend our offer of parent workshops and coffee mornings this year. These sessions are designed to provide practical advice, share useful strategies, and build a strong partnership between home and school.

To ensure these workshops are accessible and meet your needs, we would be grateful if you could take a moment to complete the short survey: <https://forms.gle/MB76W8M42EtcYNR1A>

This Survey was shared originally at the start of this academic year, unfortunately only 6 responses were received. For us to provide a tailored programme of support more responses are needed to ensure a greater uptake for parents. This survey will remain live until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October and timetable of workshops will be shared after the half term break.



# ST URSULA'S SCHOOL VISION



We are excited to share with you our brand new school vision. This vision has been thoughtfully developed with valuable input from our parents, pupils, staff, and governors. Your contributions have been instrumental in shaping a vision that will guide St Ursula's Catholic Primary School over the coming years. We believe this vision truly reflects who we are as a school and the aspirations we hold for every child in our community.

**“Rooted in our Catholic identity with Christ at the centre of all we do, we are a nurturing and inclusive family where every child feels safe, confident, and valued. We are committed to academic excellence, high expectations, and continuous growth, with a strong emphasis on the well-being of every member of our community. Supported by well-resourced environments and dedicated staff development, we work in close partnership with parents to evolve and improve, while remaining true to our core values, ensuring the highest quality education for every pupil.”**

# SCHOOL VOLUNTARY FUND

As we have already shared with you, in just three weeks, nearly 25% of families have made a contribution. The money raised will help us improve the school for your children. Some of the things we plan to spend the money on are:

- Better IT equipment to help pupils learn using technology in all subjects.
- New playground equipment to make outdoor play more fun and active.
- Repairs and replacement of the school roof.
- New toilets for pupils.
- Improving and updating school security systems.

With the money already raised we can share with you that classroom interactive whiteboards across the school are now being updated and new pupil iPads are being purchased. This means we have already met one of our purchase targets as stated above.



REMINDER

# PARENTS EVENING

Parents evenings will be taking place on the following dates:

**20th October**

**21st October**

**23rd October**

We would like to remind those that haven't booked a meeting that the booking system will close on Friday at 12:00pm. So far, 84% of our parents have booked their slots. If you are having trouble with making an appointment, please call the School Office before Friday and we will be able to assist you. Booking requests will not be taken after Friday and a reminder that teachers will not be arranging extra appointments outside of the allocated times next week. Of course, if there are any urgent concerns the teacher will make contact, as is the case throughout the year.

Information regarding 'Focus Child Meetings' for Nursery and Reception pupils has been shared separately.

Children will be dismissed at 3:00 pm instead of 3:15 pm to accommodate the 3:30 pm start. Please note this change is for **all** year groups on the 20th, 21st, and 23rd of October, even if your Child's class does not have a Parents' Evening scheduled. This is to support families who have siblings in different year groups attending Parents' Evenings on these dates.

# BEHAVIOUR AT ST URSULA'S

Even though Ofsted found that St Ursula's has exemplary pupil behaviour and a strong culture of respect and kindness, we feel there is room to evolve our approach to behaviour management. The school is moving away from our old model towards a trauma-informed, relational approach that better addresses the diverse emotional and social needs of our pupils. This aligns with our school's values of Faith, Respect, Kindness, Honesty, and Resilience, and supports our commitment to nurture all pupils, including those with SEND and disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring every child feels safe, valued, and able to thrive.

The school has reviewed and is adapting its behaviour policy to embed relational and trauma-informed principles, effective from September 2025. This new policy prioritises relationships as the foundation for wellbeing and learning, recognising each pupil's right to belong and contribute meaningfully. Staff training will focus on building trust, supporting emotional regulation, fostering empathy, and repairing relationships through restorative practises rather than relying heavily on rewards and sanctions.



If you would like to hear more about this development, Mrs Clark and Senior Leadership will be talking about this at the next Parent Coffee Morning on **November 7 at 8:45**.

# SUCCESS AT HOME



A huge congratulations to Ethan who won a Bronze medal at Pipers Vale recently. Ethan competed against 57 other experienced gymnasts - 3<sup>rd</sup> place is a fantastic achievement!

Next stop for Ethan is The National Finals at Telford. He has been selected to represent East region.

The whole of the St Ursula's community are behind you!

## THE WELLBEING AWARD FOR SCHOOLS



A few years ago, our school achieved the Wellbeing Award for Schools. This is a prestigious achievement that is only awarded to schools who have demonstrated their dedication to improving mental health and wellbeing provision for its pupils, staff and parents. At the time, we were one of the first schools in Havering to achieve it!

It has been five years since our last assessment and we are now undergoing the reverification process.

**Parent Survey:** Your feedback is always incredibly valuable to us. We would like to invite you to complete a parent survey that focussed on our Mental Health and Wellbeing Provision. Thank you for your continued support.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/zEzzzciJ5S>

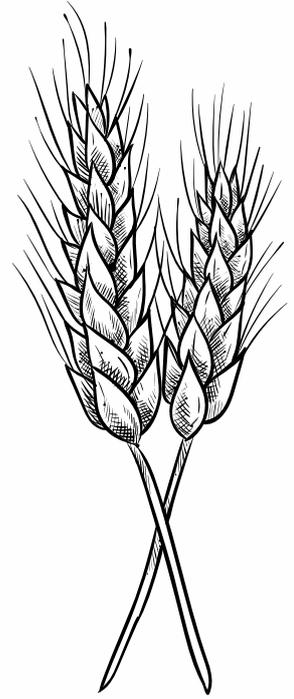


# HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

In a display of empathy and social responsibility, our Year 2 shared a heart-warming Harvest Festival Assembly. This event not only showcased their burgeoning talents but also instilled in them the importance of gratitude and sharing.

The generosity of our school community was evident in the bountiful donations of food for the Harold Hill Foodbank. Through these acts of kindness, we reinforce our commitment to fostering compassionate, socially aware individuals who understand the value of contributing to their wider community. Thank you for your support with this collection!

Continuing with the theme of harvest, our Year 3 and Year 5 pupils attended a special Harvest Mass at St Dominic's. These occasions provide valuable opportunities for our pupils to deepen their understanding of the liturgical calendar and to participate actively in our faith community



## NSPCC PANTS WEEK

During the Week beginning 13th October, your children will be talking about the NSPCC's Talk PANTS rules in our wellbeing lessons.

Through play, stories and activities in we will be sharing important safety skills without giving explicit information or telling scary stories. We will be teaching children the NSPCC's, Talk PANTS rules using the 'PANTS' acrostic, which is like a green cross code for helping children to keep safe. PANTS stands for:

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help

The lessons will introduce a range of ideas, all delivered in a way that's fully age-appropriate. These include:

- "Appropriate" and "inappropriate" touch
- Your child's right to say no to things that make them feel upset or uncomfortable
- Naming parts of the body
- Who your child can turn to if they ever feel upset or worried

If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's campaign and see how you can help keep your children safe, more information can be found at [nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule](https://nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule)



# THE PAST MONTH IN PHOTOS





# Important Dates and Events

## Autumn Term 2025

*As we look ahead to the Autumn Term, I would like to draw your attention to several important dates and events:*

### *October*

- 20th-21st & 23rd: Year 1-6 Parents Evenings, 3:30-5:30pm*
- 21st: Year 2-6 St Ursula's Feast Day Mass, 9:30am*
- 24th: INSET Day – School Closed*

### *November*

- 5th: Year 5 Remembrance Assembly, 9:00am*
- 6th: Year 4 Remembrance Mass, 9:30am*
- 7th: Parent Coffee Morning, 8:45am*
- 10th: Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day*
- 25th: Year 3 Advent Assembly, 9:00am*
- 27th: Year 2 & 6 Advent Penitential Mass, 9:30am*
- 28th: Rock Steady Concert*

### *December*

- 4th: Parent Coffee Morning (Christmas Crafting), 8:45am*
- 5th: Pantomime in School*
- 11th: Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day; Nursery EYFS Christmas Concert, 9:30am*
- 12th: Reception EYFS Christmas Concert, 9:30am; KS1 Christmas Concert (Y1 & Y2), 10:30am; KS2 Christmas Concert (Y3-Y6), 1:45pm*
- 18th: Christmas Disco*
- 19th: End of Term Reports sent; Early closure at 1:00pm*

*Please refer to the school website calendar for times. Further information on events will be shared in our weekly bulletin.*

# WELLBEING



**shout** 85258  
here for you 24/7

## PARENT COFFEE MORNING Friday 7th November at 8:45

The school will be hosting another Parent Coffee morning. Mrs Walsh will be attending and will be able to sign post you to support and resources in our local community. It is also a great opportunity to form friendships with other parents.



## PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Havering Mind offer a six-week programme for parents/carers of young people (11-25) struggling with their mental health. Like-minded parents/carers are listened to and reassured whilst received tips and techniques for support their children.

It is interactive online group that lasts for two hour-long sessions on mental health, signposting, effective two-way communication, dealing with anxiety, increasing resilience, parenting styles and self-care. They aim to create a safe and non-judgmental space for parents to offload and gain support through information and empowerment.

Contact: **01708 457040**

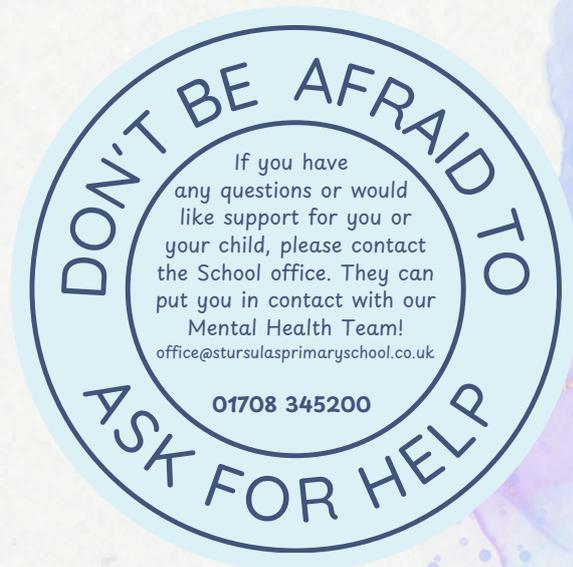
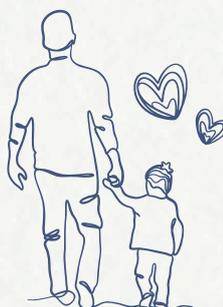
**Parents@haveringmind.org.uk**

## CAMHS DEDICATED DADS

Monthly meet ups at  
Hornchurch Fire Station

Local dads can join the monthly sessions held by NELFT at Havering Fire Station to gain a better understanding of their children's emotional wellbeing and connect with other parents.

The 'Dedicated Dads' meet-ups are facilitated by the Havering Emotional Support Team (HEST) and cover a range of topics - from practical tips to navigate the festive season to managing stress.



## BLUE MENTAL HEALTH PARENT COURSES

Blue Mental Health Support offers training courses to give adults the skills to spot and prevent mental health issues in children as well as give them Cognitive Based Therapy credentials that can be used in their personal lives as well.

They have a new family version of the course which makes the course accessible at home. You can register online:

<https://bluementalhealthsupport.co.uk/webinar-registration/>

They also have a website which contain more information.

<https://bluementalhealthsupport.co.uk/>

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

**MRS CLARK**  
Mental Health &  
Wellbeing Lead



**MRS WALSH**  
Home/School Support  
Worker



**MRS KENT**  
Deputy  
SENCO



ST. URSULA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY

# PARENT COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AT 8:45AM



## Focus: Behaviour Support

Our Wellbeing Team and Mr Ashburn will be joining parents to share the big changes that have taken place at St Ursula's recently, specifically the approach to behaviour. This is an opportunity for parents to ask questions and also seek support.