



Headteacher: Mrs Katrina Straker, BA English (Hons.) PGCE. NPQH.



St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School

'Children in our heart, Christ at the centre'
'We love, we learn and we live'

Creating kind leaders of the future

Newsletter Issue 11 - 21 November 2025

Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

We are journeying rapidly towards the busy weeks of the nativity period at school. Our stage is up in the hall and the rehearsals are coming along well. Parents from Preschool to Year 4 should have received emails about reserving tickets for the nativity performances. Instead of a nativity, Years 5 and 6, lead our Carol Service at the St Margaret Mary Church and there's no need to reserve tickets for that. All families are welcome to attend our Carol Service (see the dates opposite). I can't wait to watch all of the performances - this week's cold and frosty weather has certainly put me in the mood for the Christmas preparations.

Winter virus: I am pleased to confirm that as the week has gone on, we have seen a significant reduction in the number of children who have been absent due to a winter virus. Our teachers will work hard to catch up the lost learning for those who have been unwell.

London trip: I write this newsletter just before leaving for London with our Year 5 children. We visit our capital city annually with Year 5 as part of their Best of British theme. Our morning will be spent learning about London's famous landmarks with a River Thames cruise tour, followed by the London Eye. This year, we are delighted to have secured tickets to visit The Houses of Parliament to cement the children's learning about democracy. It is a highly oversubscribed school visit option with many schools competing for the spaces so I am very grateful that Mrs Marshman spent a long morning constantly refreshing her screen about 6 months ago to secure our spot. I'm sure today's visit will live long in the memories of the children.

Bird flu: If you have noticed that we have stopped selling our eggs in the office foyer, it is because of new stipulations about bird flu. We are in the process of building a new netted area to keep our chickens and ducks safe from the risk of contamination with wild birds. This is being deliberately sited near the fence of farm school so that families can still enjoy visiting the birds. We can continue to visit farm school with the children because we have put in place some additional biosecurity measures to keep everyone (and our animals) safe. I can reassure you that we ensure all children wash their hands thoroughly after a visit to farm school.

Travelling crib: You may have seen an email advertising the opportunity to borrow our school's travelling crib set for a night in Advent this year. The crib set comes with suggestions for how to lead a short reflection/prayers with your family that can be tailored to the ages of your children. Thank you to the families that have requested to borrow the crib - we hope you enjoy this very special time together.

Our colder temperatures are being replaced with some wet weather this weekend so I'm thinking about turning off the screens for an afternoon and pulling out some family board games. My children (teenagers now) always protest at first but once we get going, it's lots of fun. I hope you enjoy your time with your children too.

With best wishes for the weekend, Mrs Straker

Working together to improve attendance:

Attendance figures for the week commencing 10th November:

Whole School 92.3%

Year R 99.0% **Year 1** 83.7% **Year 2** 91.0%

Year 3 95.5% **Year 4** 95.8% **Year 5** 86.0% **Year 6** 94.5%

An attendance rate of 95% or above is considered good by the DfE.

An attendance rate of 90% or below is categorised as 'persistent absence' by the DfE.

Important Dates:

Wednesday 26th November
ELSA drop-in for parents

Friday 28th November
Preschool Jolly Christmas Postman Trail

Weds 3rd & Thurs 4th December
Preschool & YR Nativity, 10.00am

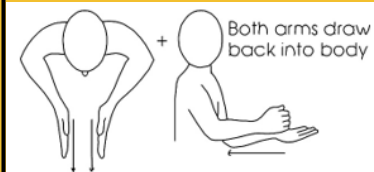
Mon 8th December, 8.45am drop-off
Y5&Y6 Mass at St MM followed by carol service rehearsal

Tues 9th December
Y1 & Y2 Nativity, 9.30am
Y5 & Y6 Carol Service, 6.00pm
(All welcome to the carol service)

Weds 10th December
Y1 & Y2 Nativity, 9.30am

Thurs 11th December, 9.30am
Advent Reconciliation Service, followed by reconciliation for Years 5 & 6

Our Sign of the Week:



Road safety

Useful emails:

PSA email address:

stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com

Guinea Pig waiting list email:

guinea.pigs@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk



CLUBS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 24/11/2025

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	COMMENTS
Monday	French Club	12.30pm - 1.00pm	Yr1 and Yr2	<i>helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</i>
Monday	Art and Craft Club	3.00pm - 4.00pm	YrR - Yr6	<i>sarah_silvestri@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Monday	Football with CM Sports	3.00pm - 4.15pm	Yr1 - Yr6	<i>info@cmsports.co.uk</i>
Tuesday	Drama	3.00pm - 5.00pm	YrR - Yr6	<i>superstarsportsuk@gmail.com</i>
Tuesday	Drawing club	3.00pm - 4.15pm	Yr 5 and Yr6 ONLY	<i>FoxArtTeaching@outlook.com</i>
Wednesday	French Club	12.30pm - 1.00 pm	Yr2 - Yr4	<i>helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</i>
Wednesday	Gymnastics	3.00pm - 4.00pm	YrR - Yr6	<i>superstarsportsuk@gmail.com</i>
Wednesday	School Football Team	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Yr4 - Yr6	Mrs Marshman via the school office
Wednesday	School Netball Team	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Yr4 - Yr6	Mrs Marshman via the school office
Thursday	French Club	12.30pm - 1.00 pm	Yr5 and Yr6	<i>helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</i>
Thursday	ComputerXplorers	3.00pm - 4.15pm	Yr1 - Yr6	<i>computerexplorers.co.uk/portsmouth/book/</i>
Thursday	Jamz Street Dance	3.00pm - 4.00pm	YrR - Yr6	<i>jamzdance@live.co.uk</i>
Thursday	Singing Stars	3.00pm - 4.15pm	Yr3 - Yr6	Ms Reid via school office
Friday	Dodgeball Club	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Yr2 - Yr6	<i>Dodgeball_club@outlook.com</i>

Catholic Life - our Parish and our Diocese

News from St Margaret Mary Parish:

Fr Ansel's is currently away until the 29th November. For any urgent matters please call Fr John Cooke at Fareham on 01329 318869. The Church will open for anyone to come for private prayer from 9am-1.30pm during Fr Ansel's absence every day except Thursday 27th.

Repository - Please call in and see the range of Christian gifts and cards available. We now have a selection of boxed Christmas cards and individual cards as well as nativity sets, snow globes, advent calendars and candles. Please come and have a look

Parish Christmas Party - Everyone welcome December 14 from midday Bring & Share finger buffet (no nuts) with mulled wine and soft drinks provided. Raffle prizes greatly appreciated, please leave these with office or contact maggie.raymont@gmail.com

Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 511](#)



Starting School in September 2026

If you have a child who will be 4 years old between 1st Sept 2025 and 31st Aug 2026 the application for schools will open on Saturday 1st November 2025: www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

If you are applying to St Anthony's, you will also need to fill in a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) as well as the online form.

The closing date for school applications and SIF submissions (including relevant evidence) is Thursday 15th January 2026.

For more details or to arrange a school tour, please call 01489 579100.



Weekly Certificates

Headteacher's Awards:

Year 1	Ridhi	Esme	Carter	Oliver	Amelia
Year 4	Amaris				
Year 6	Isla	Bella	Thomas	Joshua R	Colette

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Jessica Celebrated for using her God-given gift of joy to bring positivity and kindness to the classroom, making her a delight to teach and a role model to others

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Berrie	For showing love and kindness to all of her friends
Year R	Daisy	For being a shining light through her kindness
Year 1	Rosie	Sharing the joy of friendship and kindness with everyone in Year 1
Year 2	Reema	For sharing her kindness and friendship with everyone in Key Stage One
Year 3	Isabelle	For showing true solidarity by supporting others in the group on our trip to the Historic Dockyards
Year 4	Charlie	For his constant enthusiasm and the joy he brings to our classroom
Year 5		Are away in London
Year 6	Agnese	For using her God-given gift of kindness to listen carefully, act responsibly and treat others with care and consideration

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Freddie	Year 3	Liana
Year R	Charlotte K	Year 4	Rebecca
Year 1	Chimnora	Year 5	Are away in London
Year 2	Edward	Year 6	Reuben

Reminders:

Recycled Christmas Tree Decoration Competition:

All entries are to be returned to Mrs Adams by no later than Monday 1st December 2025

Christmas Jumper Day / 2nd hand Christmas Jumpers - can you help?

As Christmas jumpers are yet another financial outgoing and a single-use item we would like to invite you to participate in a secondhand Christmas Jumper Sale.

If you have any old children's Christmas jumpers at home that you are happy to donate, please can you wash them, label them clearly with the age/size and leave them in the box just outside the school office.

Need 2nd hand uniform?

Please contact the PSA 2nd hand uniform store via their email on: uniform@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support

Supporting our school library

If you would like to commemorate your child's birthday by contributing to the reading culture within the school, please consider our Amazon [wishlist](#) of titles that we currently don't have in our library but would love to provide the children with. Any books bought from our [wishlist](#) will have an insert added to the front cover, recognising the family and/or child who has purchased it for our school.

Thank you for your continued support!

Supporting our local food bank

If you are able to help, the following items have been particularly requested:

Cereals, biscuits, jams, tea, coffee, pasta sauces, tinned vegetables (especially tomatoes and sweetcorn), tinned fruit/puddings, rice, sugar, tinned soup, tinned tuna.

Please place any donations during the autumn term in the boxes in our entrance foyer.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

