



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 12 - 28 November 2025



Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

I am pleased to confirm that the winter virus that has affected our school in the last two weeks has reduced significantly. You will see from our attendance figures below that it had a significant impact last week with many of our families being affected. We will maintain the high standards of regular hand and surface sanitisation and continue to ventilate classrooms with open windows. I hope anyone who is still suffering makes a quick recovery over the weekend. Hopefully, all our children will be fit and well for the nativity performances.

Post-box for Christmas Cards: From next week, our school Christmas post-box will be in the library for any children who would like to post a Christmas card to their friends. Please support children with ensuring cards are addressed to their friends and specifying the year group as we have some children with the same first name. Christmas cards are a lovely way to encourage children to write as well as spreading some Christmas cheer. Our Year 6 prefects will empty the post-box each day and deliver cards to classrooms at lunchtimes.

School nurse drop-ins: As a school, we are aware of an increasing number of requests for advice from our local school nursing team so I am delighted to confirm we have arranged a drop-in morning on Thursday 22nd January. We have requested support from two nurses: one who can help with behaviour related issues and the other who can help with medical needs. Behaviour related issues might include sleep routines, potty training/bed-wetting or anxiety. Medical needs might include allergies, nutrition or health issues. To make an appointment, please contact the school office. If appointments become over-subscribed, we will ask the school nurses to run another clinic in the summer term.

Second-hand uniform: I'd like to offer my thanks to Sarah (a YR & Y1 parent) for stepping forward to take over our second-hand uniform sales. Please see the update on page 3 of this newsletter.

Y6 cake sale, Friday 5th December: I was approached by some Year 6 pupils a few weeks ago, who were keen to raise money for a charity close to their hearts, the Alzheimer's Society. Although we encourage our children to go out of their way for charities and those in need, I'm conscious of the pressures that repeated cake sales can put on parents so we are trying to stick to one cake sale per half term. If you can support the children with baking some sweet treats for Friday, it will be hugely appreciated.

This weekend is the first Sunday of Advent and a great opportunity to make an Advent wreath and light the first candle with your family. Attached with today's newsletter is our RE Advent newsletter summarising the learning for the next few weeks. On Monday in assembly, the children will be bringing their Advent promises written on a paper chain. When displayed, it will remind us of how we are preparing during this season.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

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
Y3 & Y4 Nativities, 2.00pm & 6.00pm
Y1 Teddy Bear PJ Party, 4.00pm

Mon 15th December
Whole school Christmas Dinner
Preschool Christmas Woodland Trail

Tues 16th December
Preschool & YR Silly Scott Party
Y1-Y6 School Panto Trip - 'Aladdin'

Our Sign of the Week:



Flat hands move down and away at slight angle. Add sign for 'Music', 'Drama' or 'Dance as appropriate

Production

Useful emails:

PSA email address:

stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com

Guinea Pig waiting list email:

guinea.pigs@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk

Working together to improve attendance:

Attendance figures for the week commencing 17th November:

Whole School 86.2%

Year R 89.7% **Year 1** 91.3% **Year 2** 98.0%

Year 3 92.3% **Year 4** 76.4% **Year 5** 75.3% **Year 6** 81.8%

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.



CLUBS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 01/12/2025

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:

Christmas Collection for Fr Ansel

The Christmas and Easter collections are a good way for parishioners to thank Fr Ansel for his ministry at St. Margaret Mary.

There are three easy ways you can make your Christmas offering:

1. A dedicated page on "Give as you Live" which enable online donations
2. Between now and the Feast of Epiphany, you can donate using the Dona machine at the entrance to Church

3. The collection at Mass on Christmas Day
- If you use option one or two, you can gift aid your offering and this will also go to Fr Ansel

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 512](#)



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	Alfie			
Year 2	Bastien	Zara	Marcelina	Hannah
Year 5	Poppy			

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Aoife For taking her prefect duties seriously and always acting as a role model. Her helpfulness and respectful manner embody our mission to love, learn and live as Jesus teaches us

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Patrick	For being an excellent role model to others
Year R	Rania	For being a shining example of kindness and thoughtfulness
Year 1	Eric F	For always being the first to help a friend in need
Year 2	Aidan	For always seeing God's light in others and finding the blessings in each day
Year 3	Bonnie	For her constant enthusiasm and willingness to help in Year 3
Year 4	Tomás	For the love and care he shares with all his classmates
Year 5	Penny	For always showing love, kindness and compassion to those around her
Year 6	Matilda	For showing resilience and commitment by editing her work thoughtfully and striving for excellence

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Bowie	Year 3	Bonnie
Year R	Pippa	Year 4	Grace
Year 1	Eric F	Year 5	Charlie H
Year 2	Aidan	Year 6	Corey

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 sale

Thursday 4th December after school on the KS2 playground or Y6 classroom if wet

Y6 Cale sale

Friday 5th December 2025 after school on the KS2 playground or Y6 classroom if wet

2nd hand uniform

Please consider purchasing from the 2nd Hand Uniform Shop to support a circular economy, reduce waste, save money, and help raise funds for the PSA - We currently have lots of lovely items in stock, including Preschool.

Good quality uniform donations are always welcome.

Please contact the PSA 2nd hand uniform store via 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!

