



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 13 - 05 December 2025

Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

Our Early Years children have kicked off our nativity season with two magical performances of *Wriggly Nativity* this week. I hope families enjoyed their production as much as I did.

Non-smartphones: With Christmas approaching, there may be some families who may thinking about whether to buy their child a phone. Many of you are aware of the significant issues that smartphones present to children so I encourage you to consider the non-smartphone alternatives. For those of you with younger children it is also useful to be aware of the other options so please find attached with this newsletter a summary of non-smart 'first phones'. Alternatively, you may prefer to browse the following sites which provide more detail and answer some of the FAQs that parents often have:

[Smartphone Alternatives for Kids](#)

[Buying a child-safe phone FAQs](#)

[Video reviews of 8 phones for kids](#)

Thank you to the St Anthony's Ark parents for sharing these details. As mentioned in a previous email, we will be organising a workshop in the Spring Term to enable parents to see some of these alternatives in person and have them demonstrated.

Dodgeball County Champions: I am immensely proud of our Dodgeball teams, who not only represented St Anthony's with brilliant sportsmanship at a county competition this week, but the team went on to win! Amazing for a single-form entry school! Regional finals await them so I'm sure Coach Scott has a training plan ready to go - please see Mrs Marshman's report on p3.

Carol service: On Tuesday evening at 6pm, Y5 and Y6 will be leading our annual carol service at the St Margaret Mary Church. All families are welcome to join us.

Advent Reconciliation Service: It is traditional for Catholics to attend reconciliation during Advent as we prepare for Christmas. Fr Ansel will be leading this on Thursday at 9.30am and again, all are welcome. After the service, our Y5 and Y6 children will be invited to reconciliation. Although we extended this to parents last year, unfortunately, we don't have as many clergy who are available this year so I must advise that adults will need to make their reconciliation through the parish.

Candy cane reindeer: From Mrs Greenacre, a big thank you to all who have donated to support her trip for the HCPT charity. She is over half-way towards her target! If you have not had the chance to donate, please click on this [link](#) to do so.

The last two weeks of term are jam-packed with festive activities that often take us 'off timetable'. Staff are very aware that this can be unsettling, particularly for some of our neurodiverse children who thrive on regular routines. Please know that we work hard to stick to as many of our usual routines as possible. It is also a tiring time of year so be extra patient with children who might seem grouchier than normal.

With best wishes for the weekend, Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

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'

Weds 17th December
Whole School PSA 'Elfridges'
Christmas Sale
Year R Hanukkah Day

Our Sign of the Week:



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 24th November:

Whole School 96.8%

Year R 91.3% **Year 1** 100% **Year 2** 97.7%

Year 3 95.8% **Year 4** 95.7% **Year 5** 98.0% **Year 6** 98.8%

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 08/12/2025

| 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 513](#)



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:

Seba Year R
Fynley Year 1

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Sebby For being an outstanding role model who lives out Mrs Straker's weekly challenges in all he does, showing our mission to love, learn and live with Christ at the centre

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

| | | |
|-----------|-------|--|
| Preschool | Theo | For kindly helping a friend in need |
| Year R | Aoibh | For fulfilling her Advent promise by being a cheerful helper to others |
| Year 1 | Zach | For the thoughtful and caring way he treats his classmates |
| Year 2 | Peter | For being a kind and considerate friend to everyone |
| Year 3 | Eva | For always showing love and kindness to both old and new classmates |
| Year 4 | Rita | For always displaying her kind and considerate nature |
| Year 5 | Ella | For always letting her faith guide her in making kind and thoughtful choices |
| Year 6 | Betty | For using her gifts of kindness and modesty to put others first, living out Catholic Social Teaching through service |

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------|--------|
| Preschool | Arthur B | Year 3 | Logan |
| Year R | Antoni | Year 4 | Ellis |
| Year 1 | George | Year 5 | Finn |
| Year 2 | David | Year 6 | Jeremy |

Reminders:

Laughalots

Please remember to return all completed forms to the school office by Friday 12/12/2025 @ 9am

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

Dodgeball Congratulations

A huge congratulations to our two dodgeball teams who represented St Anthony's brilliantly in this week's competition!

Our B Team showed incredible determination, battling against opponents up to two years older and securing a couple of fantastic wins.

Our A Team excelled in every match, going undefeated and winning the tournament! They now advance to compete for the regional title next year.

As always, we are immensely proud of our children - not only for their effort and skill but also for their outstanding sportsmanship and impeccable manners.

Well done, teams!

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!

Amazon wishlist school library donation thanks

Thank you to the following family that have kindly donated books to our library:

Miell family

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

