



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 14 - 12 December 2025

### Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

This week has been filled with the joy that nativities bring - one of my favourite weeks of the year. I thoroughly adored the singing, acting, dancing and heart-melting solos from both Y1 & Y2's production of *Lights, Camel, Action!* and Y3 & Y4's production of *Straw & Order*. I hope you enjoyed the children's performances as much as I have. I would like to thank all the staff who have put in so many hours behind the scenes to put the shows together.

**Carol Service:** Tuesday's carol service in St Margaret Mary Church was also a beautiful performance from Years 5 and 6 and I'd like to thank all the parents who joined us at the church. It wouldn't have the same atmosphere if we held it at our school and again, I'm indebted to the staff who worked so hard to pull it together. Thank you also to Fr Ansel for making us welcome. The collection for SVP at the end of the service raised £169.89; thank you for giving generously.

**Reconciliation Service:** On Thursday morning we celebrated our Advent penitential service with the whole school. This was followed by reconciliations for Years 5 and 6 with Fr Ansel, Canon John Cooke and Deacon Larry Murawski. The majority of each class chose to come forward for confession, which was an amazing response and the children were fantastic.

**Christmas Jumpers:** For clarity, children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper with their uniform on Monday for our whole-school Christmas Dinner. They are also invited to wear their Christmas jumper on Friday, which is when we'll be collecting any donations for the NSPCC (we suggest £1 if you can). We recognise that Christmas is an expensive time of year so there is no obligation to support this charitable collection. If your child doesn't have a Christmas jumper, they are welcome to decorate their school jumper with tinsel or to wear a Christmas accessory to brighten their uniform on either of these days.

**Parent Survey:** I hope you received an email today, inviting you to share your views in our 'parent voice' survey. The survey will close on Thursday 18th December so if you would like to share your thoughts, please follow this [link](#).

**Alzheimer's Society Cake Sale:** The Y6 cake sale raised £132.20 last Friday, thank you to everyone that generously donated and purchased sweet treats.

I have had many reasons to feel proud of our children and the staff of St Anthony's this week. These magical moments are why some of us come to the teaching profession but I have been particularly aware of how special our school community is. There have been several visits from governors, who are having monitoring meetings with staff and members of the PSA have been busy organising next week's Elfridges sale. Our school would not be the place it is without these volunteers giving up so much of their time.

Your children may be tired this weekend after the busy nativity schedule but we hope they have enough energy to enjoy all the festivities that are planned for our last week of term.

With best wishes for the weekend, Mrs Straker

### Important Dates:

#### **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

#### **Thurs 18th December, 9.00am**

Advent Mass led by Y5  
All welcome

#### **Fri 19th December**

Whole School Christmas Jumper Day  
Term ends at 1.30pm

#### **Mon 22nd Dec - Fri 2nd Jan**

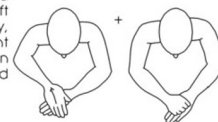
Christmas Holidays - school closed

#### **Mon 5th January, 8.30am**

Back to school for the Spring Term

### Our Sign of the Week:

Slide right hand  
over back of left  
hand towards body,  
then close right  
hand and place on  
back of left hand



Christmas

### Useful emails:

#### **PSA email address:**

[stanthonypspa2025@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonypspa2025@gmail.com)

#### **Guinea Pig waiting list email:**

[guinea.pigs@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk](mailto:guinea.pigs@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk)

### Working together to improve attendance:

#### **Attendance figures for the week commencing 1st December:**

**Whole School** 96.8%

**Year R** 98.0%      **Year 1** 94.0%      **Year 2** 99.7%

**Year 3** 93.6%      **Year 4** 97.8%      **Year 5** 96.4%      **Year 6** 98.2%

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 15/12/2025

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	COMMENTS
Monday	French Club	<b>RETURNS 05/01/2026</b>	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	<b>RETURNS 07/01/2026</b>	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	<b>RETURNS 21/01/2026</b>	Yr4 - Yr6	Mrs Marshman via the school office
Wednesday	School Netball Team	<b>RETURNS 14/01/2026</b>	Yr4 - Yr6	Mrs Marshman via the school office
Thursday	French Club	<b>RETURNS 08/01/2026</b>	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 MASS TIMES

#### Weds 24th The Nativity of the Lord

5.30pm Vigil Mass

8.30pm Midnight Mass - Mass and Carols

#### Thurs 25th The Nativity of the Lord

9.30am Mass

#### Fri 26th St Stephen's Day

9.30am Morning Mass



#### 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 enables 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

**Diocesan e-news** [Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 514](#)

### 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](http://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:

YR	Leo	Evie		
Y1	Everly	Eddie	George	
Y3	Ewan	Sasha	Kaira	Reeva

### Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Clarice Celebrated for embracing every aspect of our school motto. Her excellent attitude shines through in all she does, making her a wonderful role model for our community

### St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Preschool	For such confident sing and a show stopping performance in their nativity!
Year R	Grayson	For fulfilling his Advent promise by being kind and helpful
Year 1	Bella	For keeping her Advent promise by being kind
Year 2	Year 2	For their 🌟 AMAZING 🌟 Nativity!
Year 3	Annabelle	For demonstrating kindness and thoughtfulness in all her actions
Year 4	Eliza	For always treating others with kindness and respect
Year 5	Jackson	For always spreading joy and happiness in our classroom
Year 6	Katie	For using her God-given gift of kindness and empathy to support those on her table who may find learning challenging

### St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Tomek	Year 3	Anna
Year R	Reggie	Year 4	Oli
Year 1	Lana	Year 5	Teigan
Year 2	Isaac	Year 6	Max

### Reminders:

#### Elfridges!

The St Anthony's Elves have been working hard to get ready for the Elfridge's sale on Wednesday 17 December. The gifts this year range from 50p to £5. The children may purchase 2 large gifts up to £5 each and should they wish to add a small additional gift from the lower priced gifts they are welcome to.

#### 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](mailto:uniform@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk)

#### Friday 19th December

School collection is at 1.30pm on Friday 19/12/2025

### 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!

