



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 15 - 19 December 2025

Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

What a jam-packed week we have had and I hope your children have made some happy festive memories at school. In our Christmas assembly this morning, we looked back at photos of our busy Autumn Term and I was reflecting on how amazing the team at St Anthony's are.

There are several important attachments with this week's newsletter so please find the time to digest them.

Pantomime and Silly Scott: Thank you to the PSA and parents for paying for the children to enjoy a whole school trip to see *Aladdin!* on Tuesday. Year R and Preschool also celebrated with games and magic at their Christmas party with Silly Scott. Tuesday was an exciting day for everyone!

Advent Mass: Thank you to Fr Ansel and Year 5 for leading such a beautiful Mass yesterday to celebrate Advent and prepare us for Christmas. Thank you also to the parents and parishioners who joined us at a busy time of the year.

A heartfelt thank you to our PSA: For their dedication, creativity and tireless efforts in organising fundraising activities that make such a positive difference to our school community. This week's Elfridges was much loved and has given our children the chance to experience the pleasure of gift-giving. A letter from the PSA is attached today.

Thank you to our Governors: My warmest thanks to our governing body for their continued commitment and support this term. Their strategic guidance, thoughtful challenge and generous volunteering has been so valuable to helping our school live out our vision. The Governors' Newsletter is also attached today.

New School Dinner Menu: As previously communicated, we are transitioning to a new school dinner provider from January, Chartwells. The new school dinner menu is attached so please check it carefully to support your child with ordering their dinners next term.

Welcome to Mrs Garlick: In January, we welcome a new teacher to our Year 2 team. Mrs Garlick is an experienced Y2 teacher and will be working in a job-share with Mrs Davis. She has been in this week to meet the children and begin her induction.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing Newsletter: This term's newsletter includes some timely advice and tips as we move into the Christmas holidays.

Autumn Term Attendance Winners: In line with our child-initiated attendance policy, the class with the highest attendance at the end of each half term is invited to have a 'dress down' day at school, when only the children in that class are allowed to wear their own clothes to school instead of uniform. This half term's attendance winners are Year 2 with an average attendance of 97.6%. Congratulations Year 2! The average termly attendance for all year groups is on page 3.

Our growing St Anthony's family: Congratulations to Maxi's family on the arrival of his baby brother, Jude. Wonderful news and we can't wait to meet him.

Finally, all that remains is for me to wish you best wishes for a peaceful, happy and healthy Christmas with your children. Time goes far too quickly so enjoy the festivities with them.

Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

Mon 22nd Dec - Fri 2nd Jan
Christmas Holidays - school closed

Mon 5th January, 8.30am
Back to school for the Spring Term
YR & Y6 heights & weights check

Mon 5th & Tues 6th January
Y6 Chinese cooking

Fri 9th January
YR Dinosaur Detective Day

Mon 12th January
Y2 RNLI visit

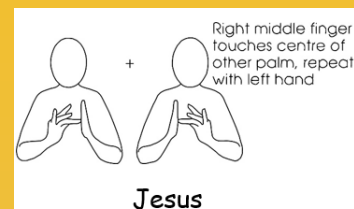
Weds 15th January, 4.30 - 6.00pm
Y1 & Y5 Stargazing

Thurs 16th January, 4.30 - 6.00pm
Y1 & Y5 Stargazing - reserve date

Fri 16th January, 9.00am
Adoptive Parents Networking Meeting

Mon 19th January
YR World Religion 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 8th December:

Whole School 97.4%

Year R 96.6% **Year 1** 96.3% **Year 2** 98.0%

Year 3 98.4% **Year 4** 97.2% **Year 5** 96.0% **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 05/01/2026

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	COMMENTS
Monday	French Club	RETURNS 05/01/2026	Yr1 and Yr2	<i>helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</i>
Monday	Art and Craft Club	RETURNS 05/01/2026	YrR - Yr6	<i>sarah_silvestri@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Monday	Football with CM Sports	RETURNS 12/01/2026	Yr1 - Yr6	<i>info@cmsports.co.uk</i>
Tuesday	Drama	RETURNS 13/01/2026	YrR - Yr6	<i>superstarsportsuk@gmail.com</i>
Tuesday	Drawing club	RETURNS 06/01/2026	Yr 5 and Yr6 ONLY	<i>FoxArtTeaching@outlook.com</i>
Wednesday	French Club	RETURNS 07/01/2026	Yr2 - Yr4	<i>helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</i>
Wednesday	Gymnastics	RETURNS 14/01/2026	YrR - Yr6	<i>superstarsportsuk@gmail.com</i>
Wednesday	School Football Team	RETURNS 21/01/2026	Yr4 - Yr6	Mrs Marshman via the school office
Wednesday	School Netball Team	RETURN TBC	Yr4 - Yr6	Mrs Marshman via the school office
Thursday	French Club	RETURNS 08/01/2026	Yr5 and Yr6	<i>helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</i>
Thursday	ComputerXplorers	RETURNS 15/01/2026	Yr1 - Yr6	<i>computerexplorers.co.uk/portsmouth/book/</i>
Thursday	Jamz Street Dance	RETURNS 08/01/2026	YrR - Yr6	<i>jamzdance@live.co.uk</i>
Thursday	Singing Stars	RETURNS 08/01/2026	Yr3 - Yr6	Ms Reid via school office
Friday	Drawing club	RETURNS 09/01/2026	Yr 3 and Yr4 ONLY	<i>FoxArtTeaching@outlook.com</i>
Friday	Dodgeball Club	RETURNS 09/01/2026	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 515](#)

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

None this week

Average Autumn 2 Attendance for each class

Whole school 94.6%

Autumn 2 Attendance Winners: Year 2 with 97.6%

Year R 94.3%

Year 1 94.4%

Year 3 94.8%

Year 4 94.0%

Year 5 91.7%

Year 6 95.2%

Attendance winners: For families new to our school, our children developed their own attendance policy a couple of years ago. They requested that the class who has the highest attendance each half term should be rewarded with a 'dress-down day' in the first week of the following half term. I'm delighted to confirm that the Autumn 1 attendance winners are Year 2, Congratulations! The Year 2 children are invited to wear their own clothes to school on Friday 9th January. For children who have worked hard to be in school every day so far, we will be awarding attendance badges at the end of the Autumn Term in December to recognise their commitment to school.

Reminders:

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 we are 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.

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

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!

