



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 16 - 09 January 2026

Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

Welcome back to the Spring Term and what a first week it has been, following our phone call from Ofsted at 9.30am on Monday morning!

Ofsted Inspection: Although I am not able to comment on the outcomes of this week's inspection, I would like to say how immensely proud I am of the children and staff of St Anthony's. The children were a credit to our school in how well they articulated their views and experiences of life at St Anthony's. Inspections under the new Ofsted framework began in November so we are one of the first schools to be inspected. I believe we are the first primary school in the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth to experience the new framework.

This meant that we had 4 inspectors with us on Tuesday because an HMI Inspector was present for quality assurance for the other 3 inspectors. It has been a rigorous inspection and that rigour continues as the inspectors' judgements are scrutinised by another Ofsted panel before the final report can be published. As soon as it is ready for circulation, I will share it with you and explain some of the changes under the new framework as it will be important for you to understand how the inspectors reach their judgements.

Given that we had 4 'special visitors' in our school, I must stress again how fantastic our children were and they deserved their extra long breaktime that was rewarded to them yesterday. I would also like to thank our staff and governors for their above and beyond commitment.

Finally, thank you to those who responded to the parent survey, to those who spoke to inspectors and all who sent in messages of support. It was a great boost to the morale for our staff at a stressful time. Thank you also to the parent who discreetly sent me flowers at the start of the week.

Despite the immense pressure that an Ofsted inspection creates, I was struck by how awesome our school community is and how quickly everyone came together to collaborate. This makes our school such a special place, regardless of official outcomes.

Staffing Updates: We have welcomed two new members of staff to the St Anthony's team this week: Mrs Brown has joined our Preschool Team and Mrs Garlick is our new Year 2 teacher on Thursdays and Fridays. What a week to start a new job!

I am also delighted to let you know that Miss Williams (in our Year 3 team) got engaged during the Christmas holidays so there are lots of things to celebrate!

Farm School: You may have noticed that our ducks and chickens have swapped homes in Farm School and are now fully netted in to protect them from bird flu. They have been deliberately located near to the fence for families to visit them at drop-off and pick-up.

Revelation Newsletter: With today's newsletter please have a read of the RE newsletter which summarises this terms learning and themes.

The week started with a bang and finished with Storm Goretti, although we didn't experience the snow fall that so many others had elsewhere in the country. I am looking forward to a more settled weekend and some family time and I hope you can enjoy that too.

With best wishes and a very happy New Year,

Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

Mon 12th January
Y2 RNLI visit

Weds 14th January, 4.30 - 6.00pm
Y1 & Y5 Stargazing

Thurs 15th 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

Tues 20th January
Singing Stars Young Voices at the O2

Weds 28th January, 3.15pm
Y4 Stubbington Residential
Information Meeting

Mon 2nd February, 9.00am
Presentation of the Lord Parish Mass,
led by Y4 - all welcome

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 15th December:

Whole School 95.4%

Year R 85.7% **Year 1** 96.3% **Year 2** 98.7%

Year 3 91.6% **Year 4** 98.8% **Year 5** 98.0% **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 12/01/2026

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	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	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	Drawing club	3.00pm - 4.15pm	Yr 3 and Yr4 ONLY	<i>FoxArtTeaching@outlook.com</i>
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:

Padre Pio Prayer Group

The next meeting is: Sunday 25th January @ 7.45pm
You are all most welcome. For more information, please contact David Walford: *walford101@hotmail.com*



Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 517](#)

Fundraising

One of our children's fathers, Feri Hurja, is currently climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to the summit at nearly 6,000 metres before beginning the descent and returning to the UK early next week. This climb is not only a huge personal challenge but the Hurja family have very thoughtfully combined this as a fundraiser for St Anthony's by helping raise funds for the new school barn.

To donate please do so here: <https://gofund.me/ee1b2ccb5>

Thank you to Feri and the Hurja family, we look forward to hearing about this marvellous achievement.

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.

