



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 17 - 16 January 2026



Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

Attendance: In the last few days, you will have found in book bags the attendance summaries for the Autumn Term. We communicate termly attendance as part of our attendance policy. I'd like to thank you for your support with attendance. We finished the term with an overall attendance rate of 96.1%, which would have been considerably higher had we not had the winter virus/flu outbreak in Weeks 2 & 3 of the Autumn 2 term. Your support with encouraging your children to build resilience and attend school in line with the NHS advice is hugely appreciated so we can reduce loss of learning opportunities as much as possible.

Parent voice: Thank you to the families who took part in the parent voice survey in December. Here are some overall results:

- 91% of respondents agreed their child is happy at school, with 64% strongly agreeing.
- 95% of respondents agreed their child feels safe at school, with 76% strongly agreeing.
- 99% of respondents agreed the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.
- 100% of respondents agreed the school makes them aware of what children will learn during the year.
- 96% of respondents agreed the school has high expectations for their child.
- 95% of respondents agreed their child does well at this school.
- 93% of respondents agreed the school lets them know how their child is doing.
- 93% of respondents agreed there is a good range of subjects available to their child.
- 96% of respondents agreed their child can take part in clubs and activities at school.
- 100% of respondents agreed they are invited to be involved in the prayer life of the school.

Thank you, particularly, for the positive feedback which included:

"St Anthony's is a wonderful caring community which supports its students and parents well."

"Gives the children exposure to activities where some other children will not have the opportunity to experience the same."

"A safe and secure environment with access to outdoor education. A Catholic ethos with supportive staff."

Thank you also for your honesty; we know there are always things we can continue to improve and we have already responded to some suggestions, such as:

"Reduce the number of cake sales." We have already agreed this year that we will limit cake sales to 1 per half term.

"Ensure easy access to water bottles." Any water bottles that were outside the classroom have been brought inside for easy access in all classrooms.

Communication is a hot topic with a mix of comments: some suggesting too many messages from school and others asking for more. We will continue to strive for a balance in our communications.

I will share your suggestions with governors and staff as we continue to strive to provide the best education and welfare for our children.

Change of date for Mass: Fr Ansel has had to move our next whole school Mass to **Friday 6th February at 9am** (see dates opposite). It will be led by Year 4 but all families are welcome.

With best wishes for the weekend, Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

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

Tues 3rd February, 7.30pm
Y6 SATs Information Meeting

Thurs 5th February
Y3 Egyptian Dress Up Day

Fri 6th February, 9.00am
Presentation of the Lord Parish Mass,
led by Y4 - all welcome
Whole School NSPCC Number Day
*Dress down and wear a number to
school (£1)*

Tues 10th February
Safer Internet Day

Our Sign of the Week:



Useful emails:

PSA email address:

stanthonypsa2025@gmail.com

Guinea Pig waiting list email:

guinea.pigs@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk

Working together to improve attendance:

Attendance figures for the week commencing 5th January:

Whole School 96.7%

Year R 96.7% **Year 1** 98.3% **Year 2** 95.7%

Year 3 95.2% **Year 4** 100% **Year 5** 96.2% **Year 6** 94.5%

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 19/01/2026

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	3.00pm - 4.15pm	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

Sunday 25th January @ 7.45pm

You are all most welcome. For more information, please contact David Walford: walford101@hotmail.com



Our Diocesan Vocations Promotion Team

invites those discerning a calling to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life to join them for Seeker Saturday on 17th January.

Seeker Saturdays take place from 11am-3pm, at Sacred Heart Church, Fareham. PO16 ONQ.

If you are discerning if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, then spending time with like-minded people can be really beneficial to any vocational journey. Our time together includes prayer, discussion, Mass, Adoration and lunch too.

Future Seeker Saturday dates for your 2026 diary are: 28th February, 21st March, 25th April, 16th May and 13th June.

Diocesan e-news

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

Fundraising

A big thank you to all who supported Feri Hurja, one of our school dads, who successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to the summit at nearly 6,000 metres. The Hurja family thoughtfully combined this as a fundraiser for St Anthony's and reached their target of £500!

Congratulations again to Feri! An inspiring achievement for us all!

Thank you also for your kind donations.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all the families that kindly donated money for our Christmas Jumper Day "Save the Children" charity event; together with the sale of 2nd hand Christmas jumpers the children raised £144.40!

Thank you for all your donations!



Weekly Certificates

Headteacher's Awards:

Year 1 Albie
Year 3 Archie Logan

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Harvey is celebrated for using his God-given gift of kindness to help build a loving classroom community that reflects God's family. He lives out the Gospel through his actions and is a wonderful role model for others.

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Roman	For his happy nature and always having a lovely smile
Year R	Rafal	For spreading joy and being helpful in class
Year 1	Jack	For always spreading joy and happiness in our classroom
Year 2	Amber-Rose	For always letting Jesus' example of love towards others shine out of herself, by her words and actions
Year 3	Kaira	For always showing love, kindness and compassion to those around her
Year 4	Joshua	For always quietly making the right choices and being a great role model
Year 5	Mariela	For sharing her love and kindness by making sure everyone feels included
Year 6	Dominic	For shining God's light by treating everyone with love and respect, living out our mission in all he does

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Luisa	Year 3	Savannah
Year R	Kaniel	Year 4	Finn
Year 1	Rithu	Year 5	Andrea
Year 2	Amari	Year 6	Margaret

Reminders:

NUT FREE SCHOOL: A reminder that we are a 'Nut Free School'. Even small traces of nuts can cause severe allergic reactions through ingestion, cross-contamination, or airborne particles. We kindly ask that you **do not** send any food items **containing nuts** or products that **may contain traces of nuts** in your child's lunchbox or as snacks.

SPARE UNIFORM APPEAL: We are always on the lookout for spare, clean socks, tights and PE joggers (particularly smaller sizes), so if you anything that your child has out grown please consider donating this to us. Leave any donations with the school office.

2nd HAND CHRISTMAS JUMPER APPEAL: If you would like to donate any Christmas jumpers that will not fit your children next year we will be gratefully accepting any donations now ready for the end of the year!

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!

