



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 18 - 23 January 2026

Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

Our wonderful choir, the *Singing Stars*, enjoyed a fantastic experience on Tuesday this week when they sang at the O2 arena for the Young Voices 2026. This event brought together primary schools from across the UK and I gather from those who went that hearing the voices coming together in the arena concert was an electrifying experience. The children did not return until after midnight but it sounds as though it was well worth it! Thank you to Ms Reid, Mrs Smith, Mrs Robertson and the parents who supported the trip for making it happen.

Updated Spring Term Dates: We have had several date changes in the last two weeks so I attach an updated list of our school's Spring Term Dates with today's newsletter.

Our growing St Anthony's family: Congratulations to Charlotte and Amelia and a very warm welcome to their new baby sister, Elodie.

PSA School Discos: I'm very grateful to the PSA volunteers who are kindly organising this half term's school discos, which will now take place on Friday 6th February due to the availability of the DJ. For those who are new to our school, payment will need to be made on arrival on the evening so please don't send your child to school with the paperwork or money before then.

NSPCC Number Day: This is an early heads up about the NSPCC Number Day on Friday 6th February, the same day as the school discos. We would like the children to come dressed in number-themed non-school uniform with an optional £1 donation to the NSPCC. This could be simply sticking their favourite number to their top. The children will be completing a variety of maths activities during the day.

Car park at the end of the day: Please can I remind you that the numbered bays are for members of staff only. Recently, we have had a few issues with staff leading after school clubs unable to park because their spaces are occupied. Please keep the staff spaces free. Additionally, we have to keep the drop-off bay free in case we require an ambulance to attend so please do not leave your vehicle unattended in this space. We encourage families to park at The Waypoint Church car park and use the back gate. A map is at the end of this newsletter if you're new to our school and not aware of this yet.

Letter from the PSA: Please read the attached letter with further information about the installation of a 'St Anthony's Parent Body' community on WhatsApp.

Despite the ongoing wet theme to our weekend weather forecast, I hope you find time to enjoy some outdoor fun with your children this weekend. I have watched some of them enjoying a cheeky jump in a muddy puddle on their way into school at drop-off times this week.

With best wishes for the weekend,
Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

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

Tues 3rd February
Y3 trip to the Gurdwara
Y6 SATs Information Meeting, 7.30pm

Thurs 5th February
Y3 Egyptian Dress Up Day

Fri 6th February
Presentation of the Lord Parish Mass,
9.00am, led by Y4 - all welcome
Whole School NSPCC Number Day
Dress down and wear a number to
school (£1)
PSA School Discos
YR, 1 & 2 4.00-4.45pm
Y3, 4, 5 & 6 5.00-6.00pm

Tues 10th February
Safer Internet Day

Our Sign of the Week:



excited

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 12th January:

Whole School 96.4%

Year R 98% **Year 1** 97.7% **Year 2** 100%

Year 3 96.1% **Year 4** 90% **Year 5** 98.3% **Year 6** 95.5%

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 26/01/2026

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:

Advance Notice: the Parish office will be closed on Tues 27th January and from Thurs 12th Feb - Weds 18th.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

Sunday 25th January @ 7.45pm

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

Lenten Fundraising: St Patrick's Night Celebration on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Could you contribute to the entertainment for this celebration?

Can you sing, play and instrument, dance or tell a story? If you would like to be involved please contact Kathleen Mercer at kathleen.mercer@btinternet.com or the parish office at office@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Tickets £10 with all proceeds going to the Lenten Charity (to be confirmed)

Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 518](#)



Fundraising - Xmas 4 Schools

A big thank you to all who supported our Xmas 4 Schools initiative by purchasing a variety of Christmas products.

We raised £262 for the school!

Thank you for your support!



Weekly Certificates

Headteacher's Awards:

Year 1	Lana	
Year 2	Ruaridh	Amber

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Bella For consistently meeting the high expectations we set. She is a shining example of kindness and respect, always treating her friends and teachers with care.

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Arthur	For super listening skills!
Year R	Nellie	For always spreading joy in our classroom through her acts of kindness
Year 1	Joshua	For quietly leading by example and always doing what is right
Year 2	Jonathan	For letting the Holy Spirit guide him, as he demonstrates kindness to all and values everyone's Human Dignity
Year 3	Annabelle	For always spreading joy, happiness and kindness in our classroom
Year 4	Reggie	For always trying his best with a big smile on his face
Year 5	Alaska	For shining God's love through the way she includes everyone and is a friend to all
Year 6	Rosie	For consistently making thoughtful 'See, Choose, Act' decisions and inspiring others to do the same

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Aiden	Year 3	Violetta
Year R	Seba	Year 4	Ridhi
Year 1	Soraia	Year 5	Ted
Year 2	Henry	Year 6	Maxi

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.

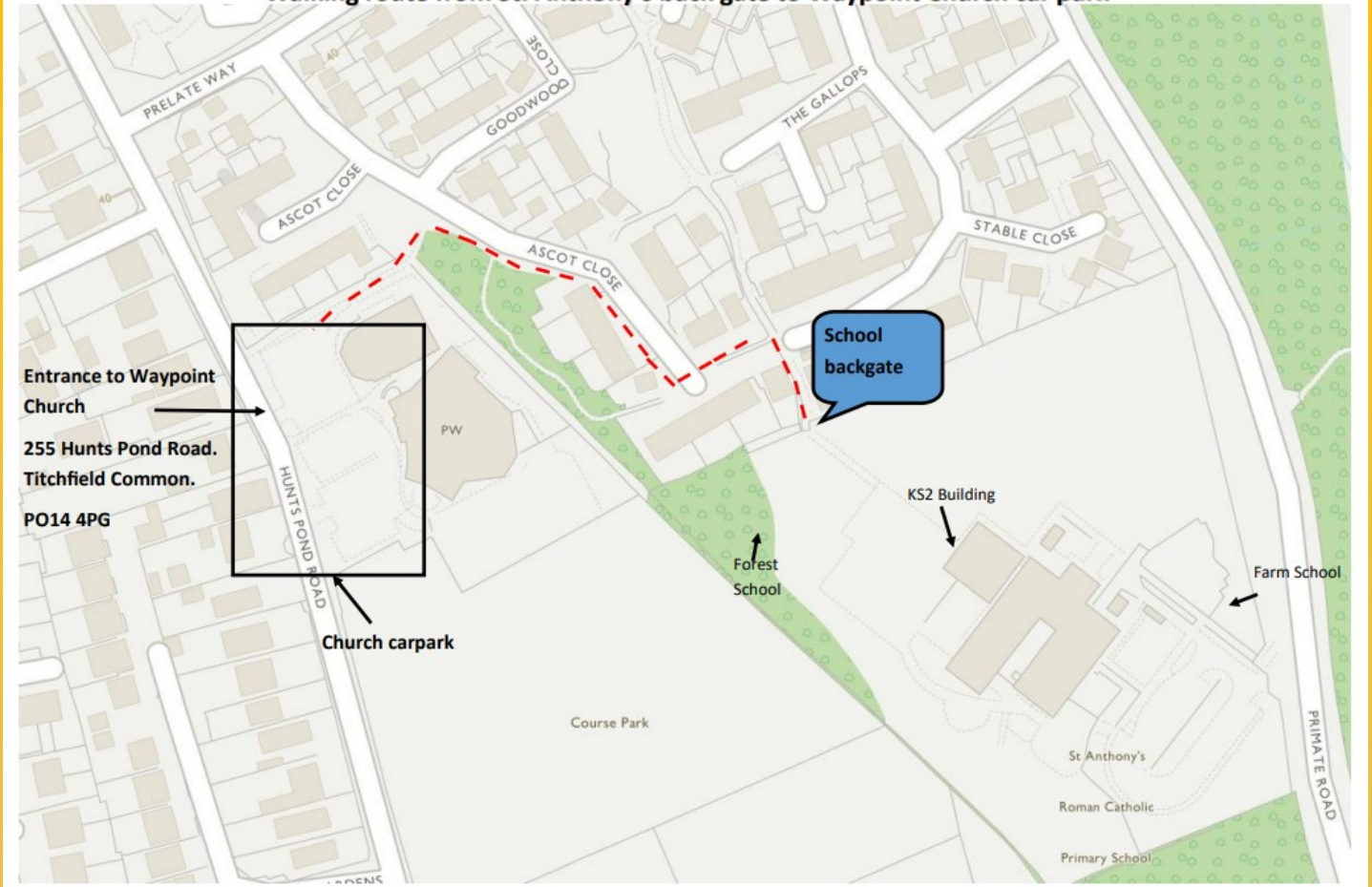
Please place any donations during the autumn term in the boxes in our entrance foyer.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!



Map to show the Waypoint Church car park and route to the St Anthony's back gate

Walking route from St. Anthony's back gate to Waypoint Church car park



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 have 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

