



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 20 - 06 February 2026



Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

We hope your children have enjoyed the Maths games and challenges from today's Number Day. Thank you to those who donated: we raised £167 for the NSPCC.

Year 3 have had a busy week with an enlightening trip to the Gurdwara on Tuesday followed by their Egyptian dress up day yesterday. They looked fabulous!

Parents' Evenings: On Monday you will receive an email with the details for how to book your March parent teacher meeting. We have moved to a new booking system so if you need any support with this, please contact the school office. Bookings go live from 6.00pm on Monday evening. During the meetings, teachers will review where your child is on their journey towards their end of year academic targets and answer any questions/concerns you may have. The meetings will take place as follows:

Monday 2nd March	Years R, 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6
Tuesday 3rd March	Years 1, 2, 3 & 5
Wednesday 4th March	Years R & 4
Thursday 5th March	Years 2 & 6

Term Dates and INSET Days for 2026-2027: With today's newsletter, you will find a list of the term dates for the next academic year. There are no changes to our school's calendar year for 2026-7 in comparison with other Hampshire schools. St Anthony's will start the academic year with two INSET days so the first day back at school for pupils will be on Thursday 3rd September.

Children's Mental Health Day: On Friday next week, children be joining their buddies in forest school to help rake some woodchip under the trees to protect the tree roots from soil erosion. Getting outside, being active and looking after our environment is great for mental health. If any parents would like to volunteer for a couple of hours on Friday to help 'wheelbarrow' the woodchip into forest school, we would love some support. Please contact the school office.

Palm Burning Service: I am sorry we had to cancel the Mass that was due to take place this morning. Unfortunately, we cannot rearrange it due to already busy diaries but we hope that Fr Ansel will recover quickly. Because Ash Wednesday falls during half-term this year, we will be celebrating a school 'Shrove Tuesday' on Thursday and this will conclude with what has become our traditional palm burning service, led by Fr Ansel. Families are welcome to join us from 2.30pm on the KS2 playground (or in the hall if wet). We will only be able to open the back gate for this, so please park at Waypoint Church and walk to the back entrance if you wish to join us.

Shoebboxes: On page 4 in the newsletter is a lovely picture of some of the Ukrainian children receiving the Christmas shoebboxes we sent last term. Thank you to all who supported this.

We had a welcome though brief day of sunshine in the middle of this week. Despite the wet weather, we have tried to ensure children get outside during break and lunchtimes to benefit from fresh air. I'm sure I'm not the only one who is hoping for some spring sunshine soon.

I hope you enjoy the weekend with your children, whatever you have planned.

With best wishes, Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

Tues 10th February
Safer Internet Day
YR trip to St Margaret Mary Church

Thurs 12th February
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races
Y1 & Y5 Trip to Science Museum
Palm burning service, 2.30pm

Fri 13th February
Children's Mental Health Day

Mon 16th - Fri 20th February
HALF-TERM
School closed

Mon 23rd February
Preschool & YR Lunar New Year cooking
Y2 Trip to SeaCity Museum

Thurs 26th February
Y4 swimming, Holly Hill (afternoon)

w/c 2nd March
YR-Y6 Parents' Evenings

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 26th January:

Whole School 96.6%

Year R 94.6%	Year 1 93.0%	Year 2 99.0%			
Year 3 99.0%	Year 4 97.0%	Year 5 95.2%	Year 6 97.6%		

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.

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CLUBS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 09/02/2026

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 from Thurs 12th Feb - Weds 18th.

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

An evening of Irish flavoured fun and light entertainment
Tickets, £10, available to purchase after all Masses from 8th February.

All proceeds going to the Lenten Charity **BEMENDA**.

For more details please contact Maggie on maggie@raymontc.plus.com



Underfloor Heating—(Paray room, Foyer, Chapel and Sacristy)

As you are aware we have had issues with the underfloor heating. An engineer has visited and because of the various it has to be left switched off.

We are waiting for quotes to repair/replace parts or to replace the boiler.

Extra fan heaters have been provided until we can get this resolved.

Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 520](#)

Laughalots bookings

Breakfast and after school club booking forms have now been sent out, please can we remind you that these need to be returned to the school office no later than Monday 9th February at 9am.

Thank you for your support



Weekly Certificates

Headteacher's Awards:

Year 2	Henry	Harry		
Year 5	Charlie A	Lucas	Andrea	Laura

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Caitlin For the diligence she brings to her prefect duties. She ensures teachers have the equipment they need for PE lessons, demonstrating humility, service and thoughtfulness

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Amelia	For persevering and keeping on trying even when things are difficult
Year R	Michale	For welcoming a friend to play with joy and warmth
Year 1	Marley	For sharing his love and kindness with everyone around him, following the example of Jesus
Year 2	Reema	For being a kind and gentle friend to all, especially those in need
Year 3	Reeva	For being a considerate member of our class and thinking of others around her
Year 4	Lucinda	For sharing her kind and thoughtful nature with everyone around her
Year 5	Joshua	For his quiet, thoughtful nature and the reflective way he approaches everything he does
Year 6	Max	For demonstrating an outstanding attitude, raising his standards and applying himself fully in every lesson since Christmas

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Daisy	Year 3	Anna
Year R	Lawson	Year 4	Daisy
Year 1	Luke	Year 5	Marcel
Year 2	Dara	Year 6	Joshua B

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



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

PSA AGM: The PSA will be holding their AGM on Thursday 26th February 2026 at 6:30pm in the school hall. Please come along and support our hard working PSA and learn about what they do to raise funds for our school.

