



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 21 - 13 February 2026

Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

We hope your children have enjoyed celebrating mental health day today. Thank you to the volunteers who helped me move the woodchip into forest school this morning (see photo). The focus has been on helping children to see and feel a sense of belonging in their friendships, in school and in communities and how important this is for our mental health and wellbeing. They have participated in some meditative prayer in the hall, collaborated with their buddies to protect our trees and enjoy some fresh air in forest school, and before assembly, they enjoyed half an hour of 'Drop Everything And Read' time, which is very popular at our school.



Safeguarding and Wellbeing Newsletter: This half term's newsletter focuses on AI to build on the learning that took place on Tuesday's Safer Internet Day. Our youngest children learnt about using voice assistants safely and our Key Stage 2 children explored the proper and improper use of AI and how to report concerns. Our newsletter also offers suggestions for how to boost wellbeing in light of today's Mental Health Day.

RE Lent Newsletter: With today's email, you will also find our Lent newsletter. This year, Ash Wednesday falls during half-term so we please see page 2 for details of the Ash Wednesday services at St Margaret Mary. At St Anthony's, we encourage children to take up something for Lent (rather than fasting) such as spending time to write a letter/card for an older relative instead of being on a screen.

World Book Day: On Thursday 5th March, we are delighted to be welcoming Graham Jones, author of the historical fiction series 'Time Travelling Toby' to our school. The children will enjoy a series of workshops and activities linked to their History learning and are invited to **dress up as their favourite person from History** on this day. Graham is offering to sign copies of his books. To order a signed copy, please complete the form with today's newsletter and send it with a cheque/cash to the school office by Thursday 26th February.

Staffing Update: I am sorry to let you know that Mrs Rogers will be leaving St Anthony's at the Easter holidays. There are a number of personal factors behind Mrs Rogers' resignation and her departure is not only a great loss to our school but also to the teaching profession. I am pleased to confirm that Mrs Wallace will be assuming the additional hours from Mrs Rogers and will be teaching Year 6 full-time for the Summer Term, supported by Mrs Cornish and Mrs Dyer.

Attendance Winners: Congratulations to Year 2, who are this half term's attendance winners with an average attendance of 97.7%. Year 2 are invited to wear their own clothes to school on Friday 27th February, in recognition of their fantastic attendance.

We're all looking forward to some rest and recuperation this half-term and I hope some much-needed sunshine too. The second half of the Spring Term is only 5 weeks.

With best wishes for the half-term break, Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

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

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

Weds 25th February, morning
ELSA drop-ins

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

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

Weds 4th March
Preschool & YR Holi Day

Thurs 5th March
World Book Day
whole school dress-up day
Y4 swimming, Holly Hill (afternoon)

Weds 11th March
Preschool & YR Mother's Day Celebration

Our Sign of the Week:



Mental health

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 2nd February:

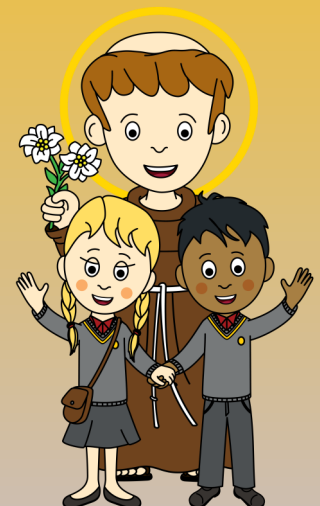
Whole School 96.1%

Year R 95.9% Year 1 95.8% Year 2 98.1%

Year 3 96.1% Year 4 96.1% Year 5 95.0% Year 6 95.8%

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.



Weekly Certificates

Headteacher's Awards:

Year 4	Finn					
Year 6	Sera	Max	Christian	Dominic	Harvey	Aoife

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Agnese For bringing a calm and steady presence to the class, leading by example and helping others by showing them how to be ready to learn

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Berrie	For always thinking of others and being a kind and helpful friend
Year R	Evie	For always quietly making the right choices and being a wonderful role model
Year 1	Eric W	For always spreading joy and warmth around our school
Year 2	Tazmin	For being a positive role model of love and kindness
Year 3	Mia	For always spreading love and kindness in class
Year 4	Rebecca	For showing that she is filled with the Holy Spirit in her everyday word, choices and actions
Year 5	Anna	For her reflective approach to her work and friendships, showing maturity and kindness
Year 6	Christian	For helping others to see how good God is by letting His light shine through all he does

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Arthur B	Year 3	Niall
Year R	Natalia	Year 4	Harrison
Year 1	Rosie	Year 5	Olivia
Year 2	Leia	Year 6	Clarice

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

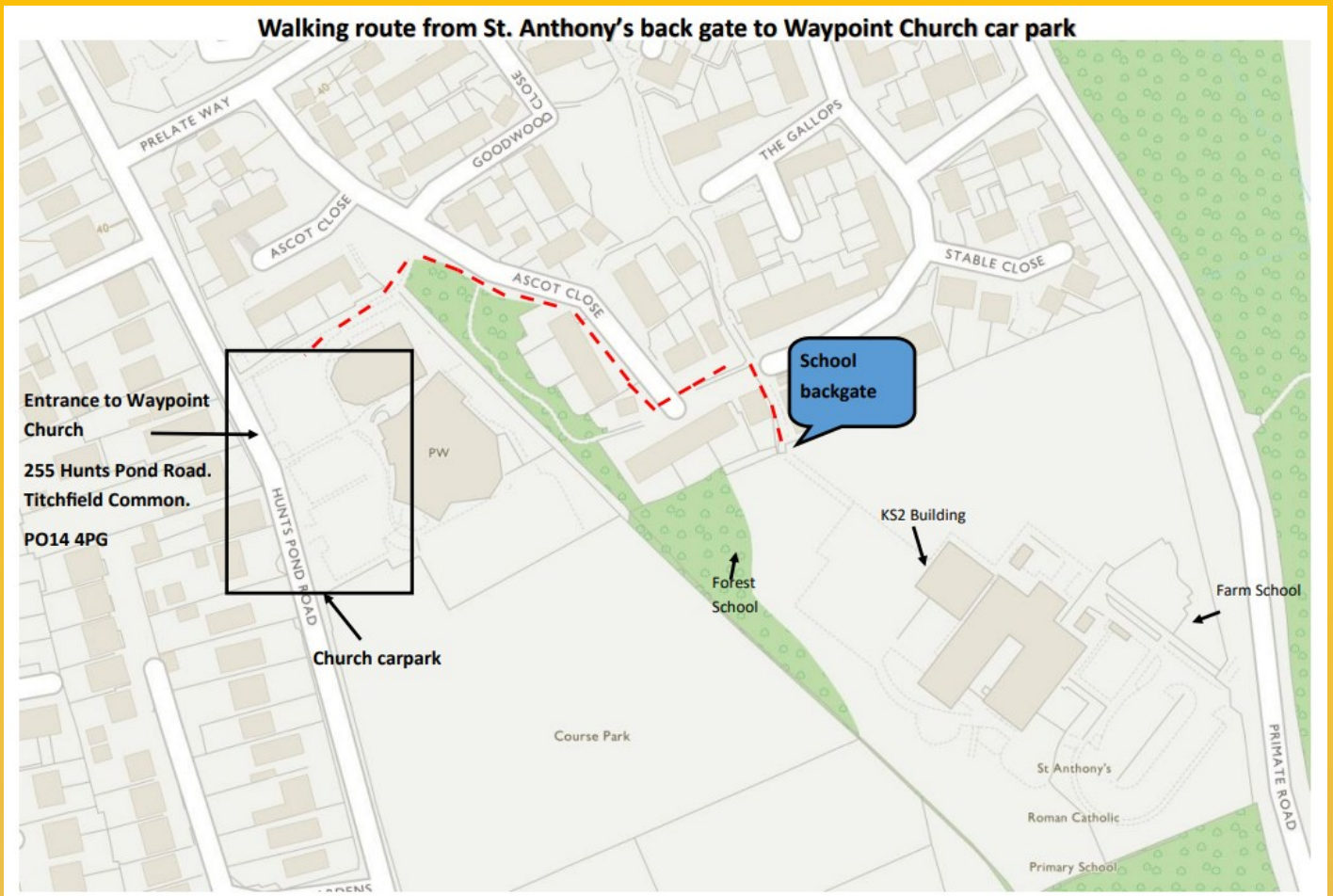
If you are able to help, the following items have been particularly requested:
Cereals, biscuits, jams, tea, coffee, pasta sauces, tinned vegetables (especially tomatoes and sweetcorn), tinned fruit/puddings, rice, sugar, tinned soup, tinned tuna.

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.

