



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 23 - 06 March 2026



### Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

The highlight of this week has been World Book Day (WBD) and thank you, parents, for supporting this with the fabulous costumes; the children looked fantastic! Our visiting author, Graham Jones, was an inspirational speaker and brought a contagious enthusiasm to the writing workshops. The day concluded with what has become our traditional WBD Catwalk, in which the children paraded their costumes to the rest of the school. It was great fun. In response to feedback from previous parent voice surveys, we have agreed that the big dress-up for WBD will be every other year to reduce the expense and pressure for families.

**CAFOD Big Lent Walk:** Thank you to the families who have already started supporting this by walking as many kilometres as they can at the weekends. The children have been very excited to tell me how far they've been walking already. Thank you also to those have donated via our [Just Giving page](#). We look forward to welcoming the CAFOD speaker on Monday to learn more about how our fundraising will help others. We are still in need of volunteer marshals for the walk so please do let the office know if you are able to support with this.

**Press release:** Local media have been in touch with us, following our positive Ofsted inspection report, which was published this week. With today's newsletter, you can read a copy of our press release and / or today's [Daily Echo article](#).

**KS2 Cover Teacher recruitment:** Please keep Mrs Inwards, our SENDCo and part-time teacher, in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to battle with debilitating Long Covid symptoms. To support with covering Mrs Inwards' absence, we are currently advertising for a part-time Key Stage 2 Cover Teacher (fixed-term contract). If you know a supply teacher who may be interested in this opportunity, please encourage them to visit our [website](#) for more details.

**Lent reconciliation service:** Families are welcome to join us on Thursday 12th March at 9.30am for our Lent reconciliation service.

**PSA Mother's Day Sale:** Once again, our amazing PSA volunteers are organising an opportunity next Friday to enable children to buy something special for Mother's Day if they wish. It's lovely to see the children learning the joy of choosing and giving a present so please support this if you can.

The warm spring sunshine has been so welcome this week. Please consider whether you have time for a walk with your children this weekend to notch up some kilometres for CAFOD.

With best wishes for the weekend,  
Mrs Straker



### Important Dates:

**Mon 9th March**  
Whole school CAFOD assembly

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

**Thurs 12th March, 9.30am**  
Lent Reconciliation Service  
Y4 swimming, Holly Hill (afternoon)

**Fri 13th March**  
8.15am Stations of the Cross  
PSA Mother's Day Sale

**Weds 18th March**  
YR Recycling Day

**Thurs 19th March**  
YR - Y6 Big Lent Walk, 9.00am  
Preschool Eid Day  
Y4 swimming, Holly Hill (afternoon)

**Fri 20th March**  
Whole School Odd Socks Day  
for Neurodiversity  
8.15am Stations of the Cross

**Mon 23rd March, 10.30am**  
KS2 Passion Play to parishioners

**Tues 24th March, 2.00pm & 6.00pm**  
KS2 Passion Play to parents

### Our Sign of the Week:



Mother's Day

### Useful emails:

**PSA email address:**  
[stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com)

**Guinea Pig waiting list email:**  
[guinea.pigs@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk](mailto:guinea.pigs@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk)

### Working together to improve attendance:

**Attendance figures for the week commencing 23rd February:**

**Whole School** 96.1%

**Year R** 96.7%      **Year 1** 88.0%      **Year 2** 99.0%

**Year 3** 100%      **Year 4** 96.7%      **Year 5** 96.2%      **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.



## CLUBS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 09/03/2026

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@cm-sports.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	3.00pm - 4.15pm	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:

Fr Ansel will be away from the Parish until Friday 13th March.

**Sunday 15th March** - Cake Sale after all Masses

#### St Patrick's Night Celebration:

**Saturday 21st March 7pm in the Parish Hall.**

An evening of Irish flavoured fun and light entertainment; come along and join in the craic. Tickets are £10 and available to purchase after all Masses. For further ticket details contact Maggie: [maggie@raymontc.plus.com](mailto:maggie@raymontc.plus.com)

ALL PROCEEDS to our Lenten Charity, **BAMENDA**.

**Bamenda:** There is now a display in the Church foyer where you can read more about our Lenten Charity.

#### Parish Stations and Prayer Walk:

**Saturday 28th March 11am-12pm @ Victoria Park, Hamble**

This Lent we are planning a short Stations and Prayer walk, followed by a picnic lunch in Victoria Park, Hamble. This walk will be open and accessible to all (pushchairs, scooters, dogs, etc all welcome). Pop the date in your diary and look out for more details in the next few weeks.

#### Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 524](#)



### Mothers Day Sale

On Friday 13th March, the PSA will be running a Mothers Day sale **in school** for Y1-Y6 children that would like to buy a gift - A selection of lovely gifts will be available, ranging between £1-£5. Please send your child into school with any money in a named envelope if they would like to attend.

Thank you for your continued support



## Weekly Certificates

### Headteacher's Awards:

Year 1      Henry  
Year 4      Lucas      Maisie

### Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Margaret      For her gentle leadership and quiet integrity make her a wonderful ambassador for our school community

### St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool      Leia      For showing great kindness and care towards some of the youngers children in preschool  
Year R      Seba      For brightening our classroom with joy and positivity  
Year 1      Chimnora      For bringing a bright and happy spirit to our classroom  
Year 2      Leo W      For sharing joy and love with every person he meets!  
Year 3      Elsie      For settling into the new Spring half term so quickly and spreading love and kindness while doing so  
Year 4      Grace      For her patience and consistent efforts to be the best version of herself  
Year 5      Aedan      For his strong work ethic and friendship skills which reflect our Catholic values  
Year 6      Matthew      For always reflecting the Gospel message and showing what it means to love, learn and live as Jesus did

### St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Amina	Year 3	Eloise
Year R	Shay	Year 4	Isaac
Year 1	Lottie	Year 5	Esme
Year 2	Isabella	Year 6	Sera

### 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

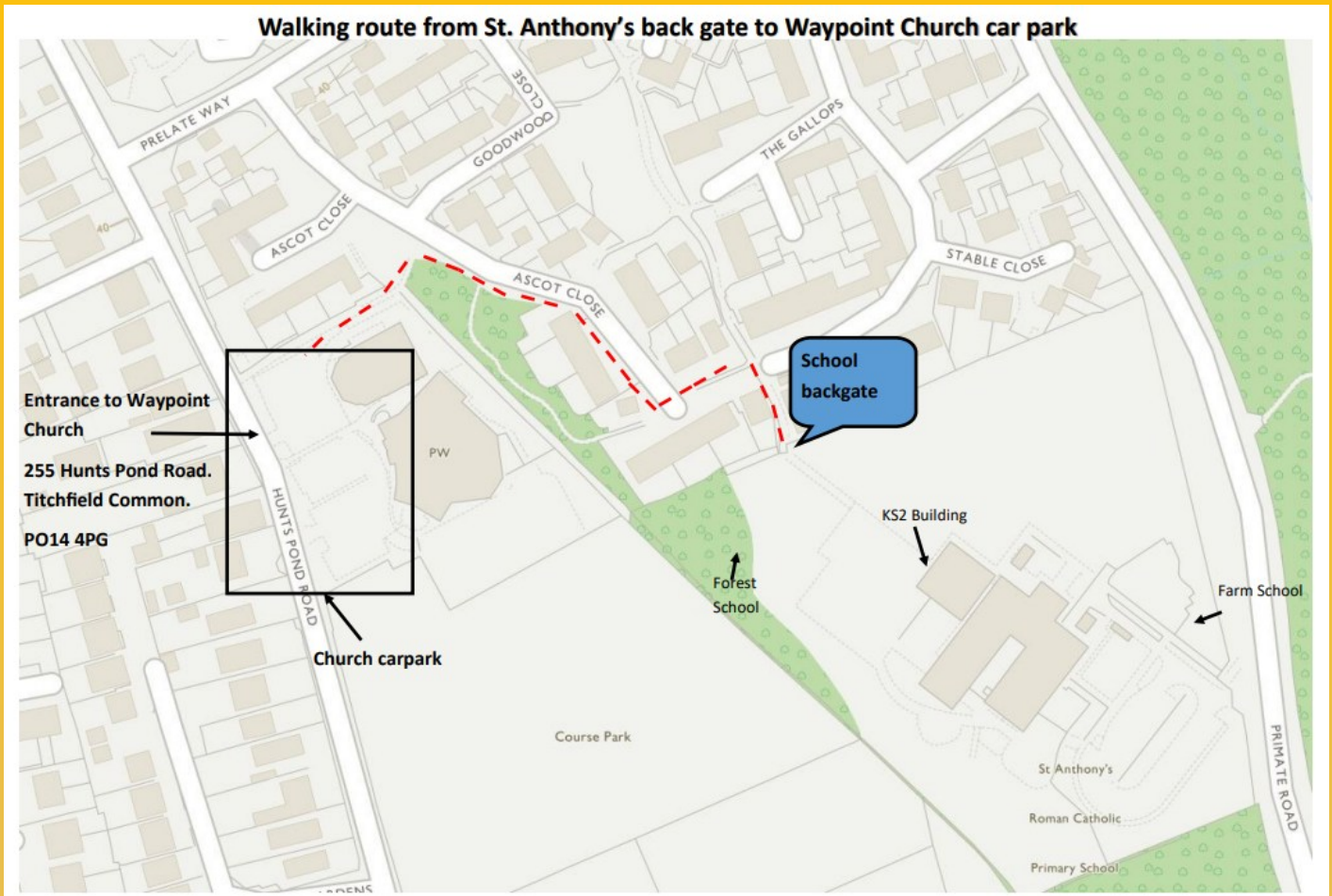
If you are able to help, the following items have been particularly requested:  
Cereals, biscuits, jams, tea, coffee, pasta sauces, tinned vegetables (especially tomatoes and sweetcorn), tinned fruit/puddings, rice, sugar, tinned soup, tinned tuna.

Please place any donations 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



### French Club

Learn French the fun way and give your child a head-start at secondary!  
A limited number of spaces have become available, where your child can learn French with conversations, games, role-plays, rhymes and stories with basic grammar.  
Lessons are £6 each.  
For more info contact Helen on:  
07780591789 or [helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk](mailto:helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk)



### 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 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](mailto:uniform@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk)

