



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 24 - 13 March 2026



Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

As part of our Lent preparations this week, we were joined by 5 members of the clergy to lead our Reconciliation Service, followed by confessions for Years 5 & 6. Thank you to Fr Ansel, Fr Francis (not pictured), Fr Matthew, Fr Vincent and Dcn Larry for helping us all to ready ourselves for Easter. The maturity of our Year 5 & 6 pupils was commendable once again.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk: At the time of writing, we are over 75% of our way towards reaching our target goal of raising £500 for CAFOD. Thank you to all who supported us so far. Monday's visit from our CAFOD rep taught the children about a current project to support farmers in Bangladesh with growing food on floating beds, in response to the worsening floods caused by climate change. £231 can pay for enough floating gardens for a farmer to feed their family for a year so our school's goal is to raise enough money to feed two families, if we can! If you would like to donate via our [Just Giving page](#), there is still time before our Big Lent Walk on Thursday morning. Thank you also to the families who are walking extra kilometres at the weekends. If you've lost your recording log, please speak to the office so we can note the hard work from the children or email the office with the number of kilometres your children have notched up.

Portsmouth News: A second article was published this week, following our positive Ofsted report and you can read it here: [The Portsmouth News](#).

KS2 Cover Teacher & Preschool recruitment: We are currently recruiting for two part-time fixed-term contract positions: a KS2 Cover Teacher and an Early Years Assistant. If you know anyone who may be interested in either opportunity, please encourage them to visit our [website](#) for more details.

Odd Socks Day: Instead of celebrating a whole week for neurodiversity this month, we are inviting children to wear odd coloured (or mis-matching) socks on Friday 20th. We will remind children that we are all different and this diversity is what makes us all special.

Thank you PSA: Thank you to our amazing PSA volunteers for sourcing and selling such lovely Mother's Day gifts for the children to purchase today.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing Newsletter: Please read this week's parents' newsletter with advice for supporting children when difficult news headlines are all over the media. Some children have been asking staff about WW3.

I hope you enjoy celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday and my thoughts and prayers are with those for whom Mother's Day is a difficult day.

With best wishes for the weekend, Mrs Straker



Important Dates:

Weds 18th March
YR Recycling Day
Y4 Parents' Evening (rescheduled)

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
Y4 Parents' Evening (rescheduled)

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

Fri 27th March
9.00am Palm Procession Mass led by Y1 - all families welcome
Last Day of Spring Term

Mon 30th March - Fri 10th April
Easter holidays - school closed

Mon 13th April
Back to school for the Summer Term

Our Sign of the Week:



Useful emails:

PSA email address:
stanthonypspa2025@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 March:

Whole School 96.9%

Year R 98.0% **Year 1** 97.0% **Year 2** 97.3%

Year 3 96.9% **Year 4** 93.9% **Year 5** 96.6% **Year 6** 98.5%

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 16/03/2026

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:

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

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

Parish Stations and Prayer Walk:

Saturday 28th March 11am-12pm @ Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey

This Lent we are planning a short Stations and Prayer walk, followed by a picnic lunch in Royal Victoria Country Park. 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.

Fr Ansel's Easter Collection - Please support our Parish Priest by donating via:

1. The collection on Easter Sunday
2. A bank transfer to the parish bank account, please put ref 'Easter Offering'
3. Dona machine at the back of church - option marked "Priest Easter Collection"
4. Use our give as you live page - <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/park-gate-st-margaret-mary-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2026>

Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 525](#)



Laughalots forms

A gentle reminder that all Breakfast and After School club forms need to be returned to the office by Monday 23rd March at 9am.

Please note that some days are over-subscribed so we will allocate spaces on a first come first served basis.

Thank you



Weekly Certificates

Headteacher's Awards:

Year 2	Jonathan	David	
Year 3	Hudson		
Year 6	Caitlin	Jeremy	Matthew

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Rosie For showing resilience, determination and a growing confidence that radiates through every lesson

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Kyson	For good listening and being kind to all of your friends
Year R	Charlotte K	For being a caring and thoughtful friend
Year 1	Zach	For living out his Lenten promise and showing kindness
Year 2	Finn	For always thinking of others before himself, showing kindness and care
Year 3	Ewan	For always taking so much pride in his work and spreading kindness while doing so
Year 4	Luca	For making our classroom a better place through his kindness and helpfulness
Year 5	Mia	For always being kind, caring and helpful to others
Year 6	Corey	For using his God-given gift of curiosity to ask thoughtful questions and seek help when he needs it

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Bella	Year 3	Holly
Year R	George	Year 4	Timothy
Year 1	Yuna	Year 5	Jackson
Year 2	Ruaridh	Year 6	Ivy

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



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

