



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 27 - 17 April 2026



### Note from the Headteacher

Dear families,

Welcome back from the Easter holidays. The summer term is always our busiest so please note the key dates that are shared with this week's newsletter and keep an eye on the dates opposite in case of any changes.

**Smartphone Free:** With today's newsletter, please see a flier from our local area Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) Alliance, who are hosting an information session for parents and children on Saturday 9th May. The events includes:

- Students sharing their experiences of growing up without smartphones
- Secondary-school parents reflecting on their family's experience of holding off on smartphones
- GPs discussing screen time and wellbeing
- Teachers sharing what they are seeing in schools
- Local SFC representatives offering guidance on delaying smartphones

Importantly, there will be a Tech Zone, where families can explore alternative phones.

I encourage families to attend this event to learn more about the range of phones on the market that don't give children access to the internet. It doesn't have to be a brick! I have been liaising with local businesses to try to set up a similar workshop at St Anthony's and I am still working on this.

**999 Heroes Theme Week:** We are finalising our 999 Heroes Week during the w/c 29th June. If you work for any of the emergency services and would be interested in talking to our children about what you do and how your team helps to keep people safe, please email the school office as we would love to include some parent visitors that week.

**Spring Term Attendance:** Coming home today in children's book bags are attendance summaries for the Spring Term. Unfortunately, we have slipped from the top 10% to the top 20% of schools nationally with our overall attendance rate of 96.3%. This is predominantly due to winter viruses and chickenpox. Your support with encouraging your children to build resilience and attend school in line with the [NHS advice](#) is hugely appreciated. Together, I hope we can reduce the loss of learning opportunities as much as possible.

**J10 M27 Volunteers:** I'd like to thank the team of volunteers from the J10 project on the M27, who gave up a day in the holidays to help us in our school grounds. They painted our tree houses, raked in more woodchip and started painting the forest school fence along with some other tasks. They have made a huge difference!



**Baby News:** Back in January, I omitted to share the arrival of Andrea's baby brother, who was born on Christmas Eve! I offer a warm welcome to Baby Alex.

I'm also delighted to let you know that Mrs Rawson has welcomed the arrival of baby Delilah, who was born last weekend. We can't wait to meet her!

It is always a joy to celebrate our growing St Anthony's family.

With best wishes for the weekend, Mrs Straker

### Important Dates:

**Mon 20th - Weds 22nd April**  
Y4 Residential, Stubbington

**Tues 21st April, 7.30pm**  
Y6 Residential Information Meeting

**Weds 22nd April**  
Whole School Earth Day

**Thurs 23rd April**  
Y5 trip to the local woods

**Thurs 23rd April, 3pm**  
Y1 Phonics information meeting

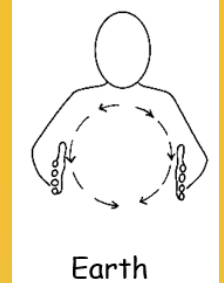
**Fri 24th April**  
YR Pond dipping (weather dependent)

**Wednesday 29th April, morning**  
Y3 Horse riding

**Wednesday 29th April, 3pm**  
Y2 Assessment Information meeting

**Friday 1st May, 8.15am**  
Pray the Rosary - all welcome

### Our Sign of the Week:



### Useful emails:

**PSA email address:**

[stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com)

**PSA 2nd hand uniform**

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

**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 March:**

**Whole School** 94.2%

**Year R** 96.0%      **Year 1** 96.0%      **Year 2** 91.7%

**Year 3** 89.7%      **Year 4** 95.2%      **Year 5** 95.9%      **Year 6** 95.2%

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 20/04/2026

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	<b>Returns 06/05/2026</b>	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:

The parish office will be closed 4th-8th May for annual leave.

#### Saturday 9th May - Opening of the Parish Prayer Garden

Please join us as we open the Parish Prayer Garden which is now complete. Our thanks to the many people who have worked very hard over recent months.

Here is an approximate timetable for the afternoon:

3pm - Joyful mysteries of the Rosary

3.30pm - Placing of Flowers

3.40pm - Tea, Coffee and cake in the Parish Hall



#### Sunday 17th May, 12 - 2pm - SPRING LUNCH in aid of the BAMENDA APPEAL

Come and enjoy a delicious two-course lunch and convivial company while supporting our Lenten Charity.

Adults £15 and Children £7.50 (free for under 6s)

Tickets will be available after Masses from the 19th April or email

[Gayeperry205@gmail.com](mailto:Gayeperry205@gmail.com) to reserve your place

#### Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 529](#)

### St Anthony's Preschool

We have spaces from September 2026.

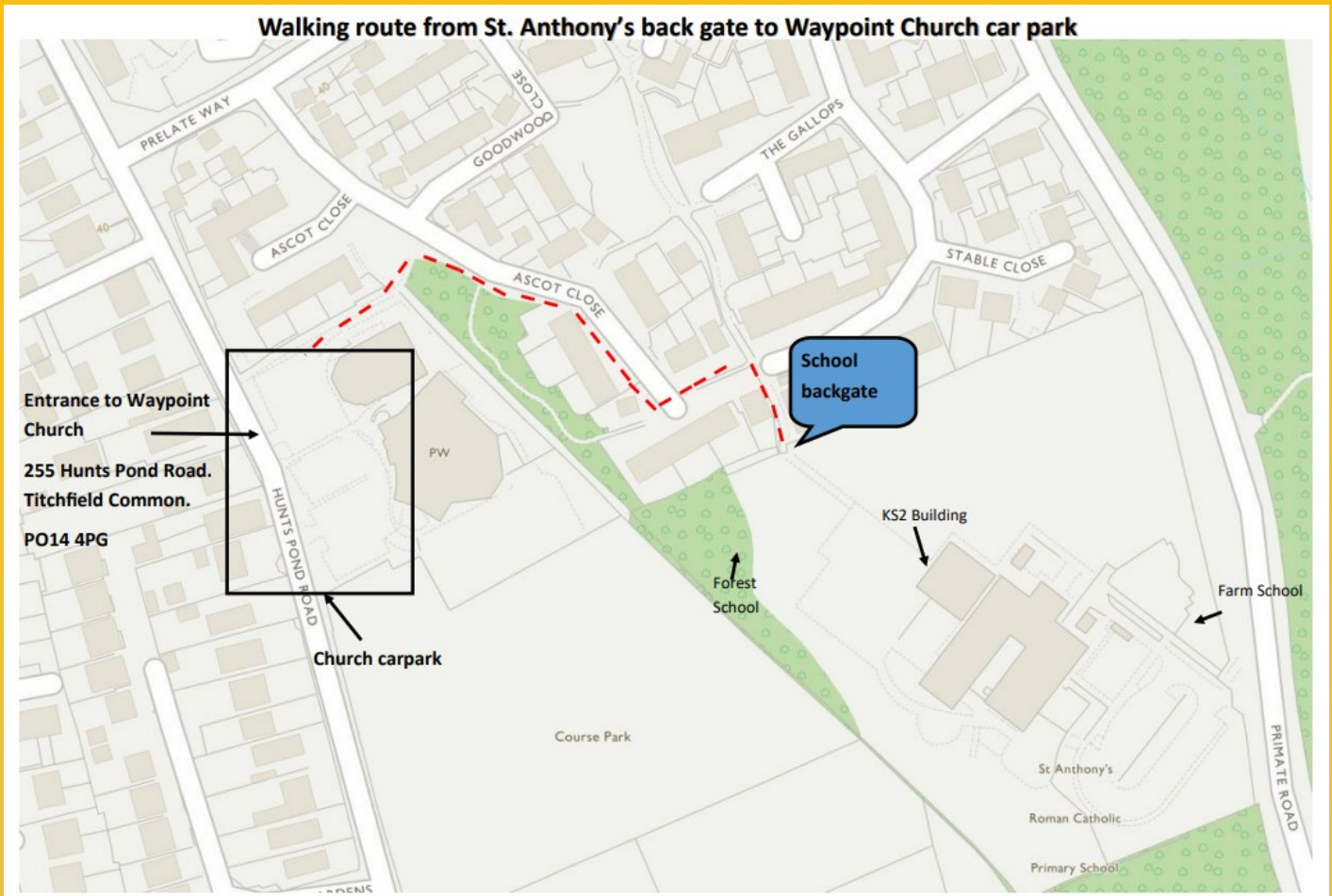
St Anthony's Preschool is an intimate, small setting with beautiful, spacious grounds and facilities. Our Preschool is led by a fully qualified teacher who promotes a fun and play-based approach to learning with a strong emphasis on outdoor learning. Our children go on woodland walks, visit our forest school and farm school areas and we teach them Catholic values such as love and stewardship.

Please contact us at

[office@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk](mailto:office@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk) for more details or to book a personal tour.



## 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)

