



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 29 - 01 May 2026



Note from the Headteacher

Dear families,

There was a strong smell of ponies and stables as I walked through the library on Wednesday, shortly after Year 3 returned from their morning of horse-riding! I gathered from the children that they had a wonderful time learning how to groom, muck-out and look after a pony, not just enjoy the riding. I was immensely proud when Pinkmead Equestrian Centre took the trouble to email to say what a polite and delightful group of children had joined them.



Farm School: I hope you saw the flier with the latest update on the PSA's fundraising for building a barn. It feels as though we're getting closer, which would be fantastic because after the wet winter, some of the sheds in Farm School are deteriorating even further. With the improved weather, the risk of bird flu has reduced and we are enjoying letting the birds out to be fully free range again. Similarly, we can go back to sharing our eggs in return for donations. In case you ever wonder why the eggs sometimes look mucky, there are regulations that prohibit washing because it strips eggs of their natural, anti-bacterial film on the shells. If you'd like to try some school eggs, you can find them in the office foyer. Additionally, our Year R class are currently incubating some eggs and we are hopeful they may start hatching next week, maybe even as early as Tuesday!



Break the Rules Day: Attached with the newsletter is the poster for our eagerly anticipated 'Break the Rules Day' that will take place on Friday next week. The teachers have kept some firm favourites from last year and introduced some new rules that can be broken. Please support this fun fund-raiser to help us reach our target for the barn.

May, the month of Mary: Thank you to the families who joined me to pray a decade of the rosary this morning. It is a lovely way to start the school day, especially during May, when we particularly remember Our Lady. I look forward to a further celebration of Mary on Thursday next week when Year 2 will lead their Marian procession with their families.

Updated Key Dates: there are 2 small changes to the key dates for this term linked to Father's Day, which will be recognised on 18th and 19th June (rather than 11th and 12th). An updated list is attached with today's newsletter.

The summer term is always busy so I hope you have a chance to rest and relax this bank holiday weekend before the final 3 weeks of this half term. It is flying by so quickly!

With best wishes,
Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

Monday 4th May
Bank Holiday - school closed

Wednesday 6th May
Y1 Trip to Sir Harold Hillier
Garden Centre
Y3 Horse riding

Thursday 7th May, 2.15pm
Y2 Marian Procession

Friday 8th May
Adoptive Parents' Network Meeting
Break the Rules Day!

w/c 11th May
Y6 KS2 SATs Week

Thursday 14th May, 6.00pm
New Year R (in Sept) parents' evening

Friday 15th May
Praying the rosary, 8.15am
YR trip to Percy's Farm
Y5 Outdoor Learning & Tree Climbing
Y6 Pizza lunch (courtesy of the PSA)
YR moving to Y1 parent briefing, 3pm

Our Sign of the Week:



Useful emails:

PSA email address:
stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com

PSA 2nd hand uniform
uniform@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk

Guinea Pig waiting list email:
guinea.pigs@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk

Working together to improve attendance:

Attendance figures for the week commencing 20th April:

Whole School 96.8%

Year R 97.0% **Year 1** 96.7% **Year 2** 99.7%

Year 3 97.2% **Year 4** 92.7% **Year 5** 99.3% **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 04/05/2026

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	Dodgeball Club	3.00pm – 5.00pm	Yr2 – Yr6	<i>Dodgeball_club@outlook.com</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:

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

Tuesday 5th May after 9.30am Mass - Grandparent's Prayer Group, led by Dcn Brian Stoker.

An opportunity for grandparents to pray for their children and grandchildren, followed by further prayer for grandparents and the elderly.

Saturday 9th May, 3pm - 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.

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

Thursday 14th May, 7.30pm - Feast Day of the Ascension

St Margaret Mary will be hosting a pastoral area Mass to celebrate

Fr Ansel will be away from the Parish from 21st May to 4th June.

Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 531](#)



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 for more details or to book a personal tour.

Egg boxes

We are in need of empty egg boxes for our chicken and duck eggs that are once again available from the school office. Any boxes can be left in the school office.

Thank you for your support



Weekly Certificates

Headteacher's Awards:

Year 6

Sammy

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Josh For his positive approach to learning and revision and for being a dependable, respectful and hardworking member of our St. Anthony's community. In his role as Assembly Prefect, Josh is well organised and takes his responsibilities seriously. He demonstrates strong leadership, kindness and resilience, living out the values of Catholic Social Teaching and inspiring others through his determination, work ethic and ability to overcome challenges.

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Patrick	For being an excellent role model to all of your friends
Year R	Sofia	For always quietly making the right choices and being helpful in class
Year 1	Lana	For always being a kind and positive member of the St Anthony's community
Year 2	Zachary	For letting his lights shine and being a kind friend to all
Year 3	Archie	For shining God's love through your joyful energy and the way you make others smile
Year 4	Ellis	For his resilience, bravery and consistent positivity
Year 5	Kian	For his caring, thoughtful heart that always guides him to do what is right
Year 6	Sammy	For showing super resilience in your learning and following Jesus' example by treating others with love while always trying your best

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Clara	Year 3	Penny
Year R	William	Year 4	Anna Grace
Year 1	Bella	Year 5	Ella
Year 2	Isaac	Year 6	Collette

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.

We would like to thank the following families for their kind donations this week:

Karagoz family

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Supporting our local food bank

If you are able to help, the following items have been particularly requested:

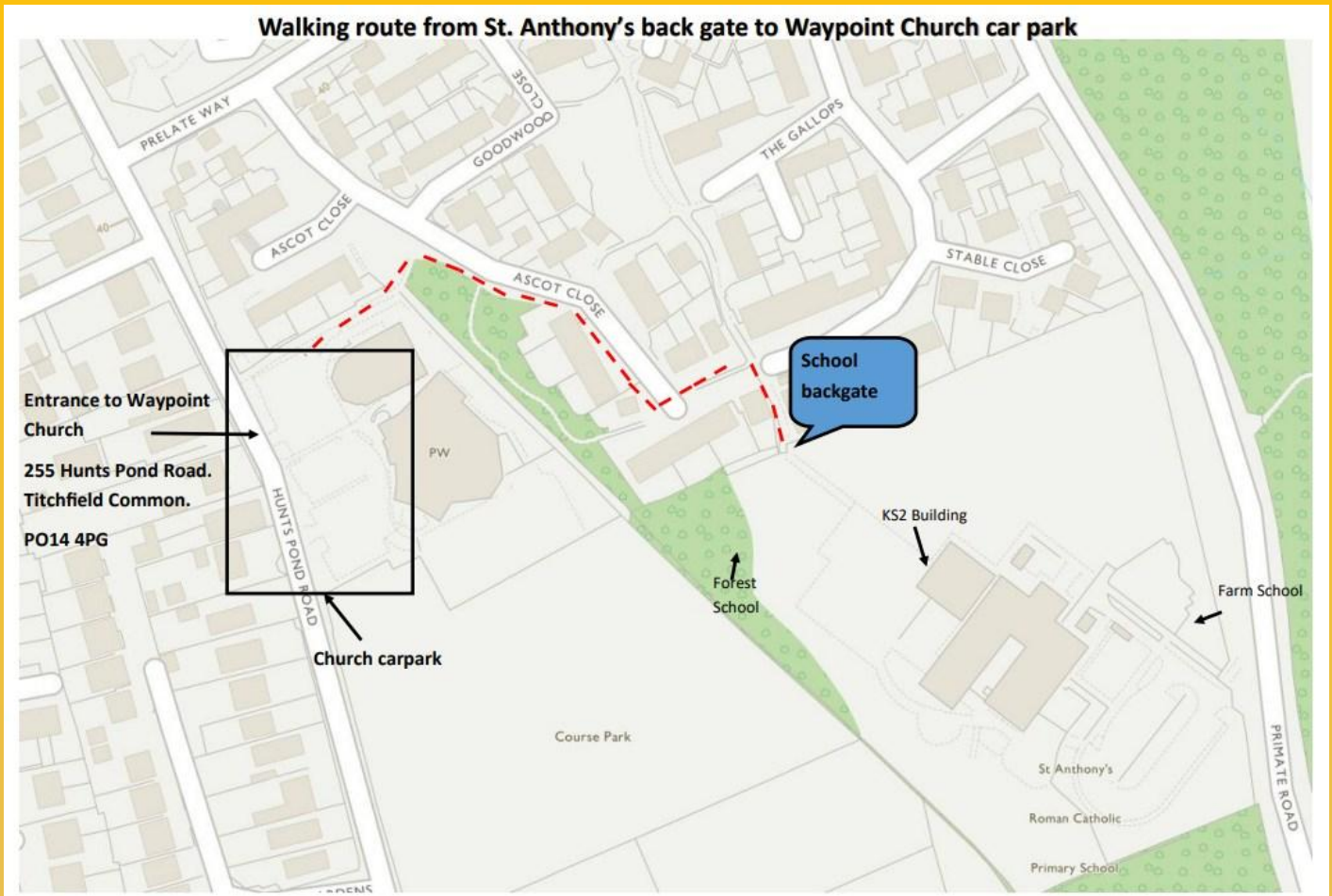
Cereals, biscuits, jams, tea, coffee, pasta sauces, tinned vegetables (especially tomatoes and sweetcorn), tinned fruit/puddings, rice, sugar, tinned soup, tinned tuna.

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

