



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 28 - 24 April 2026



Note from the Headteacher

Dear families,

Our Year 4 class had a wonderful 3-day residential at Stubbington Study Centre this week. I visited them on Wednesday morning and they were full of stories of the outdoor learning and fun they had shared. Thank you to the parents for supporting this residential and the Y4 teaching team for making it such a special, memorable week for the children.

Government banning phones in schools: There has been considerable media coverage this week, following the government's announcement that their existing phone guidance will become statutory. I welcome this decision, although I share the concerns of many that there is more to be done to protect our children from online dangers beyond the gates of schools. Although the announcement has the strongest impact on secondary schools, I would like to clarify that St Anthony's has been a phone-free school for many years. Whilst we allow children in Years 5 & 6 to bring a phone to school if they are walking home independently, the phones have to be switched off when pupils arrive at school and they are handed in to teachers for the school hours. When there is a medical need for a device (eg for a diabetic child), then phones are permitted but these are locked down for all purposes other than the medical apps. This announcement does not significantly change what we are already doing but I really encourage families to use this opportunity to carefully consider options before giving children a hand-me-down smartphone.

Our half-termly safeguarding newsletters regularly provide advice about the importance of close supervision of children's online activities. This is a good opportunity to think about your child's use of devices with internet access, so please reflect on:

How much time does my child spend on the internet/apps? What are they playing/doing when they are on a screen? Do I always know what they're doing? Can I always see the screen if I want to? If you don't already, consider a 'no devices in bedrooms' rule to give you greater oversight.

Uniform: It is lovely to see children beginning to wear the summer uniform, although the chilly wind this week may be holding some of you back from making the switch. Please can I make a plea for your cooperation with other aspects of uniform expectations? Nail polish, make-up and jewellery is not permitted at school. A plain stud earring (gold, silver or black) can be worn but pupils need to be able to remove or cover earrings with micropore tape for PE lessons. Thank you for your support with this.

Earth Day: Wednesday's Earth Day included an hour of 'no electricity' when classrooms turned off the lights and the interactive whiteboard. Is this something worth trying at home?

Forest and Farm School: We've replaced the log circles in our forest and farm schools with some lovely new seats for the children. Thank you to EGD Services Ltd, local tree surgeons, who have kindly sawn and donated the logs to the school. We have enough for two buddy classes to enjoy these wonderful outdoor spaces together!



With best wishes for the sunny weekend,
Mrs Straker

Important Dates:

Wednesday 29th April, morning
Y3 Horse riding

Wednesday 29th April, 3pm
Y2 Assessment Information meeting

Thursday 30th April
Y5 trip to the local woods

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

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, 9.15am
Adoptive Parents' Network Meeting

Our Sign of the Week:



Spring

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 13th April:

Whole School 94.7%

Year R 99.0% **Year 1** 84.3% **Year 2** 95.3%

Year 3 97.8% **Year 4** 94.8% **Year 5** 92.5% **Year 6** 98.2%

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 27/04/2026

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	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	Returns 06/05/2026	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

Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 530](#)



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.



Weekly Certificates

Headteacher's Awards:

Year R	Zosia	
Year 2	Leo P	
Year 6	Rosie	Maxi

Year 6 Exemplary Pupil of the week:

Corey For his positive attitude to learning and revision and for being a respectful, hardworking and reliable role model within the St. Anthony's community. As Assisi House Captain, Corey demonstrates leadership, kindness, resilience and a strong commitment to our school values

St Anthony's Mission Stars:

Preschool	Pippa	For always being a wonderful role model to all of your friends
Year R	Hugh	For always trying his best and approaching everything with a positive attitude
Year 1	Albie	For enjoying learning and making others smile with his kindness
Year 2	Hannah	For sharing her talents, especially in art, to bring joy to others
Year 3	Percy	For always showing enthusiasm in his learning and spreading kindness while doing so
Year 4	Harrison	For his consistently kind, calm and positive attitude towards all areas of school life
Year 5	Edwin	For quietly living out our Gospel values each day through his kindness and generous heart
Year 6	Isobel	For her positive attitude towards revision and for living her faith through kindness, respect and care for others

St Anthony's Awesome Learners:

Preschool	Kit	Year 3	Eva
Year R	Daisy	Year 4	Joshua
Year 1	Everly	Year 5	Lucas
Year 2	Arlo	Year 6	Aoife

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:

Cardy 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

