



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 01 - 05 September 2025

### Note from the Headteacher

Dear families

I have really enjoyed seeing our school full of children once again. It has been lovely to hear about everyone's summer holiday adventures and we are looking forward to the busy term ahead. I offer a warm welcome to our new families and I hope your children settle quickly into our lovely school.

**Welcome to our new staff:** This week, we have welcomed 3 new teachers: Mrs Rogers in Year 6, Miss Clarke in Year 3 and Miss Wilson in Year 2. We have also welcomed Mrs Couzens and Miss Williams to our LSA team and Mrs Cheater to our MDSA team. Hopefully, you had the chance to meet our new staff at the Meet the Teacher meetings this week; we have 3 more taking place next week (see the dates opposite).

**HSBC Volunteers:** Shortly after we broke up in July, we were lucky enough to have a team of volunteers from HSBC Bank who came to smarten up our school grounds. They kindly painted our playground shelters, prayer garden, PE shed and preschool garden and furniture. I attach a photo (page 3) of the fantastic team, led by Mrs Taylor's husband.

**Playground equipment:** I am pleased to confirm that work will begin in October to repair and replace some of the damaged trim trails on the key stage 1 and 2 playgrounds. Some of the equipment is still under warranty but for the older trim trail, I am very grateful to the PSA who have agreed to fund the repairs. Until the work has been completed, the trim trails will continue to be taped off to keep our children safe.

**New bike shelter:** I am also delighted to confirm that we have a new covered bike shelter coming soon to our playground so that families who cycle or scoot to the back gate will have more space to leave their bikes during the school day. We hope this will encourage children to opt for an active journey to school as often as possible.

**Growing St Anthony's family:** We warmly welcome baby Naila, a new little sister to Reema and Rania, who was born during the summer holiday. Congratulations to all the family; I can't wait to meet her.

**New uniform logo:** In response to feedback, we have made a change to the school logo for uniform, opting for a cross inside the St Anthony's lettering rather than the St Anthony figure as this requires less stitching. We hope it will be more comfortable to wear. As we use up old uniform stock, you will notice the new logo on some items of clothing. The main St Anthony's logo remains unchanged and will continue to be used for our website and publications; it is only uniforms that will carry the new logo.

**Reading Challenge:** Please see the letter attached with this newsletter regarding our exciting new Reading Challenge. A huge thank you to Miss Johnson, our Reading Lead, for putting this together, as well as our very talented Miss Tudgey, who has produced the beautiful artwork that will be accompanying the Reading Challenge; it looks fantastic and I have no doubt our children will be keen to 'travel around the world' this year!

Hopefully, this shorter week has eased your children back into school routines and you have something fun planned for the weekend. We are looking forward to welcoming our whole new Year R class on Monday, when all 30 will be in together for the first time.

With best wishes, Mrs Straker

### Important Dates:

**Mon 8th September**

Whole of YR's 1st day of school  
Y4 Meet the Teacher, 3.15pm

**Tues 9th September**

Y5 Meet the Teacher, 3.15pm

**Weds 10th September**

Preschool Meet the Teachers, 3.15pm

**Fri 12th September**

Y1 Superhero Dress Up Day

**Weds 17th September**

ELSA Parent Drop In Morning

**Fri 19th September**

YR Phonics Information Meeting, 3pm

**Tues 23rd September**

Y3 visit to Gunwharf & Spinnaker Tower

**Weds 24th September**

British Values Afternoon

**Fri 26th September**

Y2 visit to Fort Nelson  
YR Maths Information Meeting, 3pm

### Our Sign of the Week:



### Useful emails:

**2nd hand uniform email:**

[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:

**Final attendance figures for the previous academic year (2024-25):**

**Whole School** 96.5%

**Year R** 94.8%      **Year 1** 97.4%      **Year 2** 96.8%

**Year 3** 96.8%      **Year 4** 96.0%      **Year 5** 96.4%      **Year 6** 97.0%

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 08/09/2025

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	COMMENTS
Monday	French Club	12.30pm – 1.00pm Returns 15/09/2025	Yr1 and Yr2	<a href="mailto:helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk">helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</a>
Monday	Art and Craft Club	3.00pm - 4.00pm	YrR - Yr6	<a href="mailto:sarah_silvestri@hotmail.co.uk">sarah_silvestri@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Monday	Football with CM Sports	3.00pm - 4.15pm	Yr1 - Yr6	<a href="mailto:info@cmsports.co.uk">info@cmsports.co.uk</a>
Tuesday	Drama	3.00pm - 5.00pm	YrR - Yr6	<a href="mailto:superstarsportsuk@gmail.com">superstarsportsuk@gmail.com</a>
Tuesday	Drawing club	3.15pm - 4.15pm	YR5 and YR6 ONLY	<a href="mailto:FoxArtTeaching@outlook.com">FoxArtTeaching@outlook.com</a>
Wednesday	French Club	12.30pm – 1.00 pm Returns 15/09/2025	Yr2 – Yr4	<a href="mailto:helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk">helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</a>
Wednesday	Gymnastics	3.00pm - 4.00pm	YrR - Yr6	<a href="mailto:superstarsportsuk@gmail.com">superstarsportsuk@gmail.com</a>
TBC	School Football Team	3.15pm - 4.15pm RETURNING SOON	Yr4 - Yr6	Mrs Marshman via the school office
TBC	School Netball Team	3.15pm - 4.15pm RETURNING SOON	Yr4 - Yr6	Mrs Read via the school office
Thursday	French Club	12.30pm – 1.00 pm Returns 15/09/2025	Yr5 and Yr6	<a href="mailto:helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk">helen@butterflylanguages.co.uk</a>
Thursday	Choir	3.00pm - 4.15pm	Yr2 - Yr6	Ms Reid via school office
Thursday	ComputerXplorers	3.00pm - 4.15pm	Yr1 - Yr6	<a href="http://computerexplorers.co.uk/portsmouth/book/">computerexplorers.co.uk/portsmouth/book/</a>
Thursday	Jamz Street Dance	3.00pm - 4.00pm	YrR - Yr6	<a href="mailto:jamzdance@live.co.uk">jamzdance@live.co.uk</a>
Friday	Dodgeball Club	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Yr2 - Yr6	<a href="mailto:Dodgeball_club@outlook.com">Dodgeball_club@outlook.com</a>

### Catholic Life - our Parish and our Diocese

#### News from St Margaret Mary Parish:

Fr Ansel will be away from Friday 19th to Thursday 25th of September.

Sunday Masses will take place as usual.

#### First Holy Communion Programme 2026

(Applicable for Year 4 and above)

Applications for the FHC programme for 2026 are now invited.

The programme is a commitment of 20 weeks. The classes are held on a Saturday morning between 10-11am. It is also important that applicants regularly attend Mass.

Please contact the office at [office@stmargaretmary.co.uk](mailto:office@stmargaretmary.co.uk) for an application form.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 28th September 2025.



#### Diocesan e-news

[Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 501](#)

### Ready Steady Read

We hope your child has had a wonderful summer of reading adventures through our Ready, Steady, Read challenge! Just a quick reminder that Sponsored Read forms, book choices and any sponsorship money (or online payments) are due back by Friday 12th September.

Every contribution helps your child choose books to keep and supports our school in receiving bonus Usborne books to enrich our library.

Thank you again for championing reading for pleasure.

We can't wait to see the wonderful books your children have chosen!

### St Anthony's PSA

PSA email address:

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

#### Save the Date:

**Saturday 8th November 2025:**

St Anthony's Fireworks Display

*Thank you for your continued support!*



**Thank you to the HSBC team of volunteers for their wonderful work in the summer holidays:**



**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 during the summer term in the boxes in our entrance foyer.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

