



St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

A Voluntary Academy



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Headteacher: Mrs C Fox, B.Ed., M.Sc., NPQH

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Dear Parents and Carers

Half-term is upon us already and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a relaxing break, but I wish to reflect on some of the high points from September and October.

Today we say a farewell to our incredible cook, Mrs Shields who, after 22 years of dedicated service, feeding more than 700 children and staff on a daily basis (that's a lot of dinners!), has decided to hang up her apron and take time to look after herself, her family and her garden.

Mrs Shields has been planning to retire for the past five years but her tenacity, integrity and commitment to the school have led her to postpone her retirement date several times. I would like to say a big 'Thank You' for her commitment to the children of St Anthony's and for staying on until I became familiar with the school. During the short time I have been at St Anthony's I have seen first-hand how she goes above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis and the school will not be the same without her.
Mrs Shields: we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

We also bid farewell to our Parish Priest Father Murray, who will be celebrating his long and dedicated service to the priesthood tonight, starting with Mass at 7:30pm. Today the children gave him thank you gifts in Assembly which commemorated his time at St Anthony's. Fr Michael has agreed to come and see us as often as he can and we hope he will continue to celebrate Mass with us in the school Chapel.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C P Fox
Headteacher

Reception Class News

Children in Reception have had a busy and exciting half term learning, among other things, Super Speedy Sounds which they have been trying hard to write down every day.



The children learnt about Harvest and donated many items for the Harvest baskets. Our story *Handa's Surprise* taught them a lot about fruit and they created fruit prints

which were displayed and sold in the **Art Gallery** earlier this week.

The children have been to the Chapel with the school Chaplain and also with the teachers, and they have started PE lessons with Mrs Lindsey and Mr Stevens on Thursdays.

Next half term will see the children reading a book called *Funny Bones* before moving on to the Christmas story and their own production of the Nativity.



*"Journeying together with Jesus Christ
We learn to love and love to learn"*

Year 1 News

Year 1 have been enjoying lessons with KoolKeys who teach music, singing and dancing. The favourite parts of the lesson is marching along the giant floor piano and going on the animal safari looking for animals that make high and low sounds.

Year 1 have been very lucky to have coaches from Manchester United join them on Tuesday mornings. Each day the children practise different ball skills ranging from balancing, throwing, catching, bouncing and skipping. Some pupils have improved so much already that they have been chosen for a special award!

Year 2 News

Year 2 children are meeting their new challenges head on, learning about Florence Nightingale in History lessons, Healthy Living in Science and about Claude Monet in Art.



The children have really enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale's life and making comparisons between the conditions of the hospitals in the past and the present. They have researched Scutari Hospital,

discovering what it must have been like for the injured soldiers and for the nurses working there. The children planned and wrote an extended piece of writing to recount the significant events in the life of Florence Nightingale.

This term we have also been learning about being healthy, discussing healthy eating and the importance of exercise for the body. A highlight for the children was designing and making their own healthy sandwich. YUM!

Our Art topic this term focused on the work of Claude Monet. The children showed great interest studying and recreating some of Claude Monet's most famous pieces. Their final paintings were displayed and sold at our Art Gallery, much their delight!

We anticipate many more fun and exciting events to share with you over the coming year.

Year 3 News

Year 3 have started a Times Table Challenge. Mrs Fox will be awarding badges and stickers for children who know their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables by heart.

For reading, the children are encouraged to share their favourite books with their class.

Year 5 News

This half-term in Year 5 we have been learning all about the Ancient Greeks. Ancient Greece is often seen as the birthplace of Western civilisation and is responsible for many famous philosophers, important literature and even the Olympics! In order to understand what Ancient Greece was really like for the people that lived there, we investigated the food that the Ancient Greeks would have eaten and made a Greek salad using ingredients only grown or produced in Greece. Using feta cheese, lemon juice, vegetables and the all-important olive oil, we were able to make a healthy salad that would have been eaten in the city-states of Athens and Sparta thousands of years ago.



Sporting Highlights

Our Year 6 footballers have made a superb start to the season with 4 wins out of 4. We started off in style with a 16-0 victory over Benchill, followed by a 7-0 win over our neighbours from Ringway. We followed this up with a 14-0 triumph over St Elizabeth's and an 8-1 derby victory over The Willows.

Well done to all the team!

Other News and Notices

The **Pop Project** came into assembly on 28th September to talk about British Values. The children were engaged, learned a lot and enjoyed their sessions.

Mrs Fox received a note from the Pop Project team to say that they also enjoyed visiting our "lovely school", saying "it really was a pleasure to work with such enthusiastic and well-behaved pupils. It was great to see everyone joining in and having fun. The teachers were awesome, too!"

Every Minute Counts



If a child is five minutes late every day, they will have accumulated three days of absence by the end of the year. Ten minutes would be 6½ days, 15 minutes would be ten days, and missing 30 minutes a day would add up to a surprising 20 days or four weeks of absence.

School starts at 8:55am, NOT at 9:00am!!!

A letter will be sent to all parents introducing a new attendance initiative called *Attendance and Punctuality Bears* after half term. This initiative will require everybody to be in school every day and arrive on time every day.

Bikes and Scooters

May we ask that parents of children who attend early morning clubs make sure the children do not bring bikes or scooters into school. Unfortunately they are being left outside where they are blocking the Junior entrance.

Cashless Payments

If anyone has difficulties in using the cashless payment system SIMS Agora, please contact the Main Office for assistance. This payment method can now be used to pay for school trips as well as for school dinners.

Thank You!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Macmillan coffee morning on 27th September. Together we raised enough money to send a cheque for £1,000 to support the Macmillan nurses.



Harvest

Harvest Mass was celebrated on 30th September and an impressive 80 food parcels were distributed. A huge thank you to all parents, children and staff for being so generous with your time and donations.

Art Gallery and Picture Sale

We have just finished counting the proceeds from the picture sale which totals a whopping £1,033!



Dates for the Diary

Parents are kindly reminded that the school calendar is displayed on the website where you will be able to access up to date information. The school will no longer issue letters automatically for every event unless detailed information or permissions are needed by parents or the school.

School starts again on Monday 31st October.

Mass for All Saints will be celebrated in Church for KS1 and KS2 on 1st November at 9:30am.

The Dog Trust will visit Year 5 on Thursday 3rd and Year 4 on Friday 4th November.

“Operation Treacle” **Fire Service** visit to school on Friday 4th November.

Year 5 **WOW Science sessions** at St Paul's High School on 9th, 15th and 23rd November.

The **school choir** will sing at the Life Style Centre at 11:45am on Thursday 10th November at an event organised by the Airport. Some of the children's artwork will also be exhibited at this event.

Fireworks Display in the school grounds on Thursday 10th November at 5:00pm. Entry will be via the Culmure Road gates only. Please buy your tickets as soon as possible from Mrs Simmons in the Main Office.

Year 6 **Outward Bound** week at Ullswater, 21st to 25th November.

Road Safety week 21st – 25th November.

Sunday 27th November – **Christmas Fair** in school after Mass. We will be collecting bottles of wine for the Tombola and we will repeat the popular *Name The Teddy* competition so if you have any teddies you can spare, please bring them into school.

Tuesday 29th November – Year 6 will have a morning with the **Parliamentary Education Service**.

KS2 Panto *The Pirates Who Saved Christmas* at the Forum on 2nd December, courtesy of Manchester Airport.

Assessment week is from 5th to 9th December.

5th, 6th, and 9th December **Awe and Wonder** days organised by the Chaplains at St Paul's for Year 4 children.

Friday 9th December 9:15am **Nativity performed by Reception Class** in the Hall, followed by our **Christmas Café**.

On 12th December the **school choir** will perform Christmas Carols at the Life Style Centre.

Tuesday 13th December is party day and the **KS1 Christmas Show** will be performed at 9:30am and again on Wednesday 14th December at 2:00pm.

The **KS2 Christmas Show** will take place on Thursday 15th December at 9:15am.

School Clubs will be organised at the start of the new half term.

Friday 16th December is the last day of term.

The spring term will commence on Wednesday 4th January 2017 at 8:55am.

School Uniform

Boys	Girls	PE
Burgundy V-neck jumper	Burgundy V-neck jumper or cardigan	Burgundy shorts and black jogging pants
Long grey trousers	Grey skirt or pinafore	Sky-blue polo shirt
Sky-blue shirt	Sky-blue shirt	Grey or black pumps and trainers
Black shoes	Black shoes	
School tie	School tie	
	Plain grey tights or grey socks	