



St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

A Voluntary Academy



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Dear Parents and Carers

Can you believe we are now half way through this academic year? Already the days are longer and the crocuses and primulas are visible, telling us that spring is just around the corner.

As always, this half term has been very busy and we would like to share with you some of the highlights. Why not make a cup of tea and spend a few minutes finding out what the children at St Anthony's have been up to.

I wish you a relaxing break and look forward to seeing the children back in a week's time refreshed and ready for another busy half term.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C P Fox
Headteacher



Year 1 News

On Thursday 9th February, Year 1 headed to **Whitworth Art Gallery**. When we arrived we were greeted by 3 artists who were eager to show us their work.

Miss Holding's class took part in a drawing workshop where they looked at different pencil grips and experimented with mark making. Miss Jones' class enjoyed a textile workshop using different fabrics to create portraits. Miss Simmons' class took part in a printing workshop with an artist called Alan who was very keen to inspire more boys to become artists in the future.

After a lovely lunch, we collected our sketch books and went to explore the rest of the gallery. We were incredibly lucky as an exhibition of Andy Warhol's work was on show. We loved the bright colours he used and some of us had a go at creating our own Andy Warhol-inspired work. Year 1 had a fantastic day and were very pleased to hear that the art gallery is free to visit! During half term, there are lots of free workshops for children. Why not pop down and spend the day as an artist!

Year 2 News

Another busy and enjoyable half term in Year 2. Our **History trip to Staircase House** was both informative and enjoyable. The events of the **Great Fire of London** were brought to life through music, drama and art. All the children dressed up as characters from that time and re-enacted the days leading up to and after the fire. We all had a wonderful time and the children produced some excellent recounts of the day.

A huge thank you to all our parents who helped the children design and make some very detailed replicas of Tudor houses; these are all displayed in either our classrooms or the corridors. We have earned lots of positive comments from everyone who has seen them.

In addition to the trip, we had the **Puzzle Company** visit school and work with the children on problem solving and team work. They thoroughly enjoyed this and have already applied what they learnt to problem solving in class.

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

This half term we have been learning about animals, life cycles and food chains. The children especially enjoyed watching a documentary about the life cycle of a butterfly. They showed a keen interest throughout the topic and have learnt lots of new information about animals.

Our topic for RE has been 'Miracles', and we learnt the stories of Jairus' Daughter, The Ten Lepers and the Feeding of the 5,000. The children created a beautiful display in our classrooms.

Thank you to all who came to the Reading Workshops earlier this half term, they were well attended and we received very positive feedback. Some of you had the opportunity to observe part of a Read, Write, Inc. lesson and hopefully this gave you ideas of how to engage your children in reading at home.

Year 3 News

The Year 3 children had a thoroughly enjoyable trip to **Manchester Airport**. We arrived by tram at 9:30am and we were greeted by members of staff who worked in different areas of the airport. The children were given the opportunity to solve lots of Maths problems to do with weight. They weighed different items and even worked on the check-in desks weighing different suitcases and pieces of luggage.



The children thoroughly enjoyed designing their own airline, making hats and uniforms and even coming up with a

name for their airline.

The children were exceptionally good and everyone had a fantastic time.

Year 4 News

Year 4 have had a jam packed half term: a massive push on times tables has resulted in some children being awarded times tables badges, we have been on two school trips, one to **Manchester Airport** to do some luggage weighing to learn about weights and measures, and the other to **The Museum of Science and Industry** to understand more about



electricity!

Reading is taking on a life of its own and children are devouring book after book with the reading for pleasure scheme!

We have also really enjoyed our weekly singing lessons with Mr Goodwin and are working hard on our harmonies for a Disney medley!

The **Young Voices** concert was a huge success with ten children from Year 4 taking part and thoroughly enjoying the evening.

Year 5 News

Over this-half term, Year 5 have learned about World War Two. In our DT lessons each class followed a recipe to make biscuits using rationed ingredients. We also read a book called *Rose Blanche*, about a young girl living in Germany during WW2. Using this story, everyone wrote a story about their own character in London during the Blitz, using many types of descriptive sentences. We will continue learning about World War Two next half term and we are looking forward to our trip to the Air Raid Shelters in Stockport.

Olivia O'Rourke and Isabelle Shorthall, Year 5.

Sports Results

Our Year 6 footballers were unbeaten in the MFCF Primary Schools Tournament at the Etihad Campus this week. They won three matches and drew one to win their group and go through to the final round on 1st March. Well done to all the team: Rylan Griffin, Brandon Ly, Pablo Andarias, Mason Cooke, Taylor Lowe, Sean Doyle, James Best and Aleks Myszk.

Other News and Notices

Thank you to all the parents who came along to our **Resolution to Read** event this half-term. It was a huge success and the children thoroughly enjoyed listening to and engaging with some of their favourite stories. You can continue to support our *Resolution to Read* by reading regularly at home with your child and preparing for our **Where's Wally World Book Day** on **Thursday 2nd March**.

We are also very pleased that so many parents attended the Reading and Read, Write Inc. workshops this half-term, enabling them to gain an understanding of how reading is taught in school and how they can help at home. We hope the workshops were informative and supportive and have made reading at home an pleasurable activity for all involved. We will organise similar workshops throughout the year



so if you were not able to attend this half-term, look out for the new dates in the next newsletter.

Maths Challenges

Children from Reception to Year 6 have enjoyed taking part in the **Puzzle Company Workshops** recently. They developed many skills, including team work, problem solving and thinking skills.

Children in KS2 have undertaken a times tables



challenge and the top three children from each class will play off against each other this week to find our Times Tables Champions!

There will be more times tables challenges coming for KS2 soon. Watch this space!

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day took place nationally on Tuesday 7th February and, here at St Anthony's, we made sure that the issue of keeping safe on the Internet was again highlighted in school. Throughout the day teachers spoke to the children about their use of the Internet and assemblies were held for both KS1 and KS2. The children were informed how to stay safe on the Internet, "stranger danger" and the use of social media.

Two presentations took place, giving parents the opportunity to come into school and learn more about the safer Internet message, how we approach it in school and general advice on keeping their children safe on the Internet.

If any parents would like further advice or would like to attend this presentation but were unable to do so on the day, please contact the School Office as if there is enough interest we will arrange to repeat the presentation.

Display Boards

The children have been working hard to produce a wide range of fantastic displays around school. The displays celebrate the children's hard work in art, literacy, history, geography, science and mathematics. The displays are very interesting and informative for everyone to see.



Every Minute Counts

Please can we remind all parents that pupils are expected to have a high level of attendance and we are always aiming for 100%! **School starts at 8.55am every day** and we would ask that you ensure your child is in school by that time.

We would also ask parents not to book holidays during term time. If leave is required due to exceptional circumstances, a written request will have to be made to Mrs Fox, Headteacher.

Remember every day in school is important!

Cashless Payments

If anyone still 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!

A Dress for Digits Day was held in support of the **NSPCC** and we raised £337.60 towards their valuable work. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity!

School Kitchen

We are very pleased to announce that our school Kitchen has this week been awarded a Grade 5 for cleanliness by the local authority. This is a great result and we are very proud of our new Cook who has settled so well into Mrs Shields' old shoes.



Breakfast Club Funding

We recently secured some valuable funding from **Greggs Foundation** and their business partner **Chiesi** which has enabled the school to offer more places to pupils in the Breakfast Club.

Parking near the school

We know that many parents walk to school with their children and we thank you for doing so, as it significantly reduces the traffic congestion in the vicinity of the school.

Unfortunately, we have again received complaints from residents on Portway as well as other areas about blocked driveways and inconsiderate parking.

Please can parents walk their children to school as often as possible and give consideration to our neighbours if you do have to drive to school.

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.

Today, Friday 17th February is the last day of the current half term.

The second Spring half term will commence on Monday 27th February 2017 at 8:55am.

Nursery Open Afternoon on Monday 27th February: at 1:30pm and again at 5:00pm

for parents with Nursery-age children to visit the school and view our facilities.

Tuesday 28th February: Book Swap and Sale Day to raise funds for the school Library.

Wednesday 1st March is Ash Wednesday.

Thursday 2nd March is World Book Day and children will be allowed to dress up as characters from the Where's Wally books or just their own favourite stories.

Monday 6th March will be the start of Punctuality Week and we expect all children to make sure they arrive in school on time. The gates will close at 8:55am.

Tuesday 7th March will see a Roman Soldier visiting Year 3 pupils.

On **Thursday 9th March** there will be "Mad Scientist" assemblies during the day for the pupils and it will also be **Parents' Evening**.

Sunday 12th March there will be an Acceptance Mass in Church for the children who are on the Sacramental Programme.

Monday 13th March will see the start of Assessment Week.

Tuesday 14th March will be exciting with an all-day Science Fair taking place in school.

Year 5 will be visiting the Stockport Air Raid Shelter on **15th and 16th March**.

There will be lots of sporting activities also, please keep an eye on the web calendar.

Good Friday is on 14th April and that will be the first day of our Easter Holiday.