



St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

A Voluntary Academy



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

10th April 2017

Dear Parents, Pupils, Staff and Governors

As we look forward to our Easter celebrations and the end of term holiday, we also reflect on the previous half term and all that the children have done and achieved. Before you go on to read about this, I would like to inform you that Mr Knight will be moving schools within the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust to St Elizabeth's. As part of the multi-academy trust, Mr Knight will still work closely with St Anthony's and I would like to thank him for the work he has done at St Anthony's and wish him well in his new post at St Elizabeth's.



Thank you to all the parents who got into the spirit of things on World Book Day! We had lots of Wallys but we also had some very creative costumes and characters from the *Where's Wally* series of books – impressive! The children were very enthusiastic and demonstrated a real love of reading and perseverance with the challenges they were set.

The internet is an incredible resource and an amazing environment for children to learn, be creative, play with friends and socialise, but there are risks. If you require help or information about how to keep your children safe on the internet, please let your child's class teacher know.



Finally, I would like to remind you that school will finish after everybody has had lunch at 1:00pm on Thursday 13th April - have a happy and peaceful Easter break!

Mrs C P Fox
Headteacher

Big News! Hockey Team Success

The Greater Manchester School Games: At the opening ceremony at Eastlands SportCity Stadium Nicola Whyte of the 2016 Olympic winning England Women's hockey team officially opened the Winter Games in front of an audience of over 1000 athletes, officials and supporters. Twenty teams from all Greater Manchester boroughs fought for the GM title. Manchester Champions, St Anthony's, were the dark horse in this Level 3 GM Final. What this budding team lacked in experience they made up with sheer guts and determination. Mr Stevens, Head Coach, was bowled over by their enthusiasm - one pupil enquired if his hockey stick would fit in the family suitcase so that the pupil could practise whilst on holiday in Poland - such was the level of commitment from St Anthony's team. In the final, they were up against an experienced Bolton team from St Thomas of Canterbury. Undeterred, they fought a tremendous

battle where they did not hold back. They chased every ball, closed players down, defended like their life depended on it. This lionhearted team finished runners up in what proved to be a thrilling final and they should wear their silver medals with pride, safe in the knowledge that gold is just around the corner. Well done St Anthony's!

World Book Day

St Anthony's celebrated World Book Day in stripes and bobble hats, marking the 30-year anniversary of the *Where's Wally* series!

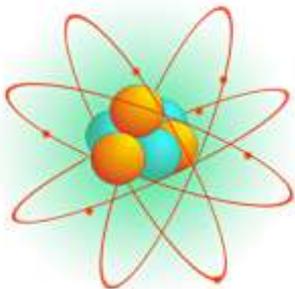


*"Journeying together with Jesus Christ
We learn to love and love to learn"*

Pupils joined in the Great Big Where's Wally Hunt and collected prizes and certificates when they spotted miniature Wallys hiding in the school grounds. Some classes decorated gingerbread Wallys, others put Wally's face on wanted posters and some even created their own Where's Wally scenes! Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and we would like to thank parents for your support as it was clear a great deal of effort had gone into their costumes!



Science Week



On Tuesday 14th March, St Anthony's hosted its very first **Science Fair** and it was a fantastic success! To link up with British Science Week, the theme was 'Change', with each Year Group, from Reception to Year 6, demonstrating some real 'WOW'-factor experiments

and showing off their brilliant scientific knowledge. We had great feedback from parents and governors, who loved listening to what the children had to say. There were secret judges talking to the children and listening to their explanations. The following pupils were voted Star Scientists in their year group:

- Reception – Riva Joyce
- Y1 – Lacey Lannigan
- Y2 – Joleon Vutung
- Y3 – Kayleanna Hannaway
- Y4 – Aidan Jack
- Y5 – Antony Kimeu
- Y6 – Tilly Russell

Thanks to anyone who came down to support the Fair and our children. We can't wait for next year!



Mad Scientist Assembly

During Science Week, we invited the crazy Scientist 'Nitro Neil' into St Anthony's to show us some of his exciting experiments. Each class was able to take part in some big investigations, and everyone who took part learnt something new about different Science topics whilst having lots of fun!

Finlee Hassall in 6LV said: "Nitro Neil showed us how sound travels, and one of my favourite parts was when he made unusual sounds with heat and also using buckets. Everyone was laughing loads."



Shakespeare Week

This term, St Anthony's also went back in time to celebrate the world of

Shakespeare. The week kicked off with the Big Shakespeare Assembly, featuring songs from the musical 'Shakespeare Rocks' (and even some boys in dresses!).

The choir did a fantastic job of learning and performing *Shakespeare Rocks* - a new song written especially for Shakespeare Week 2017! Throughout the week, pupils learnt about the life of William Shakespeare and some of his most famous plays. They explored characters such as Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet, and they had fun writing their own versions of the classics in modern-day language.

Nursery News!

This half term Nursery have enjoyed learning all about Bears. We have listened to lots of Bear stories including *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *We're going on a Bear Hunt*.

We went on a Bear Hunt in the school grounds and were very excited when we found the Bears' cave hidden in the forest!

We now know lots of Bear facts and Nursery was full of paintings and pictures of Bears.

We also had a lot of fun with porridge, putting it into different sized bowls as we learnt about the language of size.



Reception News

The children made pancakes with different toppings for Pancake Tuesday. They also made chocolate crispy cakes and are becoming talented cooks, particularly enjoying the tasting.

The Reception children also went on a bug hunt. They came well prepared wearing their wellies and using a magnifying glass to help them identify the bugs, including worms, slugs, ladybirds and even a centipede. The children then made models of their bugs for the Art display at Manchester Airport.

Year 1 Events



Year 1 have been reading *Supertato!* We couldn't believe it when Evil Pea left a letter in our classroom telling us he'd kidnapped all the carrots. Thank Goodness we were quick to

respond and write back to Evil Pea demanding he let the carrots go! Our writing was fantastic; lots of the vegetable characters came to life in our classroom

telling us of their horrible encounters with Evil Pea. It seems there's a reason some vegetables should be left frozen!

Continuing with our living things theme, we have been observing all kinds of living things from plants to worms and caterpillars! Miss Jones' class have been looking after our wormery, so they are now worm experts and have written the diary of a worm! Miss Holding's class have been growing a range of plants and know how to look after them. Miss Simmons' class have been looking after five caterpillars which are currently at the chrysalis stage. We have everything crossed that they turn into butterflies before the Easter holiday.

Year 2 News

Another eventful and fun half term in Year 2. We visited our local library, **The Forum**. The children had the chance to browse the books on offer and choose a book to bring back to school. They learnt how to find different types of books and were thrilled by the facilities – especially the computers, which they can use free of charge for an hour a day!

The **Quantum Theatre Group** came to school to teach the children about Shape, Space and Measure through drama based on a Star Wars theme. The children were mesmerised, fully enjoying the performance.

In **Science** pupils have been learning about plants and growing. They especially enjoyed planting the sunflower seeds and cannot wait to see them grow. The **RSPB** came and took the children on a nature walk around our school grounds to look for birds and other wildlife. The children were amazed at the number of living creatures they found.

At the **Science Fair** some of our children were chosen to investigate chemical reactions to create Elephant's Toothpaste! All of the children visited the Fair throughout the day to watch various experiments being carried out. The day was a huge success.

We were invited by **Asda** to visit their store to learn all about being healthy. The children were able to taste a variety of fruit and vegetables from around the world, which they thought were delicious! The children found out where their food comes from and what they need to eat for a balanced diet.

During **Lent** we have gathered together in our school Chapel to take part in Lenten reflections, led by our Chaplain. The children thought about the promises they had made and learnt about Jesus' 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. During Holy Week we have planned various activities across the Key Stage to teach the children about the events of Holy Week in a stimulating way. The children have also been learning about Mass and the important signs and symbols in church. We have discussed each part of the Mass and what it means.

Year 3 News

It has been a thoroughly enjoyable and busy half term in Year 3. The children have been working

extremely hard in their preparation for the **Sacramental Programme**.

On Tuesday 7th March, the children received a special visit from two **Roman soldiers Kaius and Maximus** who taught them all about the life of a Roman soldier and the life of a child during the Roman Empire. There was an opportunity to explore Roman dress and to participate in a Roman battle on the playground.

In our **Design Technology** week, the children worked in pairs designing and making their own Roman shields which captured their imagination. The fun did not stop there; we even researched Roman food and the children enjoyed making a special St Anthony's version of Roman Pear Pudding (without the fish sauce!). Yummy!

Year 4 Highlights

A fab half term in Year 4! The children enjoyed presenting the process of the digestive system at the Science Fair - making "poo" made everyone laugh! We are continuing with our weekly singing lessons with Mr Goodwin and getting better each week and are really looking forward to our performance.

We baked delicious scones during our DT cooking week and wrote fantastic Shakespearean spells during Shakespeare week - a well varied and enjoyable half term had by all.

Year 5 Activities

As part of our studies about World War 2, pupils in Year 5 visited the air raid shelters in Stockport. We learned a lot of interesting information about The Second World War and the Blitz.

We went all around the air raid shelters. We even had a blackout test in a private tunnel, and we sang unique songs that people in the shelter would sing in the tunnels at night.

In the afternoon, we looked at different equipment people used during the Second World War. Children and adults had to learn how to wear gas masks in case there was an invasion and very young children wore special gas masks that looked like Mickey Mouse.

Throughout the day, we acted like evacuees and were told that we would visit our new families at the end of the day. Everyone was relieved when we found out this would not happen. We all enjoyed the day but we were very happy to meet our parents again after being an evacuee for the day.

By Zane Corr and Caramia Varey

Year 6 News

Spring term is always very busy for the Year 6 staff and pupils in the lead up to SATs! Everyone is working incredibly hard at the moment and their efforts are definitely paying off. "Well done" to all those children who are getting up early or staying after school for their booster sessions. Keep up the good work... not long to go now!

Lenten Activities with the Chaplains



The Chapel has been buzzing with exciting activities during Lent, including making Lenten crosses, Lenten story cubes and reflecting on the people of the Easter story. Each week different groups of pupils have gathered in the Chapel to think more deeply about Lent and to create a helpful prayer resource to

take home with them.

Year 3 have attended Mass each week, with another year group offering support by sharing the readings. This has given them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with Mass as they prepare for the Sacraments. Years 4 and 5 have taken turns to prepare the readings and reflect upon the Gospel of the day.

Staff have had the opportunity during Lent to gather in the Chapel each Friday before briefing to think about the Gospel of the coming Sunday and pray together. This has been a great chance for some calm before a busy day begins as well as to share in the fellowship of prayer together.



Holy Week in Class

During Holy week we will be taking part in lots of fun and creative activities to help us understand what happened and how significant the events are to us as Catholics. In KS1 we will create stations of the cross using handprints and bake bread to help us learn about Jesus' Last Supper. KS2 are looking at famous paintings which show the events of Holy Week and studying the geography of Jerusalem to track Jesus' movements through the city.

Throughout the week we will meet to gather for Collective Worship, each day we will reflect on what happened to Jesus from Palm Sunday, the Washing of the Feet, the Last Supper and Good Friday.

Maths Theatre Group

The children from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoyed a performance of "**Shape, Space and Desperate Measures**" from the Quantum Theatre Group which, as well as being an adventure story, contained lots of tips and puzzles to help the children remember some aspects of this area of Maths.

Football Team News

The Year 6 footballers reached the Semi-Final of the MCFC Premier League Trophy, losing 1-0 to the eventual winners St Cuthbert's.

Our Nine-a-Side-Team won every game in their league but unfortunately injuries took their toll as we lost to Rackhouse in the knock-out round.

Mr Glynn will be scouting for talent in Years 4 and 5 soon for next year. Watch this space!

The Years 4/5 boys' football team and the Years 4/5 girls' football team played in a competition at the Manchester Football and Tennis Centre. The teams competed against many schools across Manchester. The boys played extremely well and just missed out on a top four finish. The girls' team qualified for the top group and on the final day they finished third in their group. A fantastic effort from both our teams!

The Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 girls' football teams played in a competition at Newall Green High School. The Year 3/4 girls won both of their matches and the Year 5/6 girls drew two matches and lost one in some very close games.

Former St Anthony's pupil **Lukas Nmecha** is making great strides in his football career. He scored six goals in Manchester City's 9-2 aggregate win over Stoke in the FA Youth Cup Semi Final. Mr Glynn and some of the football team went to the Etihad for the first leg where he scored a hat-trick. We wish him all the best for the final.

St Patrick's Day

We enjoyed our annual St Patrick's Day celebrations and all the children wore the colours of the Irish flag to celebrate. Year 5 led the assembly with music and dancing to the fore. Thank you for the donations to charity raised by the Own Clothes Day.



The children have raised £337.60 for the **NSPCC** by taking part in their Maths-related **Number Day**, and the school has received a letter of thanks which the NSPCC has asked us to pass on.

The **Poppy Appeal** from November 2016 raised £438.30 for The Royal British Legion, which again was tremendous and much appreciated.

Information for Parents

Free School Meals

If there are any parents wishing to find out if their children are eligible for free school meals or if they wish to apply for school meals, there is now a way of doing this online without having to wait for paper forms to be exchanged and posted out.

The online application can be accessed via this link: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims/>. Before starting the application, please go to the school website and read the instructions on how to apply. The information is on the **School Meals and Menus** page under the tab called **Parent Information**.

Dinner Money Policy and Cost of School Meals

The Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust has recently agreed its Dinner Money Policy and this document is now displayed on their page on St Anthony's website under the tab "Our School".

The cost of school meals is going up by 3 pence in September from £2.20 to £2.23.

Calling all dads - snap yourself reading!



Manchester is calling on dads across the city to support the **Read Manchester Campaign** by reading with their children. To get involved, all you have to do is find some time to read with your child, snap a selfie whilst reading and

post on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook with #ReadMCR.

Punctuality Week

The recently held punctuality week was a winner for two classes in KS1. Miss Jones' class 1HJ and Mrs Sherry's class 2TS recorded no minutes late to school that week, and each class won £50 to spend on outdoor equipment. They also got the honour of being the first classes to receive the new Punctuality Trophies.

Punctuality monitoring continues in school and every class has the opportunity to win prizes for their class and keep the trophy displayed in their classroom. Please ensure your children don't miss out and are in school on time every day! School starts at 8.55 am!!



Hot off the Press

Please keep an eye open in the papers as St Anthony's pupils have been featured in the *Catholic Universe*, the *Independent Catholic News* and *Wythenshawe World* recently on a variety of subjects such as the Y5 Enterprise Week, Science Fair, Shakespeare Week and Book Week.

Another interesting "high-profile" event is the forthcoming **Art Exhibition at Manchester Airport**, displaying work by our children.

All St Anthony's pupils, from Nursery to Year 6, have produced some fantastic artwork for a display in Terminal 3 at Manchester Airport. Our display is themed around books which each year group have studied this term. The children have been working in a range of media, including paint, clay and fabric, producing work in 2D and 3D. The exhibition will be in the Community Art Gallery and will be open to the public from this week.

School Uniforms

The pupils at **St Paul's High School** will be wearing a smart new uniform in the Autumn Term. The Deputy Head has been to all the primary schools in the Trust to show off the new design. During the visit to St Anthony's, children were able to ask questions and find out the rationale behind the new uniform. One question from our children was: "Will we be getting a new uniform?" My response to this was: "When you go to high school you will have a different uniform." The children were persistent and would not let the prospect of a new uniform be dismissed.

I have asked the School Council to carry out a survey of the pupils and to look at a few designs. There is an awful lot of work to do if a school changes its uniform and a great deal of consideration has to be given to style, colour, cost, value for money, ease of washing, etc. I do not think our pupils realised how time-consuming and difficult it was going to be. However, they have been relentless in their pursuit and resilient when things have not gone to plan. We are still a long way from a conclusion but I will keep you informed of any changes.

Dates for the Diary

- Monday 24th April back to school!
- 1st May is a Bank Holiday (school closed)
- 2nd May class/group photography
- 4th May Polling Day
- 6th and 13th May First Holy Communion
- 8 May SATs and Phonics tests this week
- 25th May Full Governing Body meeting
- 26th May end of Summer Term 1
- 29th May is a Bank Holiday and the start of the Summer half term holiday - two weeks off!
- 12th June school starts again
- 12th/13th June Hearing and Vision Screening for Reception children
- 13th June St Anthony's Feast Day
- Saturday 24th June Summer Fayre
- 6th July School Reports
- 7th July Staff INSET Day – school closed
- 18 and 19 July Sports Day (depending on weather)
- 21 July end of year



The new school year starts again on Wednesday 6th September 2017.



Manchester City Literacy Programme participants on a tour of Etihad Stadium



Happy Easter!

*“Journeying together with Jesus Christ
We learn to love and love to learn”*