



# St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

## A Voluntary Academy



Dunkery Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22 0NT  
Tel: 0161 437 3029, Fax: 0161 436 5953, Email: [admin@st-anthonys.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-anthonys.manchester.sch.uk)

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

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

My first term at St Anthony's has been hectic, exciting and extremely rewarding. I have enjoyed getting to know the staff, children and many members of the school community. I have also experienced a variety of fantastic events from world book day to the hockey tournament at Sport City. It was amazing to see so many of you at parents evening. I know there is so much more to look forward to.



I have been extremely proud of many pupils for their sports prowess or for their remarkable musical or theatrical talents but, most of all, for their good manners, exemplary behaviour and their hard work. The Easter break is a good opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Here are just a few of the many exciting things that have happened over the past six weeks.

### **Breakfast Club**

The new Breakfast Club has been running for three weeks and is proving to be a success. Children are enjoying a healthy, balanced breakfast before taking part in *Wake Up Shake Up* which sets them off for their school day.

Breakfast Club has limited places and is currently by invitation only. If we can raise more interest, we may be able to extend this provision, which would involve a cost of approx. £2 a day, starting at 8.30am.

### **First Steps**

This parent and toddler group has become very popular. It provides opportunities for parents and carers to enhance their child's development through absorbing and challenging activities with the aim to increase their confidence and self-esteem. Parents enjoy these sessions, too!!

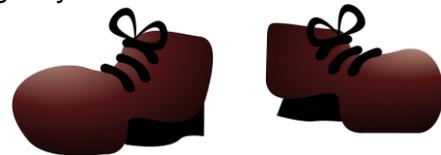
### **Reception**

*Wake up Shake Up* takes place at 8.30 in the morning Monday to Thursday and all children are welcome from Reception to Year 6.

This half term, children have been learning about "minibeasts" and making spiders and cobwebs out of different materials, as well as doing Maths and learning new physical skills with the Shooting Stars team.

### **Year 1**

This term in Year 1 we will be learning how to tie our shoelaces. We have invested in some new learning resources to help us do this in a fun and exciting way.



We hope to see all our Year 1 pupils able to tie their own laces by the time they move up a year. If parents would like to support the children to achieve this at home, there is a free printable shoe template and step-by-step instructions on the *Therapy Fun Zone* website.

### **Year 2**

During Science lessons this term, the children have planted their own sunflower seeds, and they are now keeping a growth diary to record the plants' progress. They are also learning what will happen if the seeds are kept in the dark or are not watered.

The Year 2 children also had an exciting trip to **Manchester Museum** where they learnt everything about dinosaurs. Entry into the museum is free of charge and there are exhibits

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

ranging from ancient Egypt to reptiles and amphibians, insects, fossils and all kinds of pre-historic life, as well as interactive sessions children can make use of during their visit.

### Year 3



In recent weeks the Year 3 children have been busy with preparations for the Sacramental Programme, beginning with Enrolment Mass which was followed by Acceptance Mass and First Forgiveness on 1<sup>st</sup> March. The bread for this celebration was baked in school during Food Technology lessons.

### Year 4

The Year 4 pupils are having an exciting time studying *Beowulf* and they have been creating monsters, spiders and castles to enter into the atmosphere.



In addition to reading and writing, the children have also baked their own bread this term, and they are learning to swim, challenging each other to see who gets changed quickest.

### Year 5

Year 5 had a 'blast' of a time at Spaceport in Liverpool! They enjoyed the rocket workshop where they had a go at shooting a rocket as high as possible and some even touched the ceiling! The children enjoyed the exhibition, finding out lots of facts about Space. Continuing our Space theme, we have been recycling boxes and bottles to construct space stations, astronauts and rockets with some spectacular results!

### Year 6

Pupils are working hard in class towards their SATs – not long to go now!!

Mrs Johnson took the school choir to the Young Voices Concert at Manchester Arena. What a sight it was – there were thousands of children and a few hundred adults also – all enjoying their singing.

Pupils even found time to get dressed up for World Book Day, all of them looking fantastic dressed as their favourite book characters. Even

the teachers joined in with Mr Drake looking the best!!

### Sports Update

We were anticipating a busy half-term of sport but oh, my goodness! we were nearly blown away by all that was on offer. Once again St Anthony's excelled in effort, attitude, the desire to achieve and great sportsmanship. Our first competition was the **Manchester Basketball Finals** at the Amaechi Centre. Having won our Wythenshawe group we were looking forward to an evening of fast competitive matches and we were not disappointed. Led by Captain Alex, our pupils 'played ball'.

The next event was the **gymnastics** - our first ever entry to the Manchester Gymnastics Finals and what a tremendous performance that was! A challenging, even daunting experience for some of our youngest pupils, having to perform individually in front of a few hundred people. The pupils were enthusiastic and inspired across the afternoon, surrounded by the fantastic facilities at Manchester Institute for Gymnastics. Our three teams did us proud.

**Girls' Futsal** was also a first for St Anthony's. Held at Trafford Power League and hosted by the County FA, our girls couldn't believe the amount of game play they got. Their gutsy performance wasn't enough on the day to qualify but their development is a true testament to the great work and effort they are putting in back at the girls' school football club training every Tuesday. A special mention must go to past pupil Lauren, who has been giving up her free time to assist in the coaching of all these talented girls. Thank you Lauren!

Netball season is alive and kicking in the school calendar. Our school games league has started and the coaches were very pleased with the team performance, not losing a single game.

The greatest surprise and delight this half term proved to be the **Year 6 hockey teams**. Both teams battled every opponent with great pride and dignity, losing a couple, drawing some but mostly winning! However, only two teams from the whole event could progress through to the Greater Manchester Finals and one of them was ours.

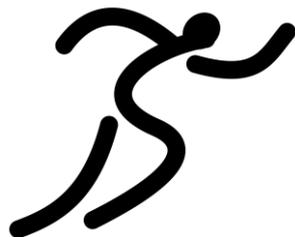
And what a day it was! It began with an opening ceremony at the Eastlands Athletics track with a couple of thousand people enjoying wonderful



displays of talent - see school website for photos.

We were then transported to our competition venue for the day: the Armitage Centre in Fallowfield, the sports facilities for Manchester University students. There were twenty teams present, all wanting to come away with gold medals. After nine games where our players were tested to their limits, displaying true grit and determination, out-skilling and outwitting so many opponents, our pupils came away from the day having finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall, knowing that they could and should be immensely proud of all they achieved. With Captain fantastic (Matteo) at the head of the realm, who knows where this mighty hockey team might go in the future.

And if that day wasn't enough, it was followed by probably the most awesome event in the whole school games calendar, the **Parallel Athletics Challenge**. Awesome, because it was led by Captain Awesome himself, Mr Max, the main man. Max led his team with great pride and passion, with excellent support from Vice Captain Honey.



Team athletes Emilian, Ethan and Karolina were all hugely competitive and enthusiastic but the medal winner of the day proved to be young Harry! His gold medal was a reward for the colossal amount of

running he did around the 300m indoor track. An athlete to look out for in the future! Special mention must go to Miss Curran who probably ran close to a marathon on the day, keeping up with Harry!!

The **Year 5 and 6 Boys' Football Team** are unbeaten in their League and celebrated a 9-3 victory over The Willows last week! The Year 5 boys have been playing in a competition at Etihad Stadium and, so far this year, they have only lost one game out of 12!

### **Bikeability**

Over the last few weeks all our **Year 5** pupils have had the opportunity to develop their cycling proficiency. Gaining either Level 1 or Level 2

awards, our Year 5s have shown great courage especially considering some of the weather of recent weeks. Well done Year 5!

\* \* \* \* \*

I am very pleased and proud to tell you that the recent **Book Fair raised £262** and the **Danceathon** on 18<sup>th</sup> March raised **over £2,000** and we're still counting!

Can I remind all parents... if your child (**KS2**) suffers from **Asthma** and requires an inhaler, please ensure that they have a labelled inhaler in school which they can self-administer and a spare labelled inhaler which the teacher will keep in case of emergencies or school trips.

**KS1**, please ensure your child's class teacher is aware of your child's condition and the appropriate inhaler is held by the teacher. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure all medication is in date and checked regularly.

### **Lates and Absences**

Will parents please ensure that children are in school **by 8:55am** every morning. This is when school starts and after that time children are marked "late". If they arrive after 9:15am, they will have missed morning registration and will be marked "absent".

Next term we will be introducing a **GREEN AWARD** which will reward children with:

- 96% attendance or better
- No late attendance (after 8:55 am)
- No red lights on the behaviour chart

Pupils who achieve all of the above will be able to access a special 'Treat Afternoon' which pupils will decide on, at the end of the term.

From the staff, governors and myself, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Easter, and we look forward to seeing you again on **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April!**

**Mrs C P Fox**  
Headteacher