

Tel: 0121 770 3168



St Anthony's Catholic Primary Sch
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B37 6LW

@StAnthonysSch

E-mail: 84office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher: Mr C. Flaherty

Head of School: Mr K Scanlon

Friday 7th March 2025



This half term, we are growing to be attentive to our experience and to our vocation; and discerning about the choices we make and the effects of those choices.



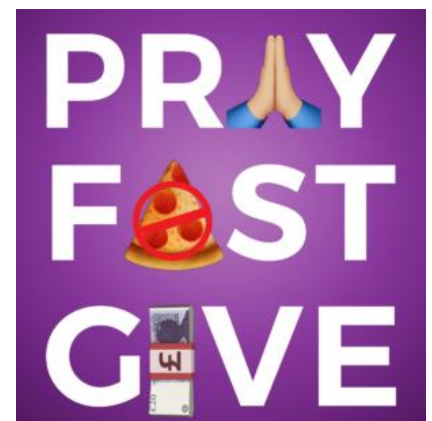
Most songs come from being attentive.
Attentive to life, attentive to scripture,
attentive to your heart. Pay attention!

Matt Redman English singer / songwriter

Lenten Fundraising

On Wednesday, we went over to church and received ashes to mark the beginning of the season of Lent. During Lent, we are called to pray, fast and give. One of our Lenten charities this year is Father Hudson's Caritas and on Tuesday we were visited by Emily who told us all about their work.

Many of us will remember the 'Good Shepherd Appeal' from when we, ourselves, were at school. This year, rather than sending out bags / boxes, children are being encouraged to either make or use a recycled box from home that they can decorate and fill with any loose change that you may have. This can then be brought into school and donated to Fr. Hudson's at the end of term. Thank you so much to those families who have already sent in their boxes – what fast movers you are!



World Book Day 2025

What a fun day we have had! The children and staff looked wonderful and were very excited to see who had won the 'golden tickets' in their St. Anthony's Wonderful Golden Ticket Bars. The winners and prizes will be revealed in next week's newsletter.



Extreme Reading Challenge

Well done to the **31 pupils** who entered our 'Extreme Reading Challenge' and congratulations to our winners! Thank you to Mrs Perks for choosing the best photo from each class!



Extreme
Reading Challenge!

SAFETY!

If you use this road at drop-off and pick-up times, please show consideration and care for our community and do not mount the pavement or drive at an unsafe speed.



School Safety Zone



Catholic Life

Roman Catholic pupils in Year 3 are making their First Holy Communion on Saturday 7th June. *Prior to this, it is important that they attend the 'Commitment Mass' that will take place tomorrow, Saturday 8th March, at 4:30pm in St. Anthony's church.* Children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.



Time to talk...

TAKEHOME



Is it important to feel proud of where you come from?



'TUESDAY NEWS DAY'

This week we learnt that *The Times* newspaper recently asked young people, aged between 18 and 27 ('Gen Z'), what they thought about their lives and life in the UK. The survey showed that 4 out of 10 young people are proud to be British, and around half feel that people in the UK are accepting and welcoming towards others.

Things you could talk about at home:

- Are you proud of where you are from? Why? / Why not?
- Can you think of some ways people might show they are proud of their heritage and where they are from?

X

Pope Francis says...

X

X

X



I would like to thank you for your prayers, which rise up to the Lord from the hearts of so many faithful from many parts of the world. I feel all your affection and closeness and, at this particular time, I feel as if I am "carried" and supported by all God's people.

Easter craft workshops for Tiny Ants, Nursery & Reception

Tiny Ants & Nursery: Tuesday 8th April 2025

Morning Nursery Parents	11 am (Nursery Classroom)
Morning Tiny Ants Parents	11am (Tiny Ants Classroom)
All Day Nursery Parents	2pm (Nursery Classroom)
Afternoon Tiny Ants Parents	2pm (Tiny Ants Classroom)



Reception: Thursday 10th April 2025

Reception Parents 2pm (School Hall)

Can you help our Early Years?

Early Years would appreciate donations of pants, socks, tights and trousers suitable for children aged 2 - 4 years old please.

Thank you, The Early Years Team.



Easter Story Sacks for Tiny Ants, Nursery & Reception

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND FAMILY LEARNING

 Solihull College
& University Centre

Community Education and Family Learning

Playing with Language: make an Easter story sack St Anthony's RC Primary School



**Do you enjoy sharing books with your child?
Would you like some more ideas on how to bring
stories to life? Do you enjoy craft activities?**

**Solihull College is running a FREE course at St Anthony's RC
Primary school.**

**Mondays 1-3pm. The course starts Monday 10th March 2025 and
ends 31st March 2025.**

**Playing with Language provides opportunities to support children
to develop skills through play that will be important later for
reading, writing and maths, making a story sack. This 5-week
course (2 hours per week) is aimed at
parents/carers/grandparents with children in Foundation stage.**

Contact: Karen Watkins, FSW.

**Please note: only people who have been resident in the UK (or
another EU country) for at least 3 years are eligible for this
government funded course**

School Tie



*We now have a new clip tie priced at
£4.90 each available to purchase from
the office. If you would like one, please
make a payment on ParentPay and
collect from the school office.*

Tiny Ants



Our Tiny Ants 'star of the week' is
Charlie O-M for being kind and helpful.



This week we have been using our creative skills to paint daffodils like the ones that are growing in our outdoor area. The children helped to make yellow playdough, taking turns to add ingredients and stir until it was all stuck together. We then used circle cutters to make pancakes. Tuesday was pancake day so we all had a pancake and added strawberries, lemon and jam.



Some of the children were brave enough to suck the juice out of the lemon and loved it!



We asked the children to find circle shaped items within our room. They found pots, plastic mixing bowls and cups, which they drew around them to make their own pancakes.



Well done Daisy-May last week's Star of the Week.



Nursery

This week in Nursery we have been focusing on pancake day and have worked hard to remember the words 'Shrove Tuesday'. We have developed our understanding of this through role-playing making pancakes in the flour tray with frying pans and spatulas.



Ms Riley has also helped us make our very own pancakes by following a set of 4-step instructions. We then decorated our pancakes with our chosen toppings and ate them - they were delicious.



To continue to develop our cutting skills Nursery have cut out topping pictures and glued them onto their pancake pictures to create their own funny pancake faces.



We have also continued to strengthen our finger muscles through rolling out and making pancakes with our white playdough and circle cutters.



Reception

This week we have enjoyed learning about Shrove Tuesday and how we are now entering into our Lentern journey, in preparation for Easter.

We used our phonetic knowledge to write a list of ingredients that we would need to make pancakes. We then enjoyed measuring, mixing, making and then eating delicious pancake with lots of yummy toppings.

In maths, we have begun focusing on measurements and this week we are looking at length and height. We have enjoyed working in our Kagan groups building towers and comparing what is shorter or longer. We also had some friendly garden worms to help us compare and measure length within our classroom.

The fun and learning continued as we then created a class height chart, to compare the different heights of our class mates.

We have also enjoyed celebrating World Book Day; it was wonderful to see the children dressed up as their favourite book character. The children really explored their creative side, as we decided on the ingredients needed for our very own class fairy tale. The children shared their wonderful ideas and created a masterpiece of literature! Well done Reception.



Year 1

Year 1 was turned into a beach for World Book Day as we focused on the book 'Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave' by Quentin Blake. We have had such a lovely time!



WORLD
BOOK
DAY
6 MARCH 2025



WORLD
BOOK
DAY
6 MARCH 2025

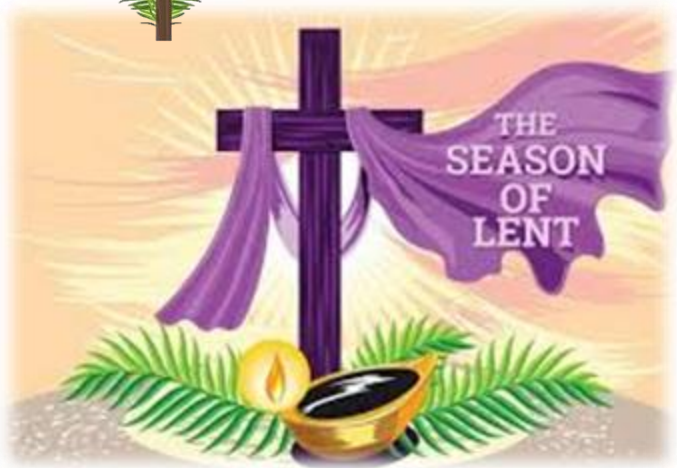


WORLD
BOOK
DAY
6 MARCH 2025



Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been busy with lots of exciting learning! In PE, we have been practicing parts of our dance routine in preparation for our performance to parents in April. In Computing, we started our new topic on pictograms and data, learning about tally charts and creating our own. In RE, we have entered the season of Lent, learning about Palm Sunday and making our own palm leaves. We also took time to reflect on our Lenten promises. In English, we have enjoyed learning about Shakespeare and have written fact files all about him. Well done to everyone for such a fabulous week in Year 2!



Year 3

Year 3 have completed some lovely pieces of art inspired by the Egyptians and practiced our public speaking skills in English. In RE we role played the miracle of the healing of the paralysed man and we planted some petunias in Science - which we will be monitoring and watering over the next few weeks 😊



Year 5

Here are a few photographs from World Book Day in Year 5 😊



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025

Year 6

Here are a few photographs from World Book Day in Year 6 😊



Dance Performance

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

presents



Actions Speak Louder Than Words

at John Henry Newman Theatre

Chelmsley Rd, Chelmsley Wood, B37 5GA

Monday 7th April 2025

£5 per ticket to admit – 1 person

A donation to Father Hudson will be made from the ticket sales.

**Tickets will be available to purchase from Tuesday 11th March
via ParentPay priced at £5 each.**

**Due to restrictions in the theatre, we are only able to offer 2
tickets per family per performance but there may be an option
to purchase more at a later date.**

**We will have a morning and an afternoon performance at times
to be confirmed.**

Years 2 to 6 will be taking part.



**John Henry Newman
Catholic College**
Heart speaks to Heart

Attendance

REMINDER

If your child is going to be absent from school **please let the office know**. You can do this by emailing, calling or leaving a voicemail. If we do not hear from you, your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Thank you to everyone that has made contact, it really saves a lot of time!

Our contact details are:

School email address: office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk

Telephone number: 0121 770 3168

TTRS battle

A reminder that all pupils from Y2 – Y6 should be accessing TTRS during the week and this is being monitored by teaching staff. Staff are able to view how long pupils have been actively playing games (rather than changing their avatars etc.) and this is what will count towards their 10 / 15 mins (depending on their year group).

The **March** battle has now launched and is between
Year 2 v Year 3 v Year 4 v Year 5 v Year 6

SO FAR the scores are...

1st March - 27 March 2025 07:00 - 21:00

Y3 378

Y4 257

Y6 233

Y5 208

Y2 80

Finishes in 20 days



Support for parents and pupils

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Support for parents and pupils

Family Helpline

**Early Help support for families
and professionals in Solihull**

0121 788 4327

Live from 3 March 2025

**Available Monday-Thursday 09:00-16:30,
Friday 09:00-16:00**

**Our dedicated team of duty workers support
with topics such as:**

- Parenting and family guidance
- School attendance and support in coordinating Early Help assessments and plans
- Signposting to local services such as Solihull Family Hubs
- Child behavioural issues and social development
- Health and emotional wellbeing
- Referrals to Family Support Workers

**For safeguarding concerns, such as if a child is at
risk of being harmed, call the Solihull Multi-Agency
Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0121 788 4300**



**Working
for Children
and Families
in Solihull**



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Support for parents and pupils



Did you know Solihull now has a new Family Help Line?

This has launched this week to support families and the people around them. You can now call 0121 788 4327 for advice, information, strategies & support on things like:

- Parenting support
- Family conflict particularly because of difficulties managing children's behaviours
- Parents/carers needing support if they are struggling to get their child/ren into school and getting in trouble because of this
- Parents/carers struggling to manage their child's health, developmental or social needs (including mental health)

The team can offer:

- Signposting to services and what's on offer at the Family Hubs
- Referral to a Family Support Worker
- Advice and Support on the wider Early Help offer & how this works

**** This is not a safeguarding or social work service, so if you are worried about a child being unsafe – please call the MASH on 0121 788 4300.**

According to Ofcom, 90% of children are watching online videos and browsing the internet regularly. Children may love to stream videos and look up information, it's a fun way to learn and relax after all but they must be guided. The e-space is filled with inappropriate content and dangerous material. It is important that parents and even teachers, are able to steer their pupils and youngsters, towards the right places when online. Internet Matters has published a guide dedicated to supporting adults in setting digital boundaries for children, so that they can make smart choices and build healthy online habits. In the Internet Matters guide you'll find practical tips on managing content access, the use of safety controls, advice on setting boundaries and ways to educate children on how to stay secure online. If interested please follow the link below:

[Browsing and watching online safely guide Internet Matters](#)

Get Pedalling

GET PEDALLING

Solihull



FREE Easter Get Pedalling Sessions

FUN cycle training available for children aged 5+

The perfect opportunity for children to learn to ride
gain basic cycle skills and grow in confidence.

Outdoor at Tudor Grange Cycle Track – 14th, 15th & 25th April

Indoor at North Solihull Sport Centre – 23rd & 24th April

Various morning or afternoon sessions are available.

You can bring your own bike/helmet or borrow one. Please let us know upon booking. Please note, there are a limited number of children's bikes and frame sizes.

Book via: <https://solihull.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>

These sessions are part of the West Midlands Cycle & Walk programme



If you would like further information please email bikeability@solihull.gov.uk

Next week's menu ...

FOOD FESTIVAL
By Aspens

LUNCHTIME

TRADITIONAL
Week 1

Autumn Winter
2024-25:
2/9, 23/9, 14/10,
4/11, 25/11,
16/12, 6/1, 27/1

THE MAIN EVENT

MEAT-FREE MAGIC
Veggie Dish

RAINBOW ALLEY
Vegetables and Salads

BIG TOPPING
Filled Jackets

DESSERT TROLLEY

DAILY SALAD BOWL,
FRESHLY BAKED BREAD,
YOGHURTS AND
CUT FRUIT
AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SANDWICHES
AVAILABLE

PASTA
TWIRLER
AVAILABLE
EVERY DAY
Topped Pasta
Hot Pasta
topped with
Homemade
Tomato Sauce
and Cheese

MONDAY

Margherita
Pizza
Slice and Wedges

Veggie Pepper and
Sweetcorn Pizza
Slice with Wedges

Sweetcorn

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Toffee Frozen
Yoghurt

TUESDAY

BBQ Cheesy
Chicken

Butterbean
Ratatouille

Apple Slaw and
Wholegrain
Rice

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Sweet Potato
Brownie

WEDNESDAY

Roast Gammon,
Roast Potatoes
and Gravy

Quorn Sausage,
Roast Potatoes
and Gravy

Peas and Carrots

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Flapjack

THURSDAY

Lasagne

Vegetable
Lasagne

Green Beans

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Cookie Dough
Apple
Crumble

FRIDAY

Golden Fish
Fingers or
Salmon Fingers
and Chips

Cheesy Bean Wrap
and Chips

Baked
Beans

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Jammy
Thumbprint
Biscuits

T1

Due to school dinners being cooked fresh, please ensure that you pre order meals that your child will eat. Unfortunately, we cannot offer alternatives

Blue Runner

It is essential that all parents/carers have registered for a Blue Runner, even if your child does not order a school meal. You can register using the following link is <https://olaas.myschoolmealorders.com/login>. If you need any support in signing up, please let the school office know.

Thanks to the majority of parents who have signed up and who are pre ordering meals. We have had some brilliant Blue Runner feedback!

Lunchtime MUGA activities

Years 2-6 will have a designated MUGA day, allowing students to participate in competitive sports alongside their classmates.

If your child would like to take part in MUGA activities on their allocated day, please ensure they bring trainers to change into at lunchtime.

Monday - Year 6

Tuesday - Year 4

Wednesday - Year 3

Thursday - Year 2

Friday - Year 5



P.E Days

Please read carefully as the PE days can change from week to week.

Week beginning Monday 10th March

Reception – **Friday**

Year 1 – Monday and Wednesday

Year 2 – Tuesday and **Thursday**

Year 3 - Tuesday (swimming), Thursday **and Friday**

Year 4- Monday and Tuesday

Year 5 - Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 6 – Monday, Tuesday **and Thursday**



Please remember that pupils need to come into school in their PE kits on these days:

- plain white t shirts (or those with the school badge on)
- **PLAIN BLACK** shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings.
- Hair must be tied back
- No jewellery should be worn.
- Please remove your child's earrings before school. If your child's ears have been recently pierced, please cover the earrings with plasters to enable your child to participate in PE.



Diary Dates



2025

Sat 8 th Mar	Year 3 First Holy Communion pupils	Commitment Mass in church 4:30pm
Tues 11 th Mar	Year 6	Trip to Harvington Hall
Weds 19 th Mar	Year 1	Into Film Festival cinema trip
Thurs 3 rd Apr	Year 4	Trip to Parliament
Mon 7 th Apr	Year 2 – Year 6	Dance show at JHNCC (more details to follow)
Tues 8 th Apr	Tiny Ants and Nursery	Easter craft workshops 11am and 2pm (see p 5 of the 28.2.25 newsletter for more info)
Thurs 10 th Apr	Reception	Easter craft workshop 2pm
Fri 11 th Apr	Whole school	Whole school Mass at 9:30am – Year 5 leading
Fri 11 th Apr	Whole school	Last day of half term for pupils

EASTER HOLIDAYS:

Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April 2025

Mon 28 th Apr	Whole school	Pupils return to school – start of Summer Term
Mon 5 th May	Whole school	May Bank Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri 23 rd May	Whole school	Last day of half term for pupils

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Mon 2 nd Jun	Whole school	INSET DAY FOR STAFF – no pupils in school
Tues 3 rd Jun	Whole school	Return to school
Fri 18 th Jul	Whole school	Last day of the school year for pupils
Mon 21 st Jul	Whole school	INSET DAY FOR STAFF – no pupils in school

DATES OF SACRAMENTS 2025

Sat 7 th Jun 11am	Year 3	Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion)
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Term dates 2025 - 2026

	Term starts	Half term	Term ends
Autumn	1 st September 2025	27 th Oct – 31 st Oct	19 th December 2025
Spring	5 th January 2026	16 th Feb – 20 th Feb	27 th March 2026
Summer	13 th April 2026	25 th May - 29 th May	20 th July 2026

Inset days: 1st September, 24th October, 23rd February, 20th July plus two more dates TBC



Head Teacher's Awards



Congratulations!

Reception – Bella-Rose – for always being a kind and caring friend to others 😊

Year 1 – Hugo – for his brilliant manners and being a kind caring friend.

Year 2 – Nancy C – for being a ray of sunshine and making everyone in Year 2 smile 😊

Year 3 – Ezra – for shining in everything you do and always producing fabulous work 😊

Year 4 – Harvey – for being a delight to teach, always making us smile and shining like Jesus!

Year 5 – Reggie – for growing in confidence and always shining like Jesus!

Year 6 – Harrie-Jae – for being a supportive partner and helping others

