

St. Anthony's School

a specialist SEN-BESD provision



16th December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of term 2 it gives me great pleasure to share this newsletter with you all, as it provides some highlights of the wide range of activities that the staff organise for our children and young people. At the end of term assembly we celebrated those pupils who have made excellent progress with their learning and behaviour and it is my pleasure to announce the winners of the main trophies.

Watson Cup – Louis – Woodpeckers
Burney Shield – Christian – Botany
Headteacher Award – Alfie – Robins
Headteacher Award – Ewan – Viking



Charity Fundraising

This past term the student council has organised three non-uniform days to raise money for three very worthwhile charities. The school has raised £146.50 - for 'Save the Children Fund', 'Help for Heroes' and 'Child in Need'. Thank you for your support.

Heron and Flamingo Christmas Jumper day

Goodbyes

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Jan Phillips as she retires after twenty three years at St Anthony's School. She initially joined us as a Science and PE teacher and was later appointed Head of Secondary and more recently she undertook the task of converting the Statements of Special Educational Needs to Education, Health and Care Plans for all pupils. The school has benefited enormously from her years of dedicated and outstanding service. We wish her a long and very happy retirement.

We also say a very fond farewell and best wishes to Mrs Fliss Lewendon who has been a Secondary Maths' teacher for the past four years. We wish her well in her new ventures and thank her for the many contributions that she has made to St Anthony's School.

Attendance

As mentioned in my previous newsletters, regular attendance at school is vital to help your child achieve and reach their full educational potential and settle into the daily routines of school life. With your continued support we have maintained a 5% improvement over last year's average attendance. This is very encouraging but our 85% overall attendance is still below the school target of 90%. Please ensure that your child is in school every day.

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'Most Improved Attendance Medals' were awarded to Lewis (Minnis) for a 26% improvement in his attendance over the first two terms and Connor (Woodpeckers) for a 24% improvement. Well done to both of you.

If you are having problems with supporting your child's attendance, please contact Lesley Gray and she can discuss different ways that the school can support you. You can also continue to support us to reach our attendance targets by requesting all dental and medical appointments after school hours. Finally the school gates open at 8:50. Until this time, parents and carers are responsible for their child.

Uniform

Thank you to the many young people who wear the correct uniform each and every day. Our uniform is simple - white shirt with buttons or polo style, dark trousers and dark shoes (trainers are fine). With the colder weather the pupils are really benefiting from the warmth and comfort of their fleeces.

We still have a number of children who are not following the agreed school uniform policy each day, I would ask parents and carers to support the school in ensuring that their child is properly dressed for school each day. If you are having problems about the uniform please speak to your child's teacher or tutor.

Speed Stacking - The Thanet Speed Stacking competition was held at St Laurence Juniors on the 10th Nov and it was a pleasure to be able to take 3 primary pupils – Stanley, Zaine and Leo to the event. All pupils took part in 3 different activities which included 3-3-3 cycle, 3-6-3 cycle and also the whole cycle, including a very challenging 10 stack. Each pupil received a medal and certificate for their wonderful efforts.

Boccia - The East Kent Qualifiers for Boccia were held at St Anselm's school and St Anthony's had a team of 4 at the ready. St Anthony's pupils were placed in the highest division and participated fantastically. As a result of their amazing efforts, St Anthony's came top of the group and are awaiting the dates for the next rounds! Watch this space!

Football:

This term, St Anthony's have had three football fixtures. Two KS3 and one KS4. The KS3 team have been fantastic and shown respect and teamwork in abundance, always making the team visiting feel welcome. KS4 have also been outstanding ambassadors for the school, showing that St Anthony's is an amazing place to visit to play sport.



Badminton:

Three schools were involved in the badminton afternoon on Tues Dec 6th, St Anthony's, Orchard and Laleham-Gap. By the end of the afternoon all schools were socialising and displaying great sportsmanship towards each other. It was such a lovely afternoon that all staff have agreed that a similar event needs to take place again.

National Tree Planting Week at Dane Valley Woods

On Tuesday 29th November St Anthony's School in Margate collaborated with a local community group called Dane Valley Woods to plant nearly 100 British native trees at their site along Dane Valley Road, Margate. Luke who helped organise the event said, "What better way to help our school children learn about the environment than to get them down to our local community project to plant trees during National Tree Planting Week." Also attending the event was the Chair of Dane Valley Wood Project who said he was excited at the prospect of planting trees and educating school children at the same time. It was a crisp, autumn day and all pupils had the opportunity to participate at the event. Tesco's Northdown Road store kindly offered to provide refreshments in the form of healthy fruit and squash drinks to keep the children's energy levels up. The Tesco store manager said she was, "Happy to help such a worthwhile community project which is trying to create a beautiful woodland for future generations to enjoy." The Deputy Mayor of Margate and Dane Valley Ward Cllr (Ros Dixon) also came down to the event to help plant trees and talk to the students about the amazing work they are doing

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for the community. Throughout the day numerous members of the public walked past and showed their support for the event. One lady even said she has lived in Dane Valley all of her life and it has only been in the last few years that she has seen the benefit of all the hard work that the Dane Valley Woods' volunteers have put in. Luke said, "As this is an old landfill site the trees are growing slower than they normally would because the land isn't fertile. However, trees are very resilient and they will eventually mature in to a woodland for everybody to enjoy." Some of the students said they really enjoyed the day so watch this space as it could become a part of the schools and community projects annual calendar. There are more exciting projects planned at Dane Valley Woods during the New Year such as the creation of a wildflower meadow and a seating area. If anybody else would like to volunteer to help Dane Valley Woods, please feel free to look at their website or Facebook page.
<http://danevalleywoods.org/>



Christmas Fayre

On Friday December 2nd the school hosted its Christmas Fayre and raised £870 for the school. So a big thank you to all the children, parents, carers and staff who found the time to support the Fayre. A particular thank you to Katy and Luke who did much of the organisation behind the scenes to ensure a successful event. The wooden reindeers that the pupils made in lessons were a big hit, which required Colin to make a list of additional orders. Father Christmas was heard to say that all the boys and girls were on his good list. Mr Page was then seen to have a very long and lengthy discussion with him to clarify his list.

Saturn and Jupiter Guildhall Museum Trip

Pupils from Jupiter and Saturn classes visited Rochester's Guildhall Museum on Tuesday Dec 6th to learn about Victorian artefacts and Charles Dickens. The guide explained to the pupils how children were affected by punishment and prison and he also showed pupils articles associated with Scrooge and a Christmas Carol to enhance their understanding. Christian explored being 'under the yoke,' as if he was experiencing working conditions in the workhouse.



Pantomime

On Monday December 12th pupils and staff attended the pantomime at the Theatre Royal Margate. Good fun was had by all, oh no we didn't, oh yes we did! They represented the school in fine fashion, shouting and boing incredibly well. They displayed excellent sitting and listening skills as the show lasted 2 hours and 10 minutes.

Poem of Christmas

A Christmas Poem by Chelsea S

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Christmas is lovely
And beautiful too
We all think Christmas
Is a special day
But some people
Think it's another day
We all feel sad for
Those people but we never
Think about them on
Christmas so let's take a
Minute and think about them for
One day and remember those
Without the love from friends and Family.
(Just think about those people)



Year 11 ASDAN pupils went for dinner as a celebration of their last Christmas at St Anthony's. Finally I would like to wish all of you and your families a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year from all at St. Anthony's.

R Page

Mr R. Page
Headteacher

Dates for the diary

Tues Dec 20 th	Last Day Term 2
Wed Dec 21 st	EHCP Review Day Pupils and Parent/Carers to attend
Tues Jan 3 rd	Training Day staff only
Wed Jan 4 th	Start of Term 3 for pupils
Fri Feb 10 th	Last Day Term 3
Mon Feb 20 th	Start of Term 4

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