

# St. Anthony's School

a specialist SEN-BESD provision



10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems like it was just the start of the term the other day but here we are already at the end of term 3. The promised cold weather of winter has just appeared but will hopefully go quickly but whatever the weather it is always busy at St Anthony's as this newsletter highlights.

## Uniform

I am now needing to speak to a growing number of young people each day about their incorrect school uniform. The school uniform I think is very simple for parents/carers, dark shoes, dark trousers or skirts, white shirt (polo or button) and the school fleece. Please also ensure that pupils have a warm weatherproof coat with them.

**Parents/carers please support the school staff in ensuring that pupils are correctly dressed for the school day, as we will be ensuring that pupils are correctly dressed.**

For the majority of pupils correctly dressed thank you for your support. Look Smart Think Smart!

## Attendance

At the end of term 3 our overall attendance for the year is now 84.05%, which is down 1% from term 2 but remains a 4% improvement on last year's attendance. Our goal for the year is 90%, so please support your child by ensuring that they attend school each day.

There are still six pupils with 100% attendance for the year and there are 27 pupils with 100% attendance in term 3. Well done to these pupils and their parents/carers for getting them ready for school each day.

## March 23<sup>rd</sup> Tea and Cakes

On **23<sup>rd</sup> March at 1.15pm** you are invited to an informal tea and cake with Lesley Gray our Pupil Welfare Manager. She has asked Jo Blamires Family Support Worker for the Kent Autistic Trust to come along to give about her role and to facilitate a question and answer session which will opportunity to find out what is available in the way of information and parents/carers of young people with ASD. Also Sue Maidens will be there Project Co-ordinator of Young Kent's me2 which is a peer mentor programme which matches young people aged 15-19 with young people aged 11-19 who have a disability, an additional need, or who are experiencing social isolation or low self-esteem (mentee). The mentor then supports the mentee with a placement at a mainstream youth provision one night a week for up to 20 weeks.



afternoon who is a information be a great support for and she is inclusion (mentors)



Lesley has received many donations of items of bedding which are held in school. Please pop in if you could benefit from any of these things.

Please, please label all items of school clothing with your child's name. Numerous unnamed items are handed in and we have no way of knowing who to return them to.



## Girls Club

With St Anthony's so top heavy with boys, we have started a Girls Club, which comes together every Friday morning. The girls discuss and debate any issues, they organise small events such as a clothes 'Swap Shop' and they paint each other's nails! They have been involved in workshops, such as Mental Health Awareness and Hygiene Awareness and they help and support each other with any female problems that may arise.

Website [www.st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk)

Email [admin@st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk)

Phone 01843 292 015



### **Boxing**

Nine secondary pupils have been attending Hornets Boxing Club in Ramsgate on a Monday as part of an eight week non-contact boxing course –Preliminary level Award. The Awards are an introduction to the sport of amateur boxing as a game of skill, discipline, respect and self-control. It teaches the importance of a healthy lifestyle and has been designed as a fun recreational programme for participants at all levels, ages and abilities. It will support pupil's engagement in learning and social, emotional difficulties. The nine boys chosen have all shown a good level of commitment and two boys have shown considerable potential and been invited to attend further evening sessions.



### **Kent Film Foundation**

We are being joined by the Kent Film Foundation every week, they have been involved, initially with the girls, and now with a group of boys, in making some short films! The students are learning all about movie making, being behind the camera, lighting, sound and editing. All students have input in their film as they decide on the theme, story, script and all of them star in the films too!

### **PTFA**

We have some very exciting news about the creation of our new St Anthony's School Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA). On Thursday 23rd February we will be hosting our first PTFA meeting and this your chance to come along and get involved with this amazing project. The meeting starts at 14:45 at school so please come and join us to discuss the direction of the group so we can prioritise our fund raising events for specific causes. Ideally we want your input as to what we spend our funds on as you know your children best! If you have any questions before the meeting then please ask to speak to Mr Evans.

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## **School Sports**

Every Thursday afternoon this term St Anthony's have hosted Stone Bay and Bradstow Schools for Badminton and Table Tennis sessions. During these sessions pupils from the schools have been able to socialise and take part at a level that they can access successfully. Well done to all who have participated.

## **E Safety Day Feb 7<sup>th</sup>**

The last week of Term was E Safety week with all classes looking at various aspects of staying safe on line, either when gaming or using social media. We would like parents/carers to support this topic by discussing what the children have learned at school and what they do to stay safe. This will help the children by knowing that you are aware of the potential risks and also help you understand more about what your children do when they are online, either on their phone, tablet device or laptop. If you want more advice or concerns please contact Mr Carden at the school or visit the following website which has a full range of information and advice about E Safety - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

## **School Council**

The school council have been very active this year, choosing charity organisations to support (see Red Nose Day 2017 item below), deciding upon after school clubs and choosing new activities and equipment for playtimes in both the school playground areas. Dave is very proud of the school council and their mature behaviour and discussions when they meet. We look forward to hearing more good news from the next council meeting.

## **Red Nose Day**

This year the School Council have decided to raise money in support of Red Nose Day 2017 on the 24th March. Pupils will be able to buy Red Noses at School next term and the day will be a non-school uniform 'Wear Something Red' Day for a minimum £1.00 donation. In addition, various fund raising activities and events will be going on throughout the day so please send the children in with some extra 'cash' with which they can donate and have a lot of fun at the same time.

## **Forest School**

We have lots of our children access Forest School on a weekly basis but what is Forest School you ask? "Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees."

At St Anthony's School we currently offer Forest School sessions to all of our students across Primary, ASD and Secondary Departments to enhance our curriculum. We are working on establishing our own off site provision for Forest School and we are training some staff up so we can deliver our own sessions. We hope to have our own Forest School open by September but it is a long process so we will keep you updated with regular articles in our School News Letter.

Mr Evans

## **Are U Alright – Mental Health Awareness – Workshop**

"Are U Alright was offered to us by Kent Youth, an organisation which focuses on adolescent mental health. Their representative, Emily, came in to run a half an hour session with the 'girls club' which aimed at highlighting the stigma of mental health, how we can manage our own mental health, and where we can go for help.

The feedback from the girls was so positive, that we invited Emily to return and run the same for a group of 10 secondary boys. All pupils participated well, the sessions made them think about self-help methods, how to recognise when things are going wrong and where to go for help."

## **BAGS OF HELP!**

St Anthony's School Wildlife Club is currently in the Bags OF Help scheme in all your local Tesco stores. When you spend money in Tesco they will give you a blue token to vote for your favourite cause. Please vote for St Anthony's so we can win the top cash prize of £5000 which will really help in the advancement of your children's education. The money will also help the frogs, newts and other wonderful creatures that live in our beautiful wildlife garden! Thank you for your support!

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## Heron Class

This term in Heron Class we have enjoyed a wide range of learning opportunities. There has been a strong emphasis on drama, re-enacting scenes from our focus text 'Journey to Jo'burg' by Beverley Naidoo. We have also spent a lot of time improving our understanding of numbers by learning about factors and prime numbers. This has led to some fascinating investigations finding prime factors and perfect numbers. We have been out on trips to Betteshanger, Westgate and Wildwood.



Stanley and Leo re-enact a scene from Journey to Jo'burg.

## Ideas for Learning in the Holidays

We believe that if parents and carers are involved in their child's learning and are enthusiastic about their education then their child will have a much better chance of reaching their full potential.

Find time to read with/to children 10 minutes each day.

Visit the public library – it is warm, it has lots of computers and a great selection of books.

Practise pupil's multiplication tables, all tables up to 10.

Remember to praise pupil's effort rather than successes and help to see we all learn from our mistakes.

As always the success that our pupils have is down to the partnership between home and school, so please do come in and share ideas or concerns with teachers, tutors or myself. Have a wonderful and safe break.

R Page

Mr R. Page  
Headteacher

Dates for the diary

Fri Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day Term 3
Mon Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 4
Mon Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Training day – no pupils in
Fri Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day – non-uniform
Thurs Mar 30 <sup>th</sup>	Pupils last full day Term 4 – non-uniform
Fri Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	Pupil/Parents EHCP Review day appointment times TBC
Tues Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 5