

July

St Antony's Newsletter July 2024 -



1 - A Summer Prayer

Long warm days... The pace of life slows... A time for picnics and rest in the shade... Lord, help me to rest a while in the cooling shade of your presence. Slow down my restless heart and fill me with gentle compassion for all your people.

Amen.

Mrs McGowan's Message

Dear families,

What a fantastic year it has been at our school! The children continue to be a delight, they have achieved so much and are a credit to the teachers and families.

We've had a record-breaking number of trips and visitors, creating unforgettable memories for all our students. Rooms have been refurbished and reimagined and we look forward to specialist Arts and Design lessons in our creative Hub, and the merging of books and technology in our Learning

Hub. They are both beautiful bespoke spaces to enhance our learning. Our music provision continues to grow with places becoming available for keyboard lessons as Y6 pupils leave.

Year 6, it's time to say goodbye and God bless as you move on to the next chapter. Your excellent SATs results, outstanding West End standard 'Oliver' production, and your growth into a wonderful group of delightful boys and girls ready for high school make us all incredibly proud. You are all kind, confident and will represent our school with pride.

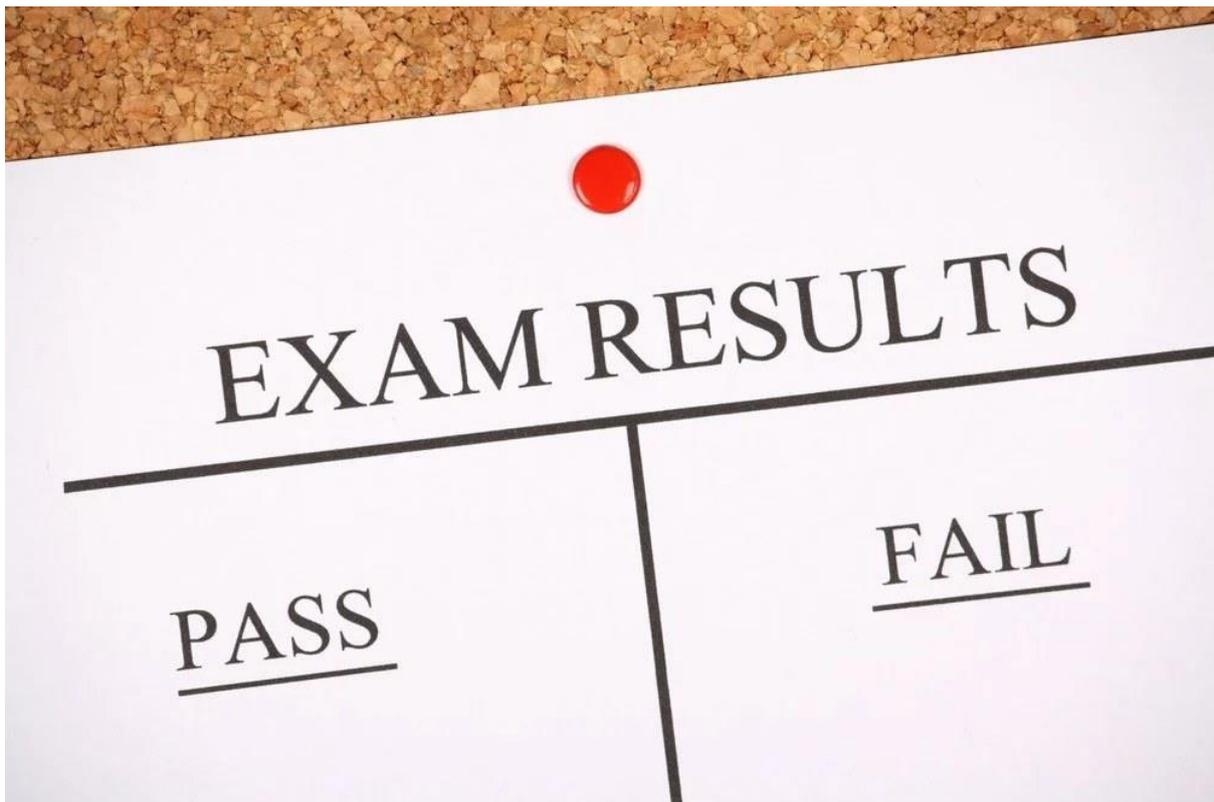
We bid farewell to Mr McGregor, who has a new job closer to home, and Mrs Seaberg, who will be sharing her in-depth knowledge of SEND in a new role, we wish them both the very best. We will miss them dearly and thank them for their love and dedication to our school.

We wish Miss Hargreaves well as she prepares for the arrival of a baby! What a joyful time, we are so excited for her!

A huge thank you to our incredible staff, whose dedication and hard work make this school a family. You truly are the heart of our community.

Here's to another amazing year ahead!

Results



Our end of Key Stage 2 SATs results are...

- Reading **93%** with **37%** at Greater Depth
- Writing **67%** with **13%** at Greater Depth
- Grammar **73%** with **57%** at Greater Depth

- Maths **83%** with **27%** at Greater Depth

As you can see the results are amazing. Well done to all the children and staff who have worked super hard to achieve these results... your hard work has really paid off.

Attendance



Children with poor attendance do less well at school.

Our whole school attendance target is 96%. **We have 91 pupils above our school target. 9 of those pupils have perfect attendance this year.**

If you are unsure on whether your child can come to school when they are ill please follow the link below: [NHS Guidance](#)

Reception	- 92.3%
Year 1	- 91.8%
Year 2	- 94.0%
Year 3	- 93.1%
Year 4	- 93.3%
Year 5	- 95.1%
Year 6	- 94.4%

Our whole school attendance so far this year is 93.4%.

Some of the unbelievable excuses we have had this year...

- Budgie died
- Family Day out due to nice weather
- Runny nose and slight cough
- Appointment for parent at 12 so unable to get child into school and collect them
- Grazed knee
- Slept in and didn't want to get a late mark

- Bad takeaway

If your child has an appointment during the school day please still bring them in at normal times then collect them for their appointment. This way your child will still get their attendance marks, you will be signed out and back in for the appointment time only.

Information on the new statutory guidance from August 2024 has been sent out on class dojo. Please follow the link to the [DFE Working Together To Improve School Attendance](#)

Let's work together to improve this.



Did you know...

- 90% attendance might sound like a good percentage however it is the equivalent to a pupil missing 1 full day per 10 days or missing 4 whole weeks over the year - approximately 120 lessons per year missed.
- You can talk to Ms Ali or Mrs Saunders if you are struggling to get your child into school. We are always here to help where we can.

Catholic Life and Mission



Summer term has been busy with the children learning and living the Catholic Social Teaching principles. Laudato Si week was a success where the children looked at 'stewardship' and our duty to 'Care for Our Common Home'. The Eco team have led their way with the growing of seasonal fruit and vegetables. Our youngest children have been involved in a litter pick of the local area.

Refugee week allowed us to reflect on the 'dignity' of the human being, in the words of Pope Francis, 'open your arms and hearts to refugees'. Our Caritas ambassadors put their love and faith into action by taking part in a food festival at the ARC refugee centre. Our coconut cakes were thoroughly enjoyed by all. They even received a special mention by Mayor of Blackburn himself.

Pupil led worship continues to be a big priority in the spiritual development and growth of our pupils. Thank you for the support of parents and carers who came to our Stay and Pray liturgies. It meant a lot to the children to share a prayerful experience with their most loved ones. These will continue in the next academic year. If you can please do try and attend.

It is a great honour to share that St Antony's now has its very own chapel, a sacred space in the school where our children can reflect, contemplate and pray. We are hoping to celebrate class masses in the chapel in the new school year.





Uniform



At St Antony's School, we place great importance on the wearing of a school uniform.

The school ties can be purchased from the school office for £6.

It is also important to note that earrings are not allowed to be worn as part of the uniform.

To maintain consistency and uphold the school's standards, uniform **MUST** be correct. This includes shoes, socks, hair accessories and PE kit.

In regards to PE, children are required to wear plain black leggings, joggers or shorts without prominent logos. Additionally, they are expected to wear PE hoodies and t-shirts in red, blue, yellow, or green. This allows for easy identification during physical activities and encourages a sense of team spirit.

Please adhere to the following:

- No jewellery including no earrings (clear plastic place holders only)
- Ties must be worn with a white shirt (no polo shirts or t-shirts)
- Black school shoes or pumps with uniform
- Trainers are only to be worn with PE kits
- Only black leggings, joggers or shorts with PE kits (No prominent logos)

Phone calls will be made to rectify uniform breaches.

Consistent uniform reflects our Catholic Social Teaching - everybody is equal, there is equity; there is a sense of community solidarity and dignity.

Safeguarding and Useful Links



At St Antony's, we prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our students above all else. We encourage all parents to reach out if they have any concerns or need support during this time. Remember, safeguarding our children is a collective effort, and together we can create a safe and secure environment for all.

Below is some information on how to stay safe online and some helpful links:

[Domestic Violence Helpline](#)

[Wish Centre](#)

[Salvation Army](#)

[Mind](#)

[Kooth - Mental Health Support For Young Children](#)

[Andy's Man Hub - Mental Health support For Men](#)

[NSPCC Online Safety](#)

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT

- We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new parent governor, Naomi (parent of a Reception child).
- 3 new rooms opening September 2024 (Keep your eyes peeled on Facebook and Instagram for the big reveal)

Staffing for next year...



2 - Miss Wildy is going to be the Nursery Class Teacher



3 -

- *Miss Warren is going to be the Reception Class Teacher*



4 - Mrs Macneal is going to be the Year 1 Class Teacher



5 - Mr Close is going to be the Year 2 Class Teacher



6 - Mrs Malak is going to be leading the Year 3 Class



7-

- *Mrs Morini is going to be sharing the Year 3 Class*



8 - Mr O'Brien is going to be the Year 4 Class Teacher



9 - Miss Thomas is going to be the Year 5 Class Teacher



10 - Mr Hall is going to be the Year 6 Class Teacher

St Antony's RC Nursery Places Available



Does your child turn 3 this term? Or do you know anyone that turns 3 before September? Would you like a nurturing environment overseen by qualified teachers to prepare your child for formal schooling?

Our nursery is:

- a Catholic environment which nurtures your child's spirituality
- a caring and nurturing environment to grow your child's confidence
- a ethos of strong home school relationships and family support
- a smart family with full school uniform
- a place where qualified teachers oversee teaching and learning
- a classroom of high expectations of behaviour with consistent rules and routines
- a place where they will work on the same EYFS framework as they do in our Reception class
- where lessons in numbers and phonics give pupils a flying start for school

- part of the St Antony's family taking part in assemblies and exciting curriculum days
- a safe environment to play and socialise with peers but still be part of the big school
- not just childcare- a true pre school setting, preparing pupils to grow their faith, socialise and learn effectively

EXPECTATIONS

Before a pupil can start at St Antony's Nursery, we expect that they should be able to:

- visit the toilet independently and wipe their own bottoms
- put on and take off a coat, a hat and gloves (we will help with tricky buttons or zips!)
- take shoes and wellies on and off independently
- drink out of a normal cup
- not have a dummy at nursery
- separate from their adult at the door happily

From January 2025 we are going to be extending nursery hours to 32.5 hours. Nursery will run from 8:30am-3pm each day. There will be a small charge of £5 per day for snacks, lunch and playtime supervision (2.5 hours per week). Places will all be full time. No part time places will be available unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Please click the link below to see our current nursery policy. This will be updated for January 2025.

[Nursery Policy](#)

Farewell To Our Year 6 Children



As the school year comes to a close, it's time for us to bid you farewell and good luck as you spread your wings and fly off to high school. Remember, this is just the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your lives. Embrace the challenges, make new friends and never stop learning and growing.

Always hold onto the values that define you. Let your light shine bright and be a positive influence on those around you. Remember the lessons you've learned here and carry them with you as you navigate through the next phase of your educational journey.

We believe in each and every one of you and we know you have the potential to achieve great things. Stay true to yourselves, work hard and never give up on your dreams.

Good luck, Year 6. We will miss you!





















Celebrating our Parish Priest and Chair of Governors 60th Birthday



What's coming?



- School reopens for children on **Tuesday 3rd September** at normal time.

Keep your eyes peeled on class dojo and the school website for more events.

[St Antony's Website Calendar](#)