COMPASS

INSPIRE TO ASPIRE

St Anselm's School Newsletter

NAVIGATING TODAY…SHAPING TOMORROW

3rd November
Autumn 2026

A very warm welcome back to everyone as we begin the second half of the autumn term. I hope all our families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break and that the children are looking forward to the busy and exciting weeks ahead. As we return to school, we enter the month of November, traditionally a special month of remembrance in the Catholic Church. Throughout the month, we will be remembering and praying for those who have died. Poppies will be on sale before and after school this week. Next week, we will hold a special Remembrance Liturgy and a dedicated display in our main entrance will provide an opportunity for our school community to pause, reflect and remember loved ones. There is so much to look forward to this term, particularly as we approach Advent and begin our preparations for Christmas. It promises to be a busy but wonderful term, and we look forward to sharing it all with you.

Diversity Day and PTFA Diversity Disco

Next Thursday, 12th November, we will be celebrating the wonderful diversity of cultures within our school community. Children are invited to come to school wearing clothing that reflects their cultural heritage, whether that is traditional dress or clothing in the colours of their national flag. It will be a lovely opportunity to celebrate the many cultures and traditions that make our school community so special. The celebrations continue on Friday 13th November, when our PTFA will be hosting a Diversity Disco from 5.30pm to 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. All families are warmly invited to join us for an evening of music, dancing and fun! Tuck Shop-style snacks and a range of alcoholic and soft drinks will be available to purchase. Tickets can now be purchased in advance at a cheaper price than paying on the door, so we encourage families to book early! Please see the attached flyer for full details.

PTFA funded school trips

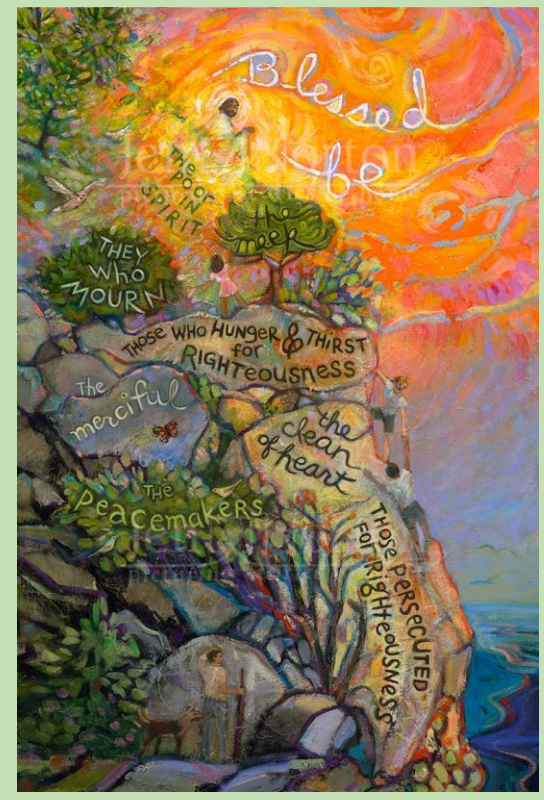
Last term, our Y5 children enjoyed a visit to the Tower of London, while Y4 travelled into London to explore Westminster Abbey. Both trips provided wonderful opportunities for the children to immerse themselves in history. It was particularly lovely to hear children from both year groups describing their day as "the best trip ever!" Their enthusiasm and excitement were a joy to see; it is experiences like these that create lasting memories and inspire a lifelong love of learning. This week, Y3 will be heading to the National Gallery, and next week, Y6 will be visiting the Imperial War Museum. These visits form an important part of our commitment to enriching the curriculum and broadening the children's cultural capital. All of these trips have been fully funded by our PTFA. Thanks to their fundraising efforts, we are able to offer these incredible opportunities to our children without placing an additional financial burden on families. I would therefore urge all parents and carers to please support the PTFA's fundraising events throughout the year. Every event you attend, every contribution you make and every bit of support you offer helps to make experiences like these possible. We very much hope that, with your continued generosity, the PTFA will be able to fund similar opportunities for our children year on year.

Admission to Reception 2026

If your child was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023, you can now apply for a place in the Reception Class at St. Anselm's for September 2027. Applications can be submitted online, via KCC, starting from Friday 6th November. In addition to the online application, please ensure that a Certificate of Practice and a Baptism Certificate are provided to the school office as part of your supporting documentation. Prospective parents and carers are invited to attend an Admissions Meeting on Monday 23rd November at 10:30am in the school hall—everyone is welcome but pre-booking is encouraged via the QR code. Please see the admissions page on our website for more details and the attached Kent information flier.

'Trust in the Lord… and He will direct your path.' Adapted from Proverbs 3:5-6

In this week's Gospel, Jesus teaches the Beatitudes and what it truly means to live a good and holy life. He tells us that those who show kindness, mercy, humility and compassion, and those who work for peace, are blessed in the eyes of God. This Gospel is particularly fitting as we celebrated the Feast of All Saints on Sunday, remembering the lives of those who followed Jesus and showed us how to live according to His teachings. The saints remind us that holiness is not about being perfect, but about making choices each day that reflect God's love. November is also a special month in the Catholic Church when we remember and pray for those who have died



Loving Father,
Help us to live out the Beatitudes each day, showing mercy to others, bringing peace where there is disagreement and offering kindness to those in need. During this special month of November, we remember and pray for those who have died. May they rest in Your eternal peace and love.
Amen.

Playground Injuries – Supporting Independence and Building Resilience

As part of our commitment to providing children with a rich and active play experience through our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme, we recognise that the occasional bump, scrape or fall is a natural part of childhood. Last year, Becky, our OPAL Play Consultant, spoke with parents about the importance of allowing children to experience appropriate levels of risk in their play. The OPAL philosophy recognises that children learn and develop through adventurous play, building confidence, resilience, independence and the ability to assess and manage risks for themselves. Inevitably, this means that children will sometimes fall over, bump themselves or suffer minor cuts and grazes. We would therefore like to clarify our approach to informing parents about injuries sustained during the school day.

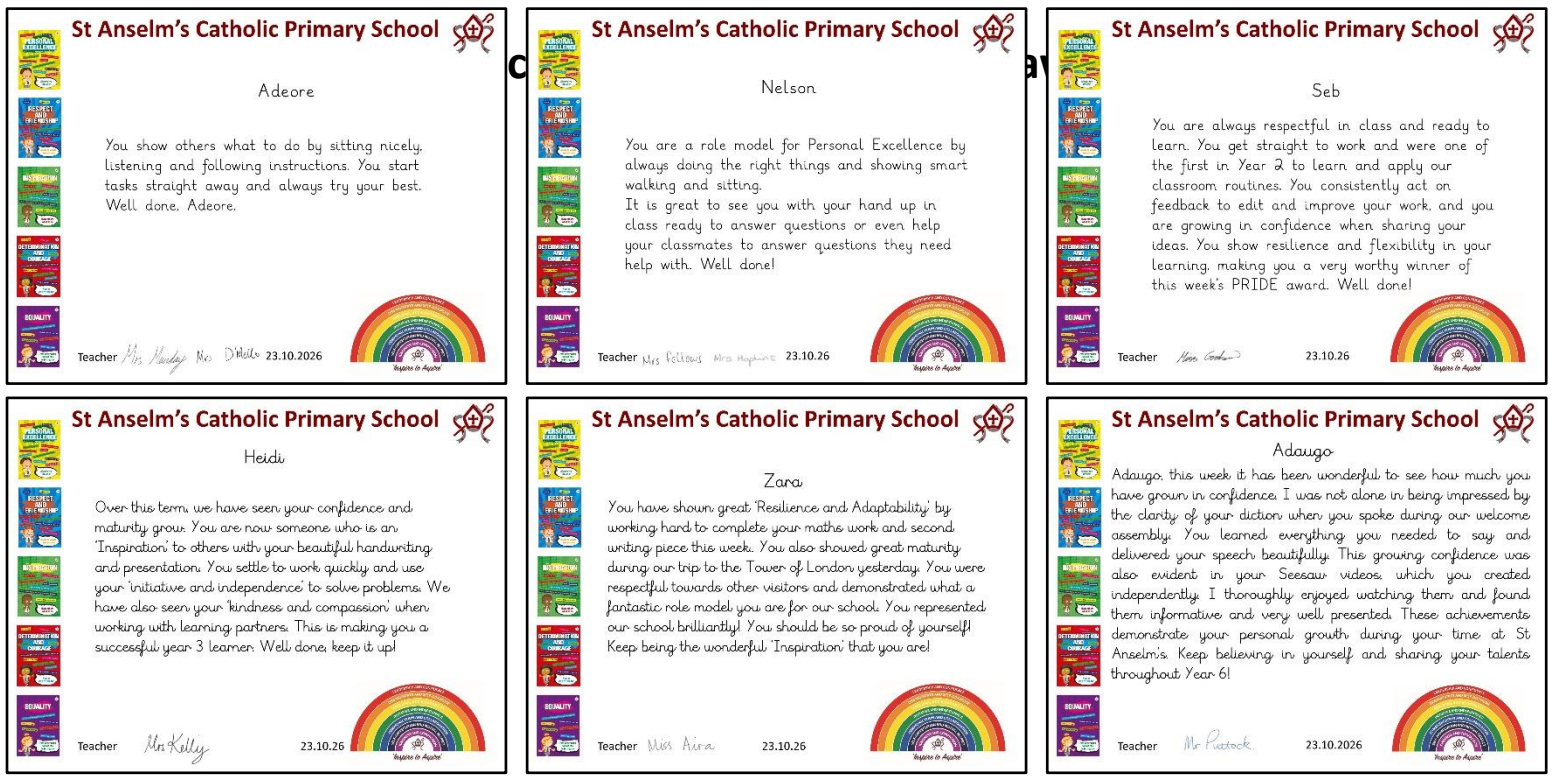
For minor injuries, such as small cuts, grazes or bumps, including those that may require a plaster, we will not routinely contact parents. All injuries requiring first aid will be dealt with appropriately but it is neither necessary nor realistic for school staff to report every minor incident that occurs during a busy school day. Instead, we actively encourage children to take responsibility for telling their parents about these small incidents themselves. This is another important way of developing their communication skills, confidence and independence. For our very youngest children and those with significant SEND needs, who may find it difficult to communicate what has happened, we recognise that a different approach is needed, and staff will inform parents.

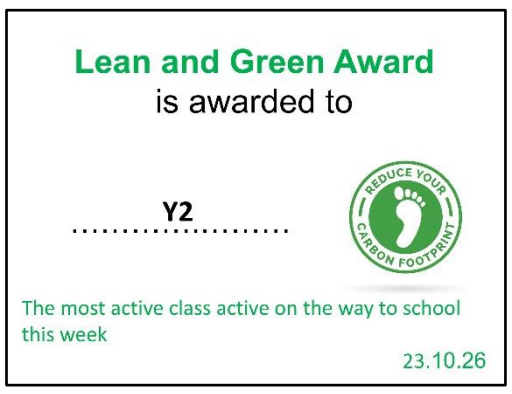
For more significant injuries, and for any injury involving the head, parents should expect to be informed by a member of school staff.

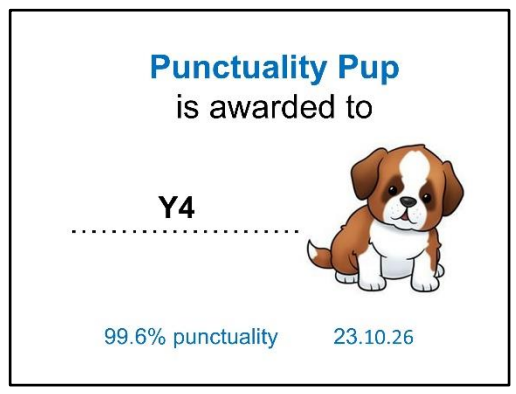
Our priority will always be the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care. However, we also want children to enjoy the freedom to play, explore, take appropriate risks and develop resilience without every small bump or scrape becoming a cause for concern. Thank you for supporting us in helping children to become confident, resilient and increasingly independent young people.

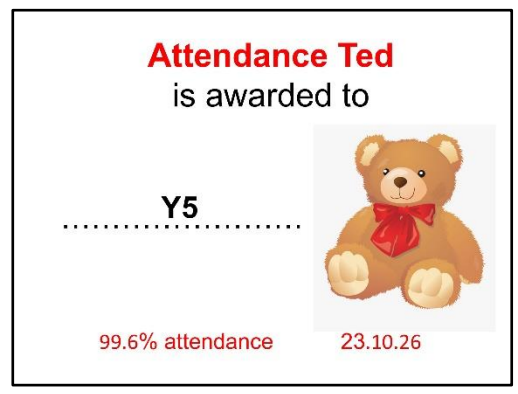
Winter Uniform Reminder

Thank you for ensuring that your child has returned to school today wearing full winter uniform. On Fridays the children should wear their tracksuits. Please note that jewellery, including bracelets and rubber wristbands that are not continent team bands or part of the Poppy Appeal, should not be worn. Thank you.









'Trust in the Lord… and He will direct your path.' Adapted from Proverbs 3:5-6

KEY DATES

Tuesday 3rd November
Term 2 begins

Wednesday 4th November
Y3 trip to National Gallery

Monday 9th November
PTFA AGM 7pm in the school hall

Tuesday 10th November
Individual & Sibling Photographs

Wednesday 11th November
Y6 trip to Imperial War Museum

Thursday 12th November
Diversity Day in School

Friday 13th November
PTFA Diversity Disco 5.30 – 8pm

Tuesday 17th November
Non-uniform day in exchange for bazaar goods

Friday 20th November
Dartford Festival of Light

Saturday 21st November
St Vincent's Parish Bazaar 12pm – 3pm

Sunday 22nd November
School Mass - St Vincent's Church 11am

Monday 23rd November
New Admissions Meeting – 10.30am

Monday 30th November
Y6 SATS & PGL Meeting – 5pm

Friday 11th December
Infant Nativity – 2pm

Wednesday 16th December
Junior Carol Service – St Vincent's Church 7pm

Thursday 17th December
Choir singing at Bluewater 11am

Friday 18th December
End of Term 2 – school closes 1pm



ST ANSELM'S PTFA PRESENTS

St Anselm's PTFA

#TOGETHERWEAREBETTER



BUY TICKETS

WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK
/STANSELMS

DIVERSITY DISCO

RAFFLE ON THE NIGHT

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

5:30PM - 8PM

ST VINCENT'S PARISH HALL

TICKETS (ONLINE)

CHILD £3 | ADULT £4

TICKETS (ON THE DOOR)

CHILD £4 | ADULT £5





★ SNACKS & DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM THE BAR ★

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Healthy Choices for a Happy, Healthy Day!

Healthy Food Helps Us Learn!

Good food gives us energy, helps us concentrate and keeps us healthy.

Break Time Snacks

Snacks give us a light, healthy boost of energy to help us concentrate and learn.

These snacks are allowed:



Fresh fruit



Fresh vegetables



Items from the school tuck shop that meet our food standards

These snacks are not allowed:



Sweets



Chocolate bars and chocolate-coated products (including biscuits)



Juice cartons or flavoured drinks

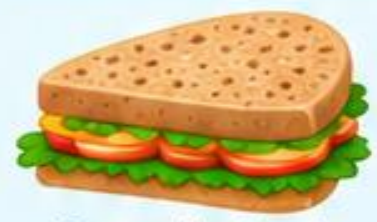


Fizzy drinks

Packed Lunches

A healthy packed lunch gives us the nutrients we need to stay healthy and do our best.

A healthy lunch usually includes:



A starchy food such as bread, wraps, pasta, rice, couscous or crackers



A protein source such as meat, fish, eggs, beans, lentils, cheese or hummus



At least one portion of fruit and/or vegetables



A dairy product or suitable dairy alternative



Water as the only drink

These should not be included in packed lunches:



Fizzy drinks



Juice cartons or flavoured drinks



Sweets, chocolate bars and chocolate-coated products (including biscuits)



Takeaway food or leftovers from takeaways (e.g. pizza, fried chicken, chips)



Any products containing nuts due to allergy risks

Remember...



Choose healthy, nutritious foods



Drink water



Keep sugary foods and treats limited



No takeaway food or leftovers



No nuts



Healthy Food Brighter Futures!



St Anselm's School Term Dates 2026-27

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Holiday | Bank holiday | INSET day

St Anselm's School Term Dates 2027 – 2028

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	Holiday		Bank holiday		INSET day

PARENT & FAMILY SUPPORT
Mental Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding Resources
St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding Support at School

If you have concerns about your safety, your child's safety, or their wellbeing, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Email: dsl@st-anselms.kent.sch.uk
If a child is in immediate danger call **999**.

Domestic Abuse Support

National Domestic Abuse Helpline
Call **0808 2000 247** (24 hours a day)
Chat: Mon–Fri 10am–10pm

Domestic abuse support information

Additional Support Services

Childline: 0800 1111 (24hrs)
Samaritans: 116 123 (24hrs)
YoungMinds
Beat Eating Disorder Support
Kidscape

Fast Track Counselling for Parents

North Kent Mind offers fast track counselling for parents.
£40–£45 per session with short waiting times.
Visit service page

Kooth – Free Online Mental Health Support

Free anonymous online counselling for young people aged 10–25. Available daily including evenings and weekends.
www.kooth.com
Parent support email: parents@kooth.com