INSPIRE TO ASPIRE

COMPASS

St Anselm's School Newsletter

NAVIGATING TODAY…SHAPING TOMORROW

9th November
Autumn 2026

One of the greatest strengths of St Anselm's is our wonderfully rich, vibrant and diverse school community. We are incredibly fortunate to have children and families from so many different cultural backgrounds, each bringing their own traditions, languages and heritage to our school. This diversity is something to be truly celebrated. It enriches our children's experiences, broadens their understanding of the world and makes our school such a special place to belong. As a Catholic school, we recognise that every person is made in the image and likeness of God. Although we may come from different countries, speak different languages and celebrate different traditions, we are united by the values of love, kindness and respect. Our differences do not divide us; they enrich and strengthen our community. This Thursday, we have a wonderful opportunity to bring this diversity to life as we celebrate our annual Diversity Day. Children are invited to come to school wearing clothing that reflects their cultural heritage, whether that is traditional dress, clothing in the colours of their national flag or something else that represents their cultural identity. It promises to be a colourful and joyful celebration of the many cultures that make St Anselm's so special.

Diversity Disco

The celebrations continue on Friday 13th November, when our wonderful 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 selection of alcoholic and soft drinks will be available to purchase. Tickets are cheaper when purchased in advance, so please see the attached flyer for details. I really do encourage everyone to support this event. It is about much more than fundraising; it is an opportunity to come together, strengthen friendships and celebrate the wonderful community to which we all belong; our diversity is one of our greatest treasures, and something of which we should all be enormously proud.

PTFA Annual General Meeting – TONIGHT

Following the letter sent to all parents on Friday, I would like to remind everyone of our PTFA Annual General Meeting taking place tonight at 7.00pm in the school hall. Our PTFA plays such an important role in the life of St Anselm's, working tirelessly to raise funds and provide wonderful opportunities and experiences for our children. The AGM is a chance to find out more about their work, meet the committee and hear about plans for the future, including our ambition to gain registered charity status. Please do try to come along and show your support. You do not need to commit to joining the committee or taking on a role. Simply attending demonstrates your appreciation for all that the PTFA does for the good of our children and our wider school community. Please remember to confirm your attendance using the Google Form linked in Friday's letter.

Individual & Sibling Photographs

Our school photographer will be visiting tomorrow, Tuesday 10th November, to take individual and sibling photographs. Please ensure that children come to school looking smart in their full school uniform.

Non-Uniform Day for Bazaar Donations

Next Tuesday 17th November, children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a donation towards our Parish Bazaar. We are asking families to contribute either a bottle for the bottle tombola (something an adult would be pleased to win!) or sweets or chocolates for the chocolate tombola. A collection trolley will be on the playground on Tuesday morning for bottle donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support in helping to make our Parish Bazaar a success!

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

Today, we came together for a special Remembrance Celebration of the Word, taking time to remember and pray for all those who have died, especially those we have loved and lost.

We reflected on the beautiful words of Jesus: *"There are many rooms in my Father's house"* (John 14:2), reminding us that God has prepared a place for each of us in heaven. We also shared the story *God's Garden* by Kevin Morrison, which offers a comforting picture of heaven as a beautiful garden where we can find peace, happiness and eternal life with God. Although we feel sadness when someone we love dies, our Catholic faith gives us great hope. Jesus lived, died and rose again, and through his Resurrection, he has opened the way to eternal life for us all. We can take comfort in knowing that death is not the end and that one day we too can enjoy the peace and beauty of God's heavenly garden, reunited with those we love. During this month of remembrance, we keep all those who have died in our thoughts and prayers.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.

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.

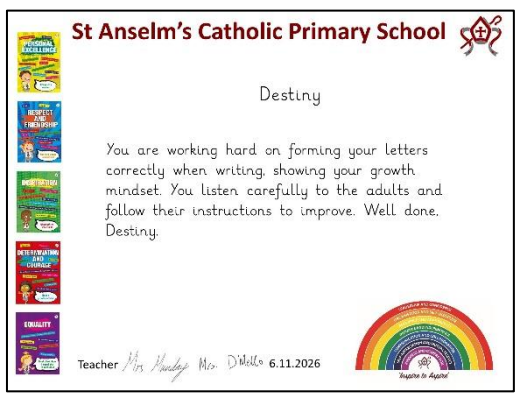
New School Lunch Menu

Since the start of this term, a new school lunch menu has been introduced, offering children a range of meals to enjoy each day. Please take a look at the attached menu for full details of the options available and discuss the choices with your child so they know what to expect at lunchtime.

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.

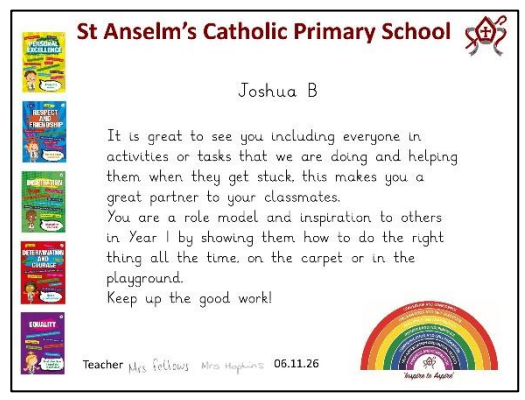
Congratulations to these children who received an award last week.


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Destiny

You are working hard on forming your letters correctly when writing, showing your growth mindset. You listen carefully to the adults and follow their instructions to improve. Well done, Destiny.

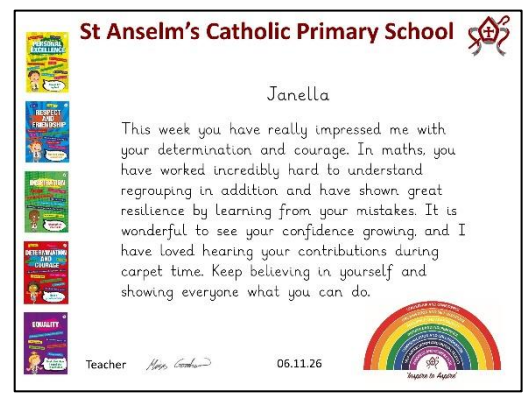
Teacher Mrs Hardy Mrs D'Mello 6.11.2026


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Joshua B

It is great to see you including everyone in activities or tasks that we are doing and helping them when they get stuck, this makes you a great partner to your classmates.
You are a role model and inspiration to others in Year 1 by showing them how to do the right thing all the time, on the carpet or in the playground.
Keep up the good work!

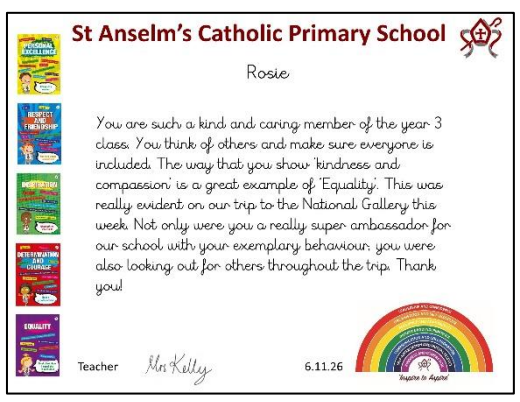
Teacher Mrs Follows Mrs Hopkins 06.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Janella

This week you have really impressed me with your determination and courage. In maths, you have worked incredibly hard to understand regrouping in addition and have shown great resilience by learning from your mistakes. It is wonderful to see your confidence growing, and I have loved hearing your contributions during carpet time. Keep believing in yourself and showing everyone what you can do.

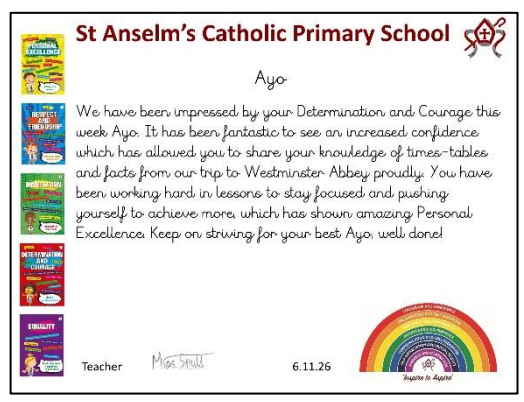
Teacher 06.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Rosie

You are such a kind and caring member of the year 3 class. You think of others and make sure everyone is included. The way that you show 'kindness and compassion' is a great example of 'Equality'. This was really evident on our trip to the National Gallery this week. Not only were you a really super ambassador for our school with your exemplary behaviour, you were also looking out for others throughout the trip. Thank you!

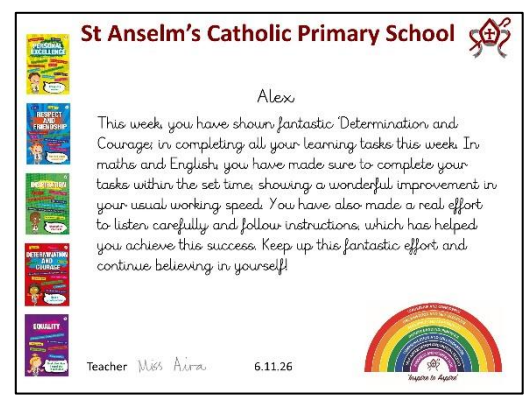
Teacher Mrs Kelly 6.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Ayo

We have been impressed by your Determination and Courage this week Ayo. It has been fantastic to see an increased confidence which has allowed you to share your knowledge of times-tables and facts from our trip to Westminster Abbey proudly. You have been working hard in lessons to stay focused and pushing yourself to achieve more, which has shown amazing Personal Excellence. Keep on striving for your best Ayo, well done!

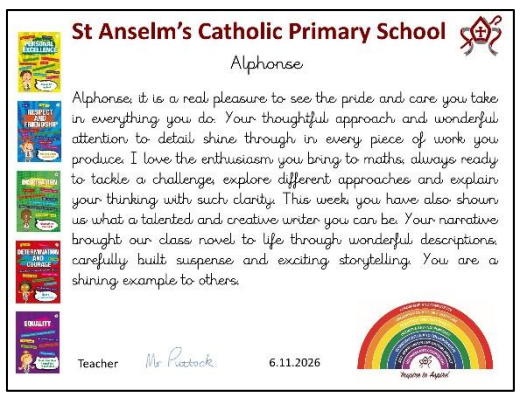
Teacher 6.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Alex

This week, you have shown fantastic 'Determination and Courage' in completing all your learning tasks this week. In maths and English, you have made sure to complete your tasks within the set time, showing a wonderful improvement in your usual working speed. You have also made a real effort to listen carefully and follow instructions, which has helped you achieve this success. Keep up this fantastic effort and continue believing in yourself!

Teacher Miss Aira 6.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Alphonse

Alphonse, it is a real pleasure to see the pride and care you take in everything you do. Your thoughtful approach and wonderful attention to detail shine through in every piece of work you produce. I love the enthusiasm you bring to maths, always ready to tackle a challenge, explore different approaches and explain your thinking with such clarity. This week you have also shown us what a talented and creative writer you can be. Your narrative brought our class novel to life through wonderful descriptions, carefully built suspense and exciting storytelling. You are a shining example to others.

Teacher Mr Pastock 6.11.2026

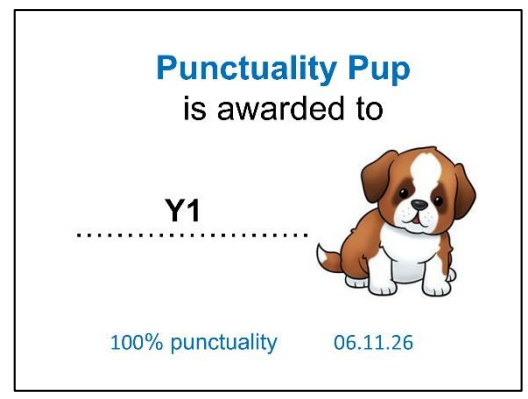

Lean and Green Award
is awarded to

Y6

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

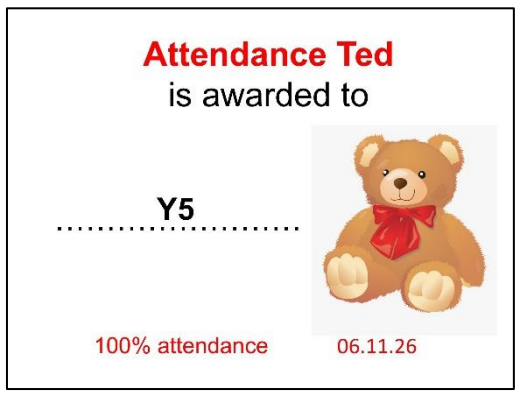
The most active class active on the way to school this week

06.11.26


Punctuality Pup
is awarded to

Y1

100% punctuality 06.11.26


Attendance Ted
is awarded to

Y5

100% attendance 06.11.26

KEY DATES

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



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

‘Navigating today…shaping tomorrow’

BRITISH VALUES
AT ST ANSELM’S SCHOOL

DEMOCRACY
We all have the right to be heard and to take part in decisions that affect us all.

RULE OF LAW
We are all subject to the law which is applied fairly and equally to everyone.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY
We have the freedom to make our own choices and express our own views.

MUTUAL RESPECT
We respect each other and treat everyone with kindness and consideration.

TOLERANCE
We value differences and celebrate the diverse communities we live in.

In the news this week



British adventurer Karl Bushby has returned to the UK, after spending almost 28 years travelling around the world on an incredible journey home. Since leaving Chile in 1998, he has travelled through jungles, deserts and icy landscapes, even swimming across seas to continue his adventure. Karl’s journey has been filled with amazing experiences, challenges and achievements.

Things to talk about at home...

- Karl spent almost 28 years travelling. Why might he have chosen to take on such an enormous challenge?
- What do you think Karl may have learned about himself during this time?
- Can you think of a time when you enjoyed working towards something more than actually achieving it?

Which British Values?

Individual Liberty is highlighted through people's freedom to celebrate their religion and take part in traditions that are important to them.

The decision to cancel the fireworks display links to Rule of Law, as it considers how to keep people safe during the celebrations.

Which protected characteristic?

Diwali is an example of how people come together to celebrate their faith and traditions. Everyone should be free to practise their religion or belief and celebrate traditions that are important to them.

Rainbow Curriculum Link

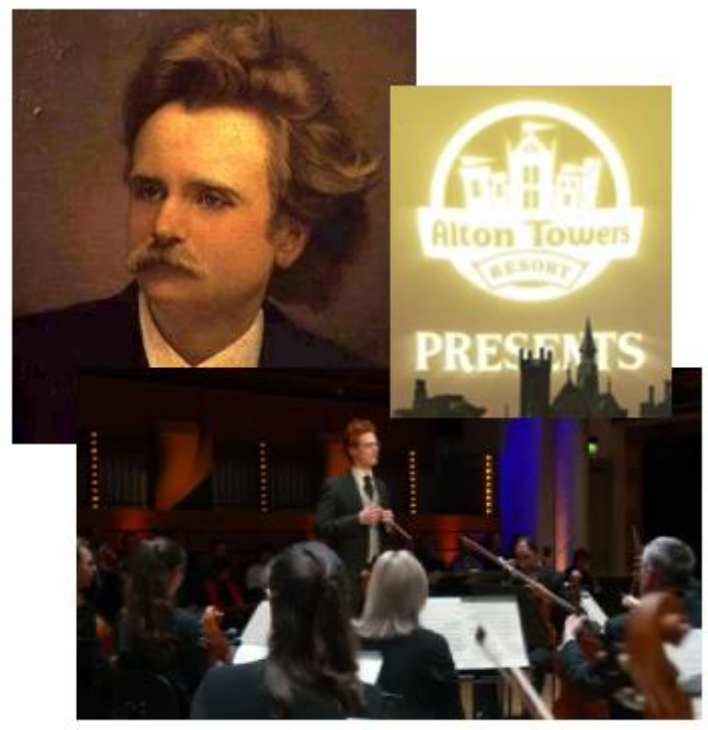
Karl Bushby’s incredible journey shows children the importance of perseverance, determination and adapting to challenges. Despite facing many obstacles, he continued working towards his goal.
His story teaches children that **resilience** means not giving up when things get difficult, while **adaptability** means finding new ways forward. It also reminds us that the experiences and lessons we gain along the way can be just as important as reaching our destination.





This term, we are learning about inspirational pieces of music and their composers.

Edvard Grieg was a Norwegian composer and pianist. Born in 1843 and died in 1907, his most famous composition is ‘*In the Hall of the Mountain King*’ from the play Peer Gynt. This piece of music is used in the TV advert for Alton Towers.



Click here for a YouTube link to hear this piece of music.

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

NOVEMBER TO MARCH 2027

NOURISH

THE NOURISH MENU

BANG IN SOME BEANS!
DISHES WITH ME NEXT TO THEM CONTAIN BEANS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE 2 November 23 November 14 December 18 January 8 February 8 March	Chicken Pie **1** Pesto & Pea Pasta **1 VG** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Crushed Potatoes Cauliflower Carrots Rice Pudding **7** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Fruit Pots **VG**	Beef Bolognaise Pasta Bake **1,3,7** Vegetable Chilli Skins **VG** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Garlic Bread **1,3** Seasonal Vegetables Bananas & Chocolate Custard **7** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Fruit Pots **VG**	Roast Gammon & Gravy Cheese & Potato Pie **1,3,7 V** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Rustic Roast Potatoes Cabbage Peas Fruit Jelly **VG** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Yoghurt **3,7** Fruit Pots **VG**	Margherita Pizza **1,3,7 V** Black Bean Jambalaya **VG** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Sweetcorn Broccoli Rainbow Pasta **1** Beetroot Cake **1,3 VG** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Yoghurt **3,7** Fruit Pots **VG**	Fish Fingers **1,8** Cheese & Tomato Pinwheel **1,7 V** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Chips Peas Baked Beans Carrot Sticks Oaty Biscuit **1,3,15 VG** Yoghurt **3,7** Fruit Pots **VG**
WEEK TWO 9 November 30 November 4 January 25 January 22 February 15 March	BBQ Chicken Pesto Pasta Bake **1,7 V** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Rice, Carrots Peas Jam Tart **1,3 VG** & Custard **7** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Fruit Pots **VG**	Tomato & Broccoli Pasta **1 VG** Cheese & Tomato Pinwheel **1,7 V** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Wedges Seasonal Vegetables Strawberry Panna Cotta Milky Jelly **7** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Fruit Pots **VG**	Roast Chicken & Gravy Vegan Cowboy Hotpot **1 VG** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Rustic Roast Potatoes Broccoli Carrots Crispy Cake **1,7,16** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Yoghurt **3,7** Fruit Pots **VG**	Beef Stew & Dumpling **1,3** Herby Tomato Spaghetti **1 VG** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Herby Bread **1,3** Green Beans Cauliflower Apple Crumble Bar **1,3 VG** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Yoghurt **3,7** Fruit Pots **VG**	Salmon Fish Cake **1,8** Margherita Pizza **1,3,7 V** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Chips Peas Baked Beans Coleslaw **9** Banana Bread **1,3 VG** Yoghurt **3,7** Fruit Pots **VG**
WEEK THREE 16 November 7 December 11 January 1 February 1 March 22 March	Macaroni Cheese **1,3,7 V** Red Pepper & Bean Masala & Rice **VG** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Garlic Bread **1,3** Cauliflower Green Beans Peach Crumble **1,3 VG** & Custard **7** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Fruit Pots **VG**	Chicken Noodles **1,3** BBQ Wrap Stack **1,7 V** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Potato Wedges Carrots Peas Caramel Mousse **7** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Fruit Pots **VG**	**BRUNCH** Pork Sausage & Bacon **1,3,6** **Or** Quorn Sausage **1 VG** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Brunch Hash Potatoes Baked Beans Mushrooms & Tomatoes Fruit Jelly **VG** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Yoghurt **3,7** Fruit Pots **VG**	Minced Beef Cobbler **1,3** Herby Tomato Pasta **1 VG** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Herby Bread **1,3** Seasonal Vegetables Chocolate Sponge Cake **1,3 VG** Mr Nourish Biscuit **1,3 VG** Yoghurt **3,7**, Fruit Pots **VG**	Fish Fingers **1,8** Cheese & Bean Burrito **1,7 V** Jackets with a Choice of Toppings **7,8,9** Chips, Peas Baked Beans Cucumber sticks Crispy Cookie **1,3,7,16** Yoghurt **3,7** Fruit Pots **VG**

St Anselm

1 Wheat Gluten 2 Crustaceans 3 Soybean 4 Mustard 5 Sesame 6 Sulphites/Sulphur Dioxide 7 Milk 8 Fish 9 Egg
10 Peanuts 11 Molluscs 12 Celeriac/Celery 13 Nuts 14 Lupins 15 Oat Gluten 16 Barley Gluten VG Vegan V Vegetarian

AVAILABLE DAILY

Selection of Salads 9, Homemade Bread 1,3. Some of our schools may use pre prepped potatoes or vegetables on occasions. These may contain sulphites and celeriac. Please discuss with your manager.

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

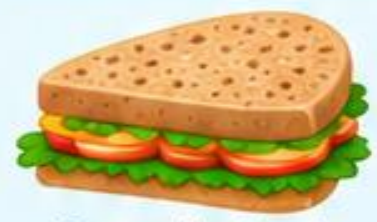


Fizzy drinks

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

SEPTEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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Holiday | Bank holiday | INSET day

St Anselm's School Term Dates 2027 – 2028

SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

	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