INSPIRE TO ASPIRE
COMPASS
St Anselm's School Newsletter
NAVIGATING TODAY…SHAPING TOMORROW
16th November
Autumn 2026

Christmas is drawing ever closer and, as is tradition, the festive season begins with our Parish Christmas Bazaar, taking place this coming Saturday, 21st November. As the parish school, we are committed to supporting this special event in a number of ways. Firstly, on Tuesday 17th November, we will be holding a non-uniform day when children are invited to wear their own clothes in exchange for a donation towards the 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 to receive donations, and we thank you in advance for your generosity. Secondly, our wonderful Christmas Choir will be performing at the Bazaar at 12.30pm on Saturday, singing a selection of festive songs and carols. This will be their first performance of the Christmas season, and they are very much looking forward to doing their bit to support our parish while spreading a little Christmas cheer! The Parish Bazaar is always a lovely occasion and a wonderful opportunity for our school and parish communities to come together. So why not come along, enjoy the festivities and support this special event!

School Mass – This Sunday at 11.00am

This Sunday, we will be celebrating our **School Mass at 11.00am at St Vincent's Church**, with our children taking an active role in leading the readings and singing. All families are warmly invited to join us for this special celebration as we come together as a school and parish community in prayer and worship. We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Thank You for Supporting Our Diversity Celebrations!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our diversity celebrations last week. It was wonderful to see so many children proudly wearing traditional dress and clothing that reflected their cultural heritage and identity. It was a lovely celebration of the rich diversity within our school community. Friday evening's Diversity Disco was extremely well attended, and a fantastic time was had by all! A special thank you to our hardworking PTFA committee and everyone who gave their time and energy to make the event such a success. Your continued support helps make our school community such a special place to belong.

PTFA Annual General Meeting Update

Thank you to everyone who attended last week's PTFA Annual General Meeting. It was a valuable opportunity for the committee to reflect on and share the successes of the past year, and there really is so much to celebrate! Thanks to their tremendous fundraising efforts, the PTFA is now in a position to pursue an application for charitable status, which will open up further opportunities to raise funds for the benefit of our children. At the meeting, a vote of confidence was given to the existing committee members, who will all remain in post: Mary Okani, Nicole Sharos, Sherylin McCarthy and Jamie Fellows. We are extremely grateful for their continued commitment and hard work. Many ideas were shared and discussed during the meeting. One particularly positive suggestion came from a parent who proposed setting up a PTFA WhatsApp Channel to improve communication with families. We are delighted that this has already been put into action! The new channel provides a simple and secure way to keep up to date with all things PTFA. Unlike a WhatsApp group, followers' telephone numbers and contact details are not visible to other followers. Please see the attached flyer for details of how to join. This is a wonderful example of why wider parental involvement matters. When more people get involved, more ideas are shared, fresh perspectives are brought to the table and positive changes can happen. You don't have to be on the committee to make a difference – every contribution, however small, is valued and can help make our PTFA even stronger.

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

In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of three servants who are entrusted with different amounts of money. Two use what they have been given wisely, while the third hides his away out of fear.
Jesus reminds us that God has given each of us unique gifts and talents, and what matters is how we use them. We are encouraged to be courageous, make the most of our abilities and share our gifts with others. Everyone has something valuable to offer, and our talents are gifts to be used for the good of others.



Thank you for the unique gifts and talents you have given each of us. Help us to recognise our strengths and have the courage to use them wisely. Teach us not to be afraid of making mistakes, but to grow in confidence and faith. May we always use our gifts to help others, bring joy to those around us and make a positive difference in the world.
Amen.

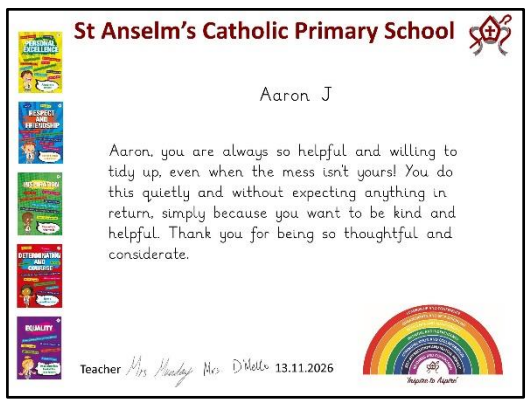
Admission to Reception 2026

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.

Dartford Festival of Light – Friday 20th November

This Friday, Dartford will be celebrating its annual Festival of Light, a wonderful community event that brings people together to enjoy a colourful celebration of light, creativity and togetherness. The festival is a lovely opportunity for families to enjoy an evening out and be part of a special local tradition. We encourage our families to come along and enjoy the celebrations! The event takes place from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in Dartford High Street, with the procession expected to begin at approximately 6.30pm.

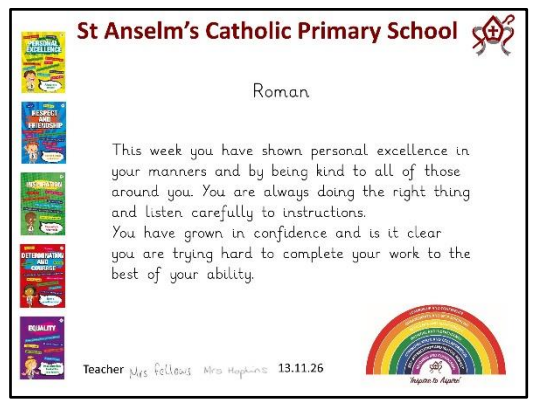
Congratulations to these children who received an award last week.


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Aaron J

Aaron, you are always so helpful and willing to tidy up, even when the mess isn't yours! You do this quietly and without expecting anything in return, simply because you want to be kind and helpful. Thank you for being so thoughtful and considerate.

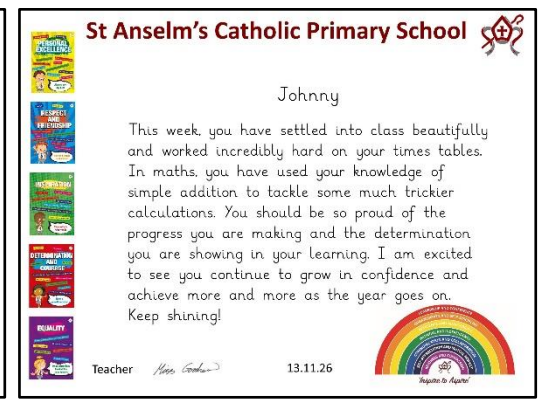
Teacher Mrs Hanley Mrs D'Mello 13.11.2026


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Roman

This week you have shown personal excellence in your manners and by being kind to all of those around you. You are always doing the right thing and listen carefully to instructions.
You have grown in confidence and is it clear you are trying hard to complete your work to the best of your ability.

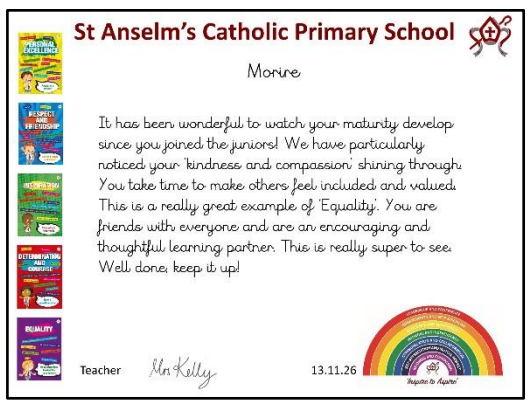
Teacher Mrs Fellows Mrs Hughes 13.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Johnny

This week, you have settled into class beautifully and worked incredibly hard on your times tables. In maths, you have used your knowledge of simple addition to tackle some much trickier calculations. You should be so proud of the progress you are making and the determination you are showing in your learning. I am excited to see you continue to grow in confidence and achieve more and more as the year goes on.
Keep shining!

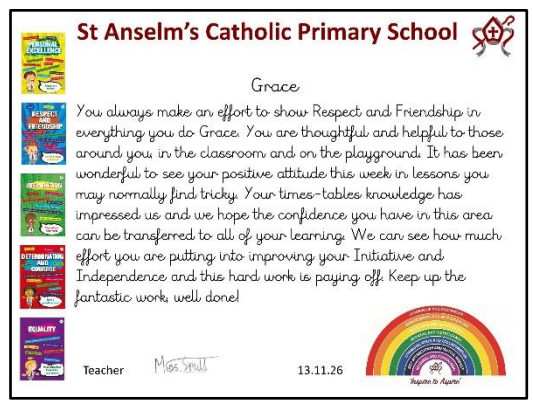
Teacher 13.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Morire

It has been wonderful to watch your maturity develop since you joined the juniors! We have particularly noticed your 'kindness and compassion' shining through. You take time to make others feel included and valued. This is a really great example of 'Equality'. You are friends with everyone and are an encouraging and thoughtful learning partner. This is really super to see. Well done, keep it up!

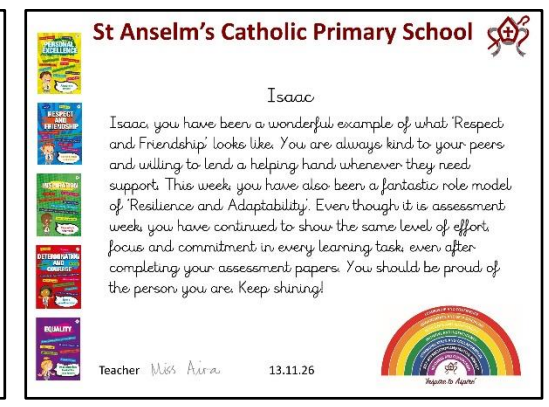
Teacher Mr Kelly 13.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Grace

You always make an effort to show Respect and Friendship in everything you do Grace. You are thoughtful and helpful to those around you, in the classroom and on the playground. It has been wonderful to see your positive attitude this week in lessons you may normally find tricky. Your times-tables knowledge has impressed us and we hope the confidence you have in this area can be transferred to all of your learning. We can see how much effort you are putting into improving your Initiative and Independence and this hard work is paying off. Keep up the fantastic work, well done!

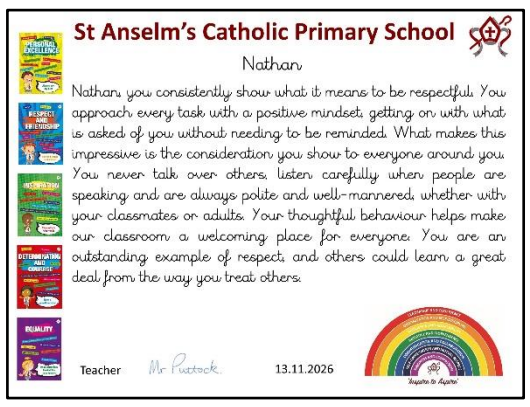
Teacher Miss Smith 13.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Isaac

Isaac, you have been a wonderful example of what 'Respect and Friendship' looks like. You are always kind to your peers and willing to lend a helping hand whenever they need support. This week, you have also been a fantastic role model of 'Resilience and Adaptability'. Even though it is assessment week, you have continued to show the same level of effort, focus and commitment in every learning task, even after completing your assessment papers. You should be proud of the person you are. Keep shining!

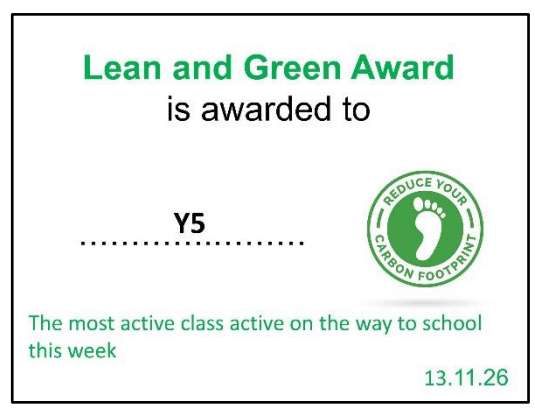
Teacher Miss Aira 13.11.26


St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

Nathan

Nathan, you consistently show what it means to be respectful. You approach every task with a positive mindset, getting on with what is asked of you without needing to be reminded. What makes this impressive is the consideration you show to everyone around you. You never talk over others, listen carefully when people are speaking and are always polite and well-mannered, whether with your classmates or adults. Your thoughtful behaviour helps make our classroom a welcoming place for everyone. You are an outstanding example of respect, and others could learn a great deal from the way you treat others.

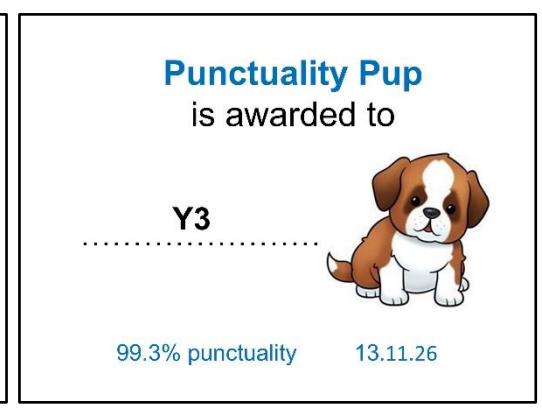
Teacher Mr Pattock 13.11.2026


Lean and Green Award
is awarded to

Y5

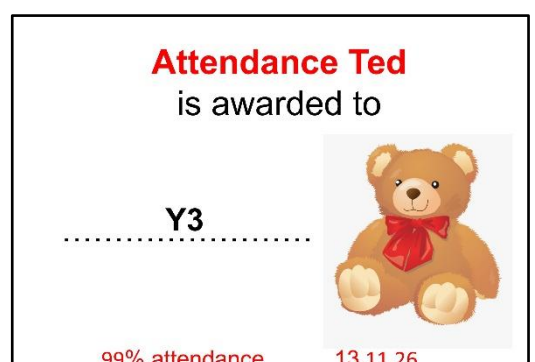
The most active class active on the way to school this week

13.11.26


Punctuality Pup
is awarded to

Y3

99.3% punctuality 13.11.26


Attendance Ted
is awarded to

Y3

99% attendance 13.11.26

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

KEY DATES

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



‘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



Diwali celebrations in Leicester return this November. It’s one of the UK's biggest Diwali festival locations, with music, dancing, colourful lights and family activities. However, the traditional public fireworks display will not take place this year as part of Diwali celebrations, due to crowd safety concerns at the park.

Organisers hope the celebrations will still bring thousands of people together to enjoy the Festival of Lights, despite some familiar traditions being different.

Things to talk about at home...

- What traditions do you celebrate with your family? Why are they special to you?
- Why do you think some people might feel upset when a tradition changes?
- Is it more important to keep traditions the same or find new ones? Why?

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

This story links to **Leadership & Confidence** because it shows how traditions sometimes need to change and how leaders must make difficult decisions for the benefit and safety of others. The organisers of Leicester’s Diwali celebrations have shown leadership by prioritising public safety, even though they know that some people may be disappointed. Children need to understand that being a good leader does not always mean making popular decisions, but making responsible ones.



SAFE & SOUND

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

Sergei Prokofiev was a Ukrainian-born Russian composer, pianist and conductor. Born in 1891 and died in 1953, his most famous composition is ‘***Dance of the Knights’*** **from the ballet Romeo and Juliet.** This piece of music is used as the theme for the BBC programme, The Apprentice.







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

St Anselm's PTFA

WhatsApp Channel

Scan the QR code to follow!

Welcome!

Keep up to date with events, fundraising and school news.

Privacy

One-way updates only. No one else can see your name or phone number.

Don't miss out!

It's muted by default. Be sure to tap the bell at the top to unmute.



Why follow us?

Find out what's coming up and support our school.

Together, we can make a real difference to our school community!

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

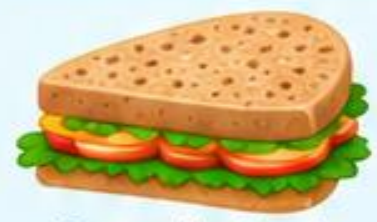


Fizzy drinks

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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Holiday | Bank holiday | INSET day

St Anselm's School Term Dates 2027 – 2028

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DECEMBER						
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FEBRUARY						
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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