



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 18th July 2025

Mr Brooks' 2024—2025 Reflection

Wow, what a year! Once again, our school has continued to grow from strength to strength and during this newsletter I will reflect upon some of my proudest moments from the year.

Writing has been a key focus this year. We have taken part in Literacy Count's two year writing project, working alongside 14 other schools from Liverpool, Knowsley and Wirral. It has been a pleasure to welcome Mrs. Saunders, our new English lead to school. She has fitted in straight away, has a clear vision for English in our school and she also has a deep understanding of our All Aboard Phonics scheme. During the year, three schools from different boroughs have visited school to look at the consistent approach applied to the teaching of writing from Reception to Year 6; this is supported by the resources from Ready Steady Write.

Mrs. Bloor and Miss Caldwell have worked tirelessly to improve our Key Stage 1 History and Geography curriculum, in the style of Opening Worlds. We have also worked hard to continue to develop our EYFS outdoor area, I particularly love the new travelling water area and the large sandpit. A big thank you to our Early Years team for their consistent hard work and dedication. We also welcomed Mr Snape to our school in January 2025, I am sure that you will all agree that the school ground have improved significantly since then.

Mrs. Melia and I have worked closely with Pat Peel from the Christian Education Department to implement and embed the new Religious Education Directory 'To Know You More Clearly', in Reception, KS1 and Year 3; this year, next year we will implement this curriculum in Year 4. We have had amazing sporting success this year, we came second in the girls and boys CrossCountry, won the small schools Athletics Boys Competition, won the Year 3 and 4 gymnastics competition and have had Kieran from the LFC Foundation in school each Wednesday morning. The children and the staff love Kieran's lessons so much that next year he will work in our school all day on a Wednesday. We are so lucky that some of our Year 5 children even met Mo Salah. A big thank you to Mr Preston for all that he does for sports across our school.

I am extremely proud of the academic success that the children have made across the school. 80% of our children in Reception achieved a Good Level of Development and 93% of our children in Year 1 passed the phonics screening check. At the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) 94% of children achieved the expected standard in reading, 81% achieved the expected standard in writing, 94% achieved the expected standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling, 97% achieved the expected standard in Maths, this led to a combined reading, writing, maths score of 77%. I would like to thank all of the teachers who have worked with the children over their time in school as this teamwork has led to fantastic results in all Key Stages.

This year we have been on residential to Robinwood, PGL, Bormio, Italy skiing and we have even spent a night in the Catalyst Museum in Widnes. We had three amazing nativities from our Reception and KS1 classes and the singing in our KS2 Christmas service was a key highlight of the year. Year 6 produced an outstanding performance of Robinwood and the Sherwood Hoodies, I am not sure the audience have laughed so much in their entire lives. The key message to me from this performance was teamwork, together we can achieve anything. We welcomed 30 slightly nervous but very excited Reception children and their families into the St Anthony of Padua family. It has been a joy to watch them flourish with the care and support of our dedicated and highly skilled EYFS team. We look forward to welcoming our new 31 children and their families into the school community in September.

Our PTA have had an amazing year and we are truly thankful for all that the volunteers do to support the school. We have purchased new furniture for our Reception classroom, Chrome books for use across the curriculum, the school mini bus, ducklings for Reception, Year 3 and 4 reading books and a salad bar for the dining room. Our PTA will provide curriculum enrichment next year by providing Ukulele lessons for our Year 4 children and they have also subsidised our Liverpool School Sports Partnership membership so that we can access the enhanced rather than the basic level of support. A big thank you to Sarah Ferguson for all she has done for our school over the last ten plus years. She has been an amazing Chair of our PTA and we wish her the very best for the future.

As we end the year, I would like to wish our Year 6 children the best of luck on the next phase of their education. We look forward to welcoming Miss Duffy, Mrs. Jones and Mr Fitzgerald into our school community. We are also very excited to find out if Mrs. Melia is having a boy or a girl. We will continue to look after her until she goes on maternity leave in the October half term. I would finally like to thank the whole staff team for making our school the special place that it is. I would like to thank Fr Terence, the Franciscans and the parish community for the constant love and support that they show to school. Our dedicated governors who give up their time and expertise for the good of our school. Our parents who support their children and show a real sense of pride in the school and all that we do. Finally, I would like to thank our amazing children who come to school each day with big smiles on their faces. I hope you have a lovely summer and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 2nd September, where we can continue 'Following Jesus, we love, learn and serve'.

Mr Brooks and the St Anthony of Padua Team.