ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
(WITH NURSERY)
Cottage View
Landport
PORTSMOUTH
PO1 1PX

Head Teacher: Mrs. L. Park BA (Hons), PGCE, MA

Tel: 023 92821055 Email: admin@stjohns.portsmouth.sch.uk
Fax: 023 92815065 www.stjohnscathedralschool.org.uk

2nd November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome back to St John's. I hope that you had a restful break and are ready for the exciting learning opportunities, celebrations and events this half term.

November is a special time in the liturgical year when we pray for those who have died and reflect on the hope of eternal life. As part of our community act of remembrance, I invite children, staff and families to write the names of their loved ones on a poppy and hang it on the remembrance tree in the entrance. These names will remain in our prayers throughout November as we ask God to grant them eternal rest and comfort those who mourn their loss.

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

Thank you
Thank you to all those who generously supported Miss Keeble's fundraising event for Achalasia Action. I am delighted to let you know that we raised £148 for this important charity.

School and Family Masses
This Sunday, 8th November, is our school and family Mass at 12 O'clock at the cathedral. We invite all our families to attend, worship and pray together as a family, a school and a parish. Many of our children will be taking an active role in the ministries – servers, readers, the choir, offertory, collection, greeting. If your child would like to be involved in future Masses, please encourage them to come and speak with me.

Parent Meetings
We look forward to welcoming our parents and carers to our parent-teacher meetings next week. KS 1 meetings are on Thursday 12th November and KS 2 on Friday 13th November. Unfortunately, our online system is currently not working and so bookings should be made on sign-up sheets outside the classroom doors. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements as well as to discuss their progress, behaviour and how they have settled into their new classes.

Clubs
Please make sure that children are collected promptly from after school clubs. If you are unsure of the collection time, please check with the office.

Cathedral Children's Choir
A regular children's choir is being established at St John's Cathedral and they are seeking children who love singing and are aged 7-14 to join them. The choir will rehearse twice per week and sing regularly at 10am Mass. If your child is interested, please email: grichford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Behaviour Policy
Our behaviour policy is due to be reviewed this half term. It is important that staff, governors, families and children are part of this review. Please look out for the survey that we will be sharing at the parent/carer meetings next week.

Advent
Advent begins on Sunday 29th November.

School Council
Miss Minall will be sending out information for children who wish to stand for election to our school council. Please encourage your child to think about whether this role requiring respect, responsibility and service might be something they could consider.

Safeguarding
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please note that the school's DSL (designated safeguarding lead) is me, Mrs Park and the DDSL (deputy designated safeguarding lead) is Mrs Warren.

Lunch
If your child is having a school dinner, please ensure that you have ordered on scopay. The kitchen is only able to cook and provide lunches for those who have booked in advance. If a child has not ordered a school dinner and does not have a packed lunch with them, we will phone the contacts on Arbor for a meal to be dropped into school.

Uniform
Please remember that children must wear full winter uniform now that we have moved into the second half of the autumn term. Please ensure that your child always has a coat with them too. Please continue to support us by adhering to the uniform policy.

Winter:
Grey uniform skirt or pinafore dress **or**
Grey uniform trousers
White polo shirt with or without the school logo
Teal school sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo
White or grey socks or grey tights.
Sensible low heel, plain black school shoes or trainers. No markings or white soles.

PE Kit
Navy blue shorts and navy blue jogging bottoms in winter
Light blue T-shirt with or without the school logo
Trainers for outdoor activities
Tape to cover earrings if worn

Haircuts
Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back.
Hair should be no shorter than grade 1 and without shaven designs.
Dyed hair, coloured braids or extreme styles are not permitted.
Any hair accessories should be hair coloured or uniform coloured

No necklaces, bracelets or smart watches are to be worn and if earrings are worn they need to be studs.

Mobile phones and smart watches
Children who bring mobile phones or smart watches to school must drop them into the office before they go onto the playground in the morning. At the end of the day, they need to leave the playground and walk around to the office to collect them.

Parents and visitors are not permitted to use mobile phones in school. They should be switched off and put away if you enter the building. There may be occasions such as school events when a member of staff will permit photographs but we will share our expectations at the time.

Medicines and medical conditions
If your child has a medical condition, including any allergies, please ensure that the school office are aware.

The office are able to administer prescribed medicines that are needed during the school day and that can't be administered at home eg inhalers, 4x day antibiotics where 3 doses are given at home and 1 is needed at lunchtime. The medicines must be prescribed, have the child's name and dose on and be in the original packaging. They should be handed directly to the office and not left in the school bag or handed to the class teacher and a permission slip completed.

LSA Recruitment
We are currently recruiting an LSA to join our dedicated and caring staff team. This is an exciting opportunity for someone who is passionate about supporting children to achieve their full potential and who will contribute positively to the nurturing, inclusive and Catholic ethos of our school. If you, or someone you know would be interested, please contact the school office for more details and an application pack.

Thank you
As always, thank you so much for your support and generosity in making St John's the wonderful place it is and helping us to live out our mission of Learning to Love and Loving to Learn.

Yours sincerely,

L. Park
Head Teacher

DIARY DATES

2026-2027

November	
Monday 2nd	Back to School
Wednesday 4th	Yr 6 screening with nurses
Friday 6th	School photos
Thursday 12th	KS1 Parents meetings
Friday 13th	KS 2 Parents meetings 9.15 Yr R and 1 Celebration of the Word at school
Friday 20th	9.30 Yr 3 and 4 Celebration of the Word at the cathedral
Friday 27th	9.30 Yr 5 and 6 Mass at the cathedral
December	
Thursday 10th	10am Nursery Nativity
Thursday 17th	1.30pm School Nativity at the cathedral
Friday 18th	1.30pm Break up for Christmas
January	
Monday 4th	Back to school
February	
Thursday 4th	KS 1 Parent meetings
Friday 5th	EYFS and KS 1 Parent meetings
Friday 12th	Break up for half-term
Monday 22nd	School and Nursery closed - INSET
Tuesday 23rd	Back to School
March	
Thursday 4th	World Book Day
Tuesday 23rd	9am R,1 and 2 End of Term assembly and book share
Wednesday 24th	9am KS 2 End of Term assembly and book share
Thursday 25th	1.30 Break up for Easter
April	
Monday 12th	Back to School
May	
Monday 10th – Thursday 13th	Year 6 SATs Week
Wednesday 26th	TBC Sports day Yr 1-6
Thursday 27th	TBC Sports day EYFS
Friday 28th	Break up for half-term
June	
Monday 7th	Back to School Yr 4 Multiplication Test Week
Wednesday 9th	Class Photos
Monday 14th	Yr 1 Phonics Screening Week
July	
Monday 5th	Transition Day
Tuesday 6th	Transition Day

Thursday 8th	9am R,1 and 2 End of Term Assembly
Tuesday 13th	9am KS 2 End of Term Assembly
Thursday 15th	Yr 6 Show 9.30 and 1.45 – times to be confirmed
Tuesday 20th	3.30 Break up for Summer Holidays
Wednesday 21st	School and Nursery Closed - INSET