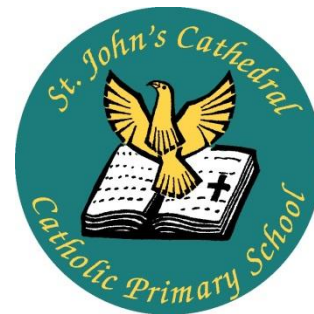


**ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
(WITH NURSERY)  
Cottage View  
Landport  
PORTSMOUTH  
PO1 1PX**



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

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Fax: 023 92815065    [www.stjohnscathedralschool.org.uk](http://www.stjohnscathedralschool.org.uk)**

4<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you had a lovely half term. Last weekend was All Saints Day and as we start this new half term when the evenings are dark and the weather can be cold and wet, perhaps we can draw on the joy and hope that the saints share with us through their relationship with God. If you have a favourite saint, are named after a saint or have a saint that is special to your family, why not spend some time this week finding out more about them and asking for their intercessions.

### **Thank you**

During the summer term, classes put on events and held collections to support the fundraising efforts at the cathedral. Children always really appreciate our special relationship with the cathedral and very much see it as an extension of the school so were keen to do what they could to help out. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed. We raised £615 for their heating repairs.

### **School Admissions Information Key Messages for Parents/Carers**

When applying for school, whether for reception or secondary school, we strongly recommend that parents/carers list **as many preference schools as possible (up to 6)** on their application.

- o *Please note: listing only one preference does not strengthen the application.*
- o *Having criteria such as sibling or feeder school links does not guarantee a place.*

Before applying, parents/carers should read the information available on the [Portsmouth City Council website](http://Portsmouth City Council website) and/or seek advice from the Admissions Team.

Please remember to include all additional information e.g. the Supplementary Information Form (SIF), baptism certificate, letter from a minister etc if relevant. The application can only be ranked according to the information received.

If applying for St John's reception class, please also remember that attending St John's nursery does not have any bearing on the school application process. It is a completely different process and requires parents/carers to complete the starting school application and provide all relevant documentation.

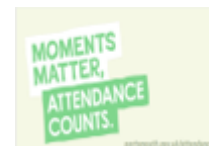
### **School Tours**

Tours of the school for prospective parents are being held on the following dates:

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10am

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm



### **Staffing changes**

As parents with children in EYFS and KS 1 will be aware, due to long term staff sickness and wider staffing shortages as well as changes in staff circumstances, I have had to make some necessary staffing changes which have come into effect this week. Whilst I understand that staff changes can be unsettling, please be assured that they are necessary to ensure continuity of learning and support for our children. The new arrangements are as follows:

Reception will be taught by Miss Keeble and supported by Mrs Jamil and Mrs Lubik.

Year 1 will be taught by Miss Minall (Mon and Tues) and Miss Turner (Wed-Fri) and supported by Mrs McAllister and Mrs Dunford.

Year 2 will be taught by Mrs Kahraman and supported by Mrs Buckle, Miss Todd and Mrs Lapham.

### **Mrs Gardner and Mrs Brown**

Please continue to pray for Mrs Gardner and Mrs Brown.

### **Governors**

Thank you so much to our governors who work so hard on behalf of our whole school community.

This term we welcome 2 new governors to our board. Miss Cerisa Sugrue-Gee is our new parent governor and was appointed after putting herself forward last term. (We didn't need to hold a ballot as she was the only candidate.) We also welcome Mrs Hannah Murphy who was appointed as our Local Authority Governor. We thank them both for their generosity in offering their services at this time.

### **Parents Meetings**

This year we are trialling a new way of managing parents meetings to support our staff well-being. Traditionally during parents evening week, staff have had to work from 7.30/8am in the morning until 6.30pm at night for 4 or 5 nights in a row and then pick up their marking and resourcing before the next morning's teaching. I am looking to find a more manageable way of offering these appointments and so am trialling daytime appointments. Appointments will be held throughout the day on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November for Years 1 and 2 and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November for Years 3,4,5 and 6. If attending a face to face meeting in the day would be difficult, please speak to the class teacher as they may be able to offer telephone appointments.

Year 1 appointments will be held with Miss Keeble. Dates for Reception and Nursery appointments will be shared in a few weeks. Miss Minall and Mrs Coyle will hold the reception appointments.

### **Class Masses and Celebrations of the Word**

Year R and 1 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Year 3 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Year 4 and 5 Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Year 6 will be leading the KS 2 Advent reconciliation service

### **Dealing with Issues**

Whilst we work incredibly hard to ensure that children are well supported and happy and that issues are dealt with quickly and shared with parents/carers, there are occasionally issues that arise that need to be explored or discussed. On these occasions please may I remind you to always speak to the class teacher first. They have the most up to date and accurate information around how your child is doing on a day to day basis and are best placed to help resolve any issues that do arise. Mrs Warren and myself are happy to follow up when issues persist or escalate but please approach the class teacher in the first instance. Of course for

safeguarding matters or issues of a more serious nature, please don't hesitate to contact one of us immediately.

### **Special Educational Needs**

St John's is proud of its inclusive and welcoming culture. We get to know every child as an individual and try to put just the right support in place to help each child reach their full potential. Our strong reputation for inclusivity means that we are often chosen by parents who know or suspect their child has a special educational need. We currently have 17 children with Education, Health and Care plans, including a number awaiting specialist school places. This is 8% of our pupil population and considerably higher than the Portsmouth average of 4.2%, which includes schools with specialist provisions. With such a high proportion of children with EHCPs in a small school with a small team, we are having to carefully manage our provision alongside parental expectations. With ever increasing numbers of referrals and EHC assessments being requested by parents, we are having to prioritise by need. We apologise for any delay this may cause in responding to requests for appointments, referrals etc but please be assured that we are doing our very best to manage very high demand alongside the already high needs across the school. Hopefully you will agree that prioritising the referrals and assessments of those who need it most is the fairest and most just way to work in this difficult situation.

### **St John's Cathedral Celebration of Talent**

The cathedral is holding a celebration of talent afternoon on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 1.30pm. All are invited and there will be snacks and drinks available to purchase with all proceeds going to the cathedral building funds. If your child would like to take part, please scan the QR code on one of the posters around the school or in your email.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

Well done to all those who took part in the summer reading challenge as they won a bean bag for the school library. With over 13% of pupils from St John's taking part, we were one of the top 6 schools for participation!

### **School Dinners**

Please remember to order your child's school dinners in advance of the start of the week. On Monday we had 25 children who wanted school dinner but hadn't ordered. The kitchen only cook what has been ordered and so it is very difficult when children arrive expecting a dinner to be available when it hasn't been ordered.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Please remember to contact the office by phone, email or through studybugs when your child is going to be absent or late.

### **INSET Day**

Please note that Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December is an INSET day and school will be closed to all pupils.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

L. Park  
Head Teacher

## DIARY DATES

2025-206

### November

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Back to school
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> -Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Residential
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening KS 1
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening KS 2
	Year 1 Celebration of the Word
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening KS 1
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parents' Evening KS 2
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Book fair
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 and 5 Mass

### December

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	INSET Day
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery nativity
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	School Tour for prospective parents
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm School Nativity Cathedral
	Break Up
	Christmas Holidays (22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec-2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan)

### January

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Back to school
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	School Tour for prospective parents

### February

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening KS 1
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening KS 2
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Break Up
	Half Term (16 <sup>th</sup> Feb-20 <sup>th</sup> Feb)

### March

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	KS 1 Book Share with parents
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	KS 2 Book Share with parents
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm Break up
	Easter Holidays (30 <sup>th</sup> March-10 <sup>th</sup> April)