

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



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10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Mrs Brown**

Mrs Brown would like to thank you for the kind words, cards and gifts that have been shared with her over the last few weeks. They have really cheered her up. She is also very grateful for your ongoing prayers. Mrs Warren and I visited her last week and she remains positive and optimistic about the journey ahead.

### **World Book Day**

We had a brilliant World Book Day at St John's. Thank you so much for supporting us by sending your child to school in costume. They all looked amazing, and the excitement was palpable throughout the day. Please follow up this excitement for books by reading with your child every day and encouraging their love of reading.

### **Don't forget to follow us on Instagram!**

We are excited to announce that our school now has an Instagram account! Follow us at **@stjohnscathedralprimaryschool** for updates, news, and a glimpse into daily school life. Stay connected and support our wonderful community!

### **Bishop Philip's Visit**

We are delighted to be welcoming Bishop Philip to our school on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. He is coming as part of his school's visitation programme and will be meeting staff and children as well as spending some time in Eucharistic Adoration with us.

### **School Building Fund**

As you will be aware, as a Catholic school, St John's is voluntary aided and is only partly funded by the state. We receive only 90% of the allocated capital funding each year. To cover the remaining 10%, Catholic schools must ask all parents/carers to make a

contribution through the school building fund to pay for the necessary building and repair projects. Generations of parents/carers have made this contribution in the past so that we have the school that we are so proud of today.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents/carers who have already contributed to the building fund this year. If you have not, please remember that you made an active choice to send your child to a Catholic school and therefore should consider making the payment and not relying on others to ensure that our school has the funding that it requires.

### **Outdoor clothing**

Please be reminded that it is essential for daily playtimes as well as school trips and visits that your child brings/wears a waterproof coat and suitable shoes to school every day.

### **Monthly Masses**

Thank you for all those who regularly or occasionally support the monthly school Masses at the cathedral. For anyone who hasn't been, we encourage our families to attend the 12 O'clock Mass at the cathedral on the first Sunday of the month in term time. It is an opportunity for school families to worship together and for children to experience active participation in the ministries. Children are invited to read, serve, take part in the offertory and collection, greet parishioners and sing in the choir for those in KS 2. School staff are usually there themselves to worship and to support the cathedral in organising the children's participation, but please remember that children remain the responsibility of the adults who attend with them.

### **Lenten Initiative**

As part of our Lenten journey we are inviting children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to bring in donations for Portsmouth's baby bank. These should be sealed, new baby products/toiletries such as wipes, nappies and baby bath products. They may also bring in donations for the food bank.

Children in KS 2 will be planning and holding sales of crafts and bakes to raise money. More details will follow.

### **Social Media**

I have been made aware of a number of incidents in which children from Key Stage 2 have been misusing social media. Whilst these events have happened outside of school, they are often reported in school and then have to be dealt with in school. We discourage primary school aged children from using social media – in fact many platforms and apps do not allow primary aged children access – as they are too young to recognise and avoid the dangers of online activity. Please have a conversation with your child about what they are doing online and ensure that they know how to use the internet safely and appropriately for their age and understanding. Please also consider the internet settings on the devices your child has access to as well as where, when and how often you allow your child to access the internet.

## **School dinners**

If your child hasn't tried school dinners before or if you would like to know more about what we offer, Caterlink are holding a Parent taster session at 3pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Do feel free to pop along and sample the menu.

## **Clubs**

Thank you to all those who support their child's wider development through their attendance at after school clubs. We are pleased that we are able to offer a range of clubs that children enjoy and are keen to attend thanks to the commitment of CM Sports and our own school staff.

To ensure that we continue to run our after-school clubs at no cost to parents, it is important that you respect the pickup times from these clubs. There are a small number of children who are regularly collected late after clubs which impacts on the staff's other professional and personal commitments. **From next week, children who are not collected on time after clubs, will have to wait in wrap around club and a £5 charge for the childcare will be charged.**

## **Carpark Safety**

I am afraid that I need to issue another reminder about keeping children, and adults, safe in the carpark at the front of the school. I am still seeing children playing and running across the carpark as well as adults walking children across the carpark rather than around the paths. Please keep everyone safe and treat the car park as a road.

## **Sports Days**

We are delighted that Arundel Court Primary School have offered us the use of their field for our sports day (Years 1-6). It will be held on the morning of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Nursery and Reception sports day will be held at school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

## **End of term assembly**

End of term assembly for Reception, Year 1 and 2 is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 9am.

For Years 3-6 it is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.30pm.

## **INSET Days**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## **End of Term**

Don't forget that we finish for Easter at 1.30pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. We return after the Easter break on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. (Nursery finish at 11.40am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> as there will be no afternoon session. They also return on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.)

Thank you once again for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

L. Park

Head Teacher

## **DIARY DATES**

### **March**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>                      Ash Wednesday

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>                      World Book Day

### **April**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup>                          3.30pm KS 1 and EYFS Book Sharing

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>                        3.30pm KS 2 Book Sharing

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>                          1.30pm Break Up for Easter (Nursery 11.40am finish)

Easter Holidays: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>                      Back to School

### **May**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>                        Yr 6 SATS Week

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>                      KS 1 and EYFS Sports Day

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>                    KS 2 Sports Day

Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

## June

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Back to School Yr 4 Multiplication Check starts
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 1 Phonics Screening starts
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Transition Day

## July

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Transition Day
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 6 Show
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1.30pm Break Up for Summer