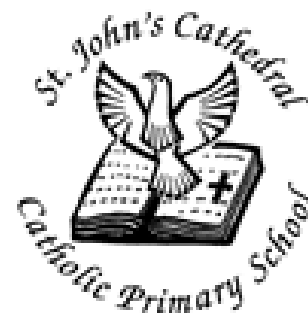


**ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
(WITH NURSERY)
Cottage View
Landport
PORTSMOUTH
PO1 1PX**



Headteacher: Miss C.M. Hobbs B.Ed (Hons)

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3rd December 2009

Dear Parents,

The weather may not feel like it, but the Season of Advent has begun. We have begun our count down to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Congratulations

To all involved with our charity DVD for the Red Cross. Our efforts earned us a place as a finalist at the News 'we can do it' awards in the best school category. I am grateful to Mr. Flanagan and Miss Lane for accompanying the children to the Guildhall on Monday night.

And thank you to the staff and children whose constant hard work has led to us being the top school in the City league table for Key Stage Two results for the second year running.

School Building Fund

Reminders will be going out next week to those who have forgotten to pay this term's Building Fund. The contribution is less than 50p a week and enables our school building and playground to be developed into the school your child and children of the future deserve. You have chosen to send your child to a Catholic school, so please show your commitment by paying the School Building Fund, thank you.

Children in Need

Thank you for your support of this worthwhile cause. £117.70 was raised with our non-uniform day.

Chocolate Tombola

We will be holding our chocolate tombola on **Friday 4th December** to raise money for our Advent Charity. Tickets will be 20p each. The tombola will take place during the school day. Should there be any prizes left then the tombola will take place in the school office at the end of the school day.



Family Christmas Quiz

You will have received details of this event run by the Governors' Publicity and Community Group. If you have a team or would like to become part of a team don't forget to complete the slip and return it to school by tomorrow. It would be a shame if we had to cancel the event because of lack of support.

Christmas Production

This will be taking place on **Friday 11th December** in the Cathedral at **2.00 p.m.** As in previous years I would ask that you do not bring pre-school children or babies. I am not too sure why, but every year one or two parents think this request doesn't apply to them. If you are one of these parents then please sit at the very back of the Cathedral so that you can easily take your child outside if they make a noise.

School Uniform

Can I please ask that you adhere to the school rules regarding school uniform. This does apply to socks, shoes and hair accessories too. If you are not sure of the school rules regarding uniform please ask for a list from the office.

Just to clarify for parents who have asked. In extreme weather conditions for P.E. children may wear plain (no stripes or logos) navy tracksuit bottoms. The class teacher will make the decision as to whether it is cold enough to need tracksuit bottoms.

Contact Details

Please can you let Mrs. Philip in the office know if any of your contact details have changed, particularly mobile phone numbers. We frequently find phone numbers have changed but parents haven't thought to keep the office informed.

Dinner Money

Dinner money **must** be paid on a Monday morning each week. Please do not book meals for your children if you have not already paid for them. Naturally in an emergency we do not mind you paying on the day.

DVDs

Hopefully, a DVD will be made of the Christmas production. Order forms will be sent out in the last week of term.

Christmas Dinner

If you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner on Thursday 18th December, please complete the attached slip and return it to school on Monday 7th December. The cost of the dinner is £1.80 (no charge to those eligible for free school meals). This should be paid on Monday 14th December **not** before.

Children's Christmas Disco

This will be held on Wednesday 16th December from 3.30 – 5.30 p.m. for Year R-6. There will be no charge for this disco or refreshments; they are being funded from the money raised at the summer fun afternoon. If you would like your child to attend please return the attached slip by Monday 14th December.

New items have been added to this Calendar since my last newsletter

Friday 4th December

Chocolate Tombola – tickets 20p each.

Slips due in for Christmas Quiz.

Slips due in for carol singing on the Guildhall steps.

Sunday 6th December

Children's Mass at 12 o'clock. It would be great to have as many Junior children singing with me as possible.

Monday 7th December

All slips need to be returned by today to book your child's Christmas dinner. Please do not send money in until next Monday.

All costumes need to be brought into school for the Christmas production (details to follow).

5.45 p.m. Children will meet at the Guildhall to sing carols and turn on the Christmas lights.

Slips for carol singing on a cruise ship (Year 4, 5, 6 only) need to be returned today.

Thursday 10th December

Any parents who are unable to attend the Christmas production tomorrow are welcome to come along to our final rehearsal at the Cathedral at 1.45 p.m. Younger children are welcome too.

Family Christmas Quiz at 6.30 p.m. for those who booked tickets.

Friday 11th December

Today is our Christmas Production in the Cathedral at 2.00 p.m. If you are not coming to watch, your child will need to be picked up at 3.00 p.m. from the Cathedral.

No book bags are needed today. It would also be helpful if any packed lunch children could bring their lunches in a throw away bag.

50p is due in today for the Christmas parties. (Please don't forget, I need to do the shopping!)

Saturday 12th December

All the children preparing for their First Holy Communion will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time today at the Cathedral's Penitential Service at 11.15 a.m. Please remember the children in your prayers.

Sunday 13th December

There will be an Advent service at the Cathedral at 4.00 p.m. All are welcome at this celebration.

Monday 14th December

The post box will be ready to receive any Christmas cards the children want to give to their friends or the staff. Please make sure that the envelope is marked with the name and class of the child it is intended for.

Tuesday 15th December

Nursery will be holding their Christmas Celebration at 10.30 a.m. for the morning children and 2.30 p.m. for afternoon children. All parents, younger brothers and sisters are welcome to come.

Wednesday 16th December (The date was wrong on the last newsletter)

The children will be having a Christmas party this afternoon. The children will need to bring clothes to change into for the afternoon.

There is also a disco after school until 5.30 p.m. for all who returned their slip.

Thursday 17th December

This is Christmas dinner day for all who have booked it.

Friday 18th December

Our end of term assembly and awards presentation will take place at 9.00 a.m. today. Everyone is welcome to attend this celebration. I would ask that older brothers and sisters do not attend please as it is difficult to fit everyone in.

Term ends at **1.30 p.m.** today.

Tuesday 22nd December

Junior children who have received a confirmation letter will be singing carols on board a cruise liner at 2.00 p.m. They need to be at school by 1.10 p.m. and collected at 4.15 p.m.

Thursday 24th December

On Christmas Eve there is a very special Mass at 6.00 p.m. especially for children. It's always lovely when the children come along dressed as angels, shepherds, kings, etc. Do try and bring your children along to this Mass or the 9.00 a.m. or 10.30 a.m. Mass on Christmas morning so that they can remember and celebrate the real reason for our Christmas celebrations.

Sunday 3rd January

We will be celebrating the wonderful feast of the Epiphany today with a children's Mass at 12 o'clock. It would be good to see lots of you there. As usual I would like any Junior children to sing please.

Monday 4th January

The new term starts today at 8.45 a.m. Don't be late!

Yours sincerely,

C.M. Hobbs
Headteacher

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Children's Christmas Disco

My child Class Class

..... Class Class

will be attending the Christmas disco on 16th December. They will be collected at 5.30 p.m. by

Signed parent

.....

Christmas Dinner

My child Class Class

..... Class Class

would like a Christmas dinner on Thursday 18th December. I will pay the £1.80 on Monday 14th December.

Signed parent