

**ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
(WITH NURSERY)
Cottage View
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28th November 2006

Dear Parents,

I can't believe how quickly this half-term is going. I hope the details in this newsletter will help you as things get busier in the lead up to Christmas.

Thank you

To all of you for your 50ps for Children in Need last week. The school raised £115. It is great to see this worthy cause so well supported.

Congratulations

To our football team who were runners up at the Catholic Schools Under 11s tournament on Saturday.

Punctuality

I have noticed that a number of children, particularly Reception children, are starting to arrive a few minutes late for school. The school day does start at 8.45 a.m. It is important that your children are lined up in the playground before this time. Journeys always take longer in the winter, when it's wet and in the lead up to Christmas. Please build extra time into your morning routines.

School Building Fund

Reminders have gone out this 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 to be developed into the school your child and children of the future deserve.

Christmas Production

Each year we hold a Christmas Raffle, tickets are on sale at the Christmas production and the draw takes place at the end of term assembly. This year we would like the proceeds to be split between two very worthy causes.

The first will be to support the work of Great Ormond Street Hospital as a thank you for the care they have given and continue to give to Charlie Nash in year 3 who received a new heart there this year.

The second will be to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust to fund research into the disease. This charity has been chosen in memory of Jake Musselwhite, a past pupil of the school, who suffered from cystic fibrosis and died last week aged 17. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

I hope you will be generous in your support of these two worthy causes.

Thursday 30th November

Don't forget tonight is the parents' meeting for all those whose children are preparing for their First Holy Communion. The meeting will be in the Cathedral Centre at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 1st December

We will be holding a chocolate tombola. Tickets priced 20p each will be sold during the day to children. Any tickets left will then be sold at the end of the day. All money raised will be used to support our Advent charity of buying vouchers for the homeless and needy at Christmas. The voucher scheme is supported by all the churches in Portsmouth. Please support this worthy cause.

Saturday 2nd December

This is the second day of the Children's University Workshops at our school.

Monday 4th December

For those who've returned slips to school or 'Little Voices', it's Carol Singing on the Guildhall Steps. Don't forget you don't need to wear uniform. Make sure you are in the Guildhall main hall (Blue 4) by 5.55 p.m. Your child will need to be collected from the hall at 7.30 p.m.

All photograph orders must be handed in to the school office with payment by today.

Friday 8th December

Infant costumes to be brought into school for the Christmas production.

Slips need to be returned by today to book your child's Christmas dinner. (Money to be paid later please.)

Saturday 9th 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 11.00 a.m. Please remember the children in your prayers.

Monday 11th December

The post box will be ready today 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.

Friday 15th December

50p in today please for next week's Christmas party. I need to do the shopping at the weekend.

Today is our Christmas production in the Cathedral at 2.00 p.m. I do ask that younger brothers and sisters do not attend. This is the only occasion in the year when I ask you to make other arrangements for siblings.

All children will need to be collected from **the Cathedral** at **3.00 p.m.**

Monday 18th December

Christmas dinner for all those who have already booked. The £1.50 for the dinner is due in today.

Tuesday 19th December

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

Wednesday 20th 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.

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

The new term starts on Wednesday 3rd January at 8.45 a.m. Don't be late!

Sunday 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 10.30 a.m. on Christmas morning so that they can remember and celebrate the real reason for our Christmas celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

C.M. Hobbs
Headteacher