

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



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5th September 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and a break from routine. I would like to thank you all for ensuring that your children looked so smart at the start of term.

Welcome

To Miss Lane and Miss Carter who have joined the teaching staff in Year 5 and Year 3. Miss Lane joins the school's Senior Management alongside Mr. Flanagan and Mrs. Beaton.

We also welcome the following children and their families:

Melvin Thomas, Jessica Stray, Robina Pjetrani and Kiera Favell.

I hope that they will all soon feel part of our school community.

Congratulations

To Mrs. Harding who gave birth to 6lb 15oz baby Andrew on 10th August. We are looking forward to seeing them in school soon.

A few practical reminders:

Milk

If you would like your child to have milk at breaktime please pay your £3.60 to the office by Friday.

Dinner Money

Don't forget dinners now cost £1.60 a day (£8.00 a week). Copies of the menu will be sent home. Dinner money should be paid on a **Monday morning** even if your child only has dinners later on in the week.

Tesco Vouchers

Thank you to all those of you who have kindly sent in Tesco vouchers. They will be sent off next week. If anyone still has any at home please send them in to school as soon as possible.



Scholastic Book Club

Leaflets will have gone out to your children this week. If anyone is interested in ordering any books, the last date for order forms being handed in is Friday 14th September.

Morning Breaktime

As a trial we have changed our timings for lunchtime. This means that the Infants will now have lunch at 12.15 p.m. and the Juniors at 12.30 p.m. (15 minutes later than before). All Infant children already have fruit at breaktime. If you think your Junior child will be hungry during the morning please feel free to send them in with a piece of fruit for breaktime.

First Holy Communion

If your child is in Year 3 or above and has not yet made their First Holy Communion and you would like them to, please complete the form they will have brought home and return it to school by Friday.

The meeting for parents will be on Wednesday 12th September at 7.00 p.m. in the Cathedral.

Becoming a Catholic

If you are not already a Catholic and would like to know more about the Catholic faith and how to become a Catholic please have a chat with Fr. David, Fr. Steven or myself.

Children's University / Kids College

Details of this term's fun Saturday workshops have gone out. If you would like your child to take part please complete the form and return it to school by Thursday 20th September.

Lunchtime Supervisor

Following a long absence, Mrs. Buckle has now retired owing to ill health. We are very grateful for all she contributed to the life of the school and wish her well in her retirement.

This does mean that we have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor to cover the lunchtime period from 12.10 – 1.25 p.m.

Application forms and further details are available from the office.

Family Learning

Following on from the success of last term's family learning workshops, we have decided to make this a termly event so please try to find the time to come and have fun with your child.

Workshops will all be on a Friday morning from 9.00 – 10.30 a.m.

Thank you

To Mr. Hellyer and all who sponsored his walk in May. £400 was raised which was shared between Cystic Fibrosis and Great Ormond Street.

Education Sunday

On Sunday 7th October we will be celebrating Education Sunday. This is the one Sunday in

the year when I ask all children to come to the 12 o'clock Mass in their school uniform.

The children will be involved with reading, singing, the offertory, etc. Reception children will all be called up to receive a special prayer book.

It is not often I ask you to attend Mass. Please let me know if you will be unable to be there.

Children's Mass

On the first Sunday of every month at the 12 o'clock Mass we will be having a children's Mass. I will be trying to involve the children from the school as much as possible. (Don't worry they won't need to wear school uniform!) I will be forming a school choir to sing at the Mass each month.

Dates

Term dates for this year are as follows:

Autumn Term

Monday 3rd September – Friday 21st December

Half Term – 22nd – 26th October

Spring Term

Monday 7th January – Friday 4th April

Half Term – 18th – 22nd February

Summer Term

Monday 21st April – Wednesday 23rd July

Half Term – 26th – 30th May

Please note that we are finishing later in December and going back later in January, than other Portsmouth schools.

Please also note that the holiday between the Spring and Summer Term **is not** around the Easter holiday.

Holidays

Please make sure that holidays are not taken during term time, particularly in Year 6 and Year 2. If for any reason your holiday has to be taken during the term, permission must be requested **before** the holiday is booked.

School Building Fund

During the summer holidays work was carried out on adapting our ICT Suite and adding the much needed air-conditioning. It is this work that your school building fund contributes towards. 10% of the money for any building project has to come from you and the parish.

The Building Fund is £5 per child per term. It can be paid as an annual figure for the year of £15. Your contribution is due by half term please.

Applications for School

If your child is due to start Secondary or Primary School in September 2008 applications must be submitted by Friday 19th October. Fr. David and Fr. Steven will be available to sign the forms on:

Thursday 4 th October	-	3.15 – 4.00 in school
Thursday 11 th October	-	3.15 – 4.00 in school
		7.00 – 8.00 at Bishop's House

Please note that the forms only need to be signed for admission to St. John's School **IF** you are weekly Mass attenders.

Open Day

If you are a Nursery parent applying for a place at our school, and would like to know more about the school or have a tour, come along on Tuesday 18th September at 9.30 a.m. or 2.00 p.m.

Family Photographs

Some advance notice for you that family group photographs will be taking place on the morning of Saturday 6th October. Details to follow.

Yours sincerely,

C.M. Hobbs
Headteacher