

**ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
(WITH NURSERY)
Cottage View
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PORTSMOUTH
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28th November 2008

Dear Parents,

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

Thank you

To all the parents for supporting last week's parents evenings.

To all of you for your 50ps for Children in Need. The school raised £104. It is great to see this worthy cause so well supported.

Congratulations

To Mrs. Cornborough and family on the birth of Elizabeth on Tuesday weighing 7lb 9oz.

To our football, hockey and netball teams who have all enjoyed recent successes and have been such a credit to our school.

Mrs. Cummings

Please remember Mrs Cummings (one of our dinner ladies) in your prayers. Her husband died unexpectedly last weekend.

School Building Fund

Reminders will be going 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 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.

Late arrivals and early leavers!

This is a reminder that the school day does begin at 8.45a.m. Children should be in the playground by 8.40 a.m. ready to line up. If your child needs to attend routine doctors or dentist appointments these need to be made out of school hours or during the holidays.

If you come to collect children for any appointments during the school day you must bring their appointment card with you.

Christmas Production

This will be taking place on Friday 12th December in the Cathedral at 2.00pm. This is the one occasion in the year when **I ask that you do not bring pre school children and babies.**

I am sorry for any inconvenience that this causes. If this arrangement means you will be unable to attend the Christmas Production then please feel free to come along with your little ones to our final rehearsal at approximately 1.45 p.m. on 11th December in the Cathedral.

Monday 1st December

Carol singing on the Guildhall steps for all in Years 2 – 6 who have returned a slip. **Please note that children need to meet me at 5.50 p.m. by the Queen Victoria statue.** They will be collected as per the original letter from inside the Guildhall. Don't forget if it is raining the event is cancelled.

Tuesday 2nd December

We will be holding our chocolate tombola during the school day. The tickets cost 20p each.

All money raised goes to buying vouchers for the homeless and needy at Christmas. This is the charity initiative for Advent supported by all the churches in Portsmouth. If we have any tickets left over they will be on sale at the end of the school day at the office.

Saturday 6th December

Children's University will be holding their Christmas Workshops at our school, for all those who have got a place.

Sunday 7th December

Don't forget that the 12 o'clock Mass is a children's Mass. It would be great if any Junior children present could sing in the choir. It is really helpful if you could arrive by 11.50a.m. if I have given your child a specific job to do.

Monday 8th 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.**

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

Thursday 11th December

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 at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 12th 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.**

No book bags are needed today. It would also be helpful if any packed lunch children bring their lunches in a throw away bag. This will give the children less to carry to the Cathedral.

Saturday 13th 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 14th December

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

Monday 15th 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.

For all those who have already booked Christmas dinner, the £1.70 for the dinner is due in today.

Tuesday 16th December

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

Wednesday 17th December

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

Thursday 18th December

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

Friday 19th 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.

Wednesday 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. Mass on Christmas morning so that they can remember and celebrate the real reason for our Christmas celebrations.

Sunday 4th 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 5th January

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

Yours sincerely,

C.M. Hobbs
Headteacher