



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

We live our lives like Jesus



Newsletter 14th February 2025

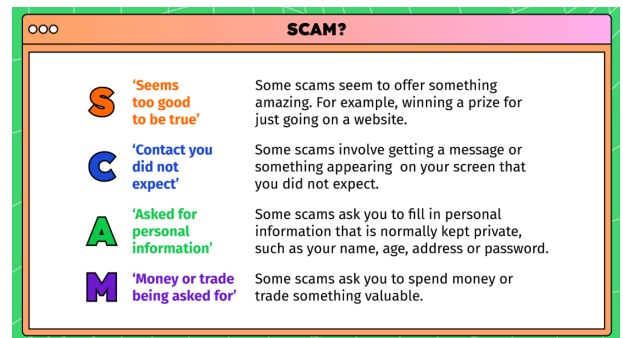
Dear Parents and Carers.

As we come to the end of this term, we wish all our families a happy and restful half term. During school breaks, children may use smart devices more than usual. This week, we reminded the children about the rules of and ways to stay safe online and especially how to spot scams and then avoid being scammed! We also talked to the children about sharing their concerns with a trusted adult— please click on the link below for parent advice in how to protect your child from harm when they are accessing technology

www.saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers

Half term, would be a great time to talk to your child/ren about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy. Sometimes, games may seem fun and childlike but as a player progresses through levels, they can become more sinister and are inappropriate for children. Always check age limits and keep a check on what is being played. One game that is causing concern at the moment is Sprunki, which starts as a musical game but had many different modified versions which are not appropriate for any primary age child. Please do check apps and devices regularly.

Miss Clark



“By our actions, our words, our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves. We want to sing of hope and reawaken in every heart the joy and the courage to embrace life, to the Full.”

Pope Francis

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

Part of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

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www.corpuschristi.portsmouth.sch.uk



Extended Family Voucher scheme

Following the school-led distribution of Family Vouchers for families of children eligible for free school meals, the extended Family Voucher scheme is now open.

The scheme is open to low-income families with children who do not qualify for benefits-related free school meals and therefore did not receive a voucher from their school this winter. Their total household earned income, in the month before applying, needs to be £1,800 or less. Eligible families will receive a £50 voucher for each eligible child.

The scheme will remain open until Friday 28 February 2025. Due to limited funding, the Household Support Fund Family Vouchers may close earlier than this, if all the funds have been given out.

To find out more about who is eligible to apply, and how to make your application for a payment, visit www.portsmouth.gov.uk/householdsupportfund and follow the link to the application form.

Vacancies

Are you looking for a change of role in 2025 or do you know anyone who is?

Foundation Governors—we are looking to appoint 2 Foundation Governors. Our governors work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all the staff. Foundation governors share the responsibilities of all governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In addition to this, foundation governors are appointed specifically to ensure:

that the religious character of the school is preserved
that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed
that the religious education curriculum is in accordance with the Bishop's policy for this
Diocese

The school would benefit from people with business, project management and health and safety skills/experience.

Further information can be found on our website— <https://www.corpuschristi.portsmouth.sch.uk/governors-2/> or from the Diocesan Website— <https://www.casoportsmouth.org.uk/recruiting-governors->

Staff Leavers and Joiners

This week, Mr Zee left us—we are truly grateful for all his hard work with looking after the school buildings, staff and children. He will be greatly missed and we wish him every good wishes for the future.

Mr Bekker will be joining us after half term as our Site Manager. We warmly welcome him to the school.

Head Lice

Top Tips and Advice for Parents

We all know how frustrating it is to find headlice and nits in our children's hair and it is important that when a parent finds headlice they are treated. **During half term please can all parents make a determined effort to treat headlice so we can get on top of it.**

Are Head Lice and Nits the same thing?

Head lice are the tiny grey or brown insects that are found in the hair. The lice are about the size of a small seed (e.g. sesame seed) and cling to the hair staying close to the scalp which they live off. These lice lay eggs which take from 7 to 10 days to hatch. Each new hatchling can take up to 10 days to be fully grown.

Nits are the empty shells left after lice have hatched. It looks very much like dandruff but as it clings to the hair it makes it very difficult to brush out.

How can my child catch head lice?

Head lice are spread by head-to-head contact where lice climb from the hair of an infected person to the hair of someone else. Head lice only affect humans and cannot be passed on to animals or be caught from them.

Have a look under a good light, such as a lamp or the natural sunlight by sitting at a window or going outdoors.

Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner, before using a wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair (this makes it easier to divide the hair into sections and fasten off the hair that is not being worked on.

Use a 'nit' comb to detect the presence of lice and nits, (you can pick one of these up from your local chemist). Using the comb, go through each section of the hair. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots, with the bevel-edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.

Draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice. Clean the comb after each stroke by dipping the comb in a cup of water, or use a paper towel to remove eggs, lice and/or nits.

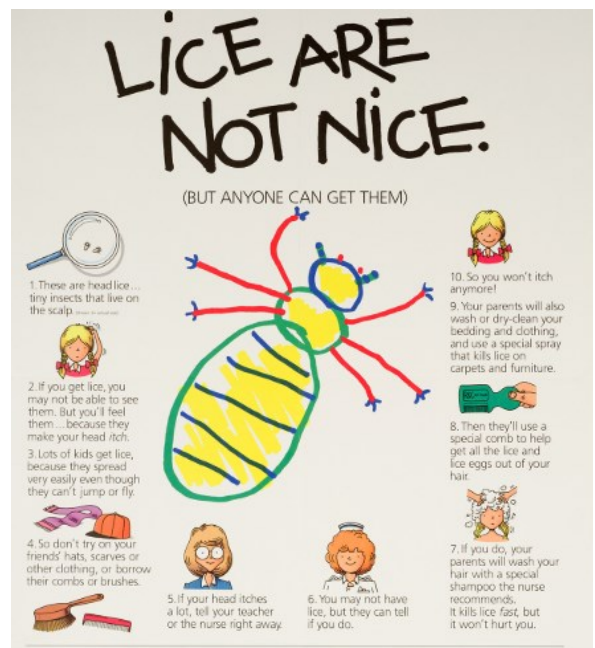
Work methodically through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head is combed through. Look through each section of the hair for attached nits (lice eggs) and live lice.

Rinse out conditioner and repeat the combing procedure.

If using lice killing products it is important to remember that these are pesticides. If you choose to purchase an over-the-counter treatment, follow the directions carefully. Consult your pharmacist or doctor if your child has allergies, asthma, epilepsy, pre-existing medical conditions or has lice or nits in their eye brows or eyelashes. Never use an over-the-counter treatment on or near the eyes.

According to NICE Guidelines, (2016) there is no need to treat (wash at high temperature or fumigate) clothing or bedding that has been in contact with lice, as the lifespan of a head louse is very short (12–24 hours) once it is detached from a human head. However, washing pillows and stuffed toys could help in the prevention of your child getting head lice/nits again.

Repeat the procedure on days 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15, so that you clear young lice as they hatch, before they have time to reach maturity (and start laying new eggs). Even under the best of conditions, a few lice or nits may be missed. Use a comb to check the hair every day; it can take up to 14 days for one infestation to clear, and then check regularly afterwards. Seeing a nit or two the next day does not necessarily mean a reinfestation. However, be sure to remove them immediately. Please Remember: A regular check of your child's hair will help to control head lice. If additional nits are discovered at least 3-5 per day, this may be a sign that live lice may still be on the head. Screen safely and regularly.



Healthy Eating, Lunches and Snacks in School

Thank you to you all for supporting our healthy lunches and snacks campaign. Remember - **Water**— Children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school every day. This should be water and not squash.



Snacks—children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will be offered a piece of fruit every day. This is provided free.

In KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) children may bring a piece of fruit or vegetables (e.g. carrot or cucumber stick/slices, mange-tout peas)

NO sweets, chocolate, crisps or biscuits should be sent in as a break snack.

Lunches— A nutritionally balanced school dinner is available for all children every day. Early Years and KS1 classes are entitled to a free school meal under the Universal Free School Meals Scheme.

Some KS2 children that are entitled to Free School Meals (available for pupils entitled to the Pupil Premium Grant or those who are on certain visas which means they have no recourse for public funding) may request a free school meal each day. Other KS2 children may have a school meal at a cost of £2.68 per day. Caterlink can ensure any child with an allergy or special dietary needs are safely catered for.

Packed lunches— whenever possible we would encourage a packed lunch to be balanced with a range of food groups.



Packed Lunches should avoid:

- * Confectionery such as chocolate bars, chocolate coated biscuits and sweets.
- * Sausage rolls and pre-prepared snack pot type meals should only be included occasionally
- * No fizzy drinks
- * **Nuts and nut products (e.g. peanut butter or Nutella) should never be sent to school because of allergy concerns. Neither are children allowed to share food items for this same reason.**

Staff will not be “checking” lunch boxes.

Just a reminder the school day starts at 8.45am, this is when lessons start, the front gate opens at 8.35am and shuts at 8.45am. Lunches are ordered with the teacher, when a child is late this can lead to unsettlement, missed learning and potentially missed lunch orders.

The school day ends at 3.15pm, the front gate shuts at 3.25pm. If you are unable to collect your child during this time we do have an after school club available as teachers often have meetings, training or their own commitments at the end of the day.

If your child is going to be absent from school please ensure you call the school office by 9.00am or report via the Studybugs app (we may still call you even if you have reported them on Studybugs). If your child is off of school for a medical appointment please visit the office and let us know beforehand with evidence of the appointment. Please also try to complete Leave of Absences forms for all other absences at least 2 weeks before the absence.

GOOD SHEPHERD

BUMBLEBEES — RUPERT
 LADYBIRDS — JUVANIYA
 OWLS — PENELOPE
 HEDGEHOGS — VED
 BADGERS — KASI
 DOLPHINS — SHEKINAH
 ORCAS — EMILIA-RAE
 STARFISH — NICOLA
 KINGFISHERS — BETTY
 KESTRELS — LEVON
 STARLINGS — AGNUS



BUMBLEBEES — BEN
 LADYBIRDS — ADEMIDE
 OWLS — AMBER
 HEDGEHOGS — HANNAH
 BADGERS — PERCY
 DOLPHINS — LYDIA
 ORCAS — ANDREAS
 STARFISH — NIKOLA
 KINGFISHERS — MICHELLE
 KESTRELS — JESSICA
 STARLINGS — TUPPENCE



BRONZE:

Desire, Donald, Skyla &
 Poppy (Hedgehogs)
 Sara & Ryan (Orcas)
 Sebastian, Aylin & Celestine (Starfish)



SILVER:

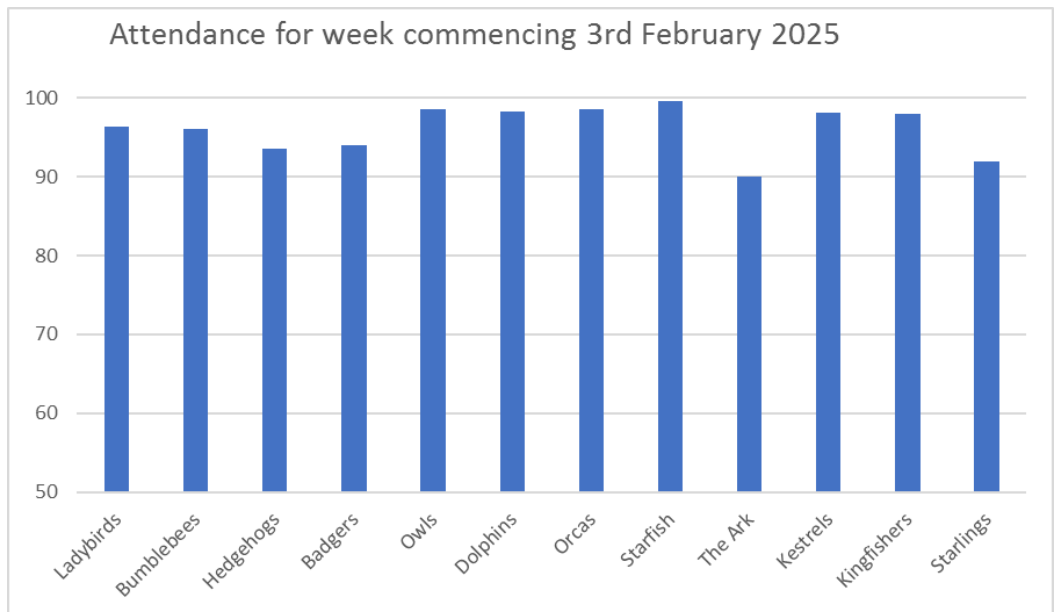
Caris, Aidhan, Sera &
 Ariel (Hedgehogs)
 Aaliyah (Orcas)

Attendance

Well done to Starfish class for almost 100% attendance - amazing!

Followed closely by Owls, Dolphins, Orcas, Kestrels and Kingfishers with over 98% attendance!


Great attendance!!



Dates for your Diary

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February	HALF TERM - school closed for all children
Monday 24th February	INSET Day - school closed for all children
Monday 3rd March	KS2 Aspirations Week
Tuesday 4th March	Book Fair arrives
Monday 10th March	World Book Day celebrations (<i>non-school uniform</i>)
Thursday 20th March	School Nurse Clinic (<i>appointment only</i>)
Monday 24th March	Dolphins & Yr 4 Orca's Marwell Zoo Trip
Wednesday 26th March	Starfish & Yr 3 Orca's Marwell Zoo Trip
Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - school closed for all children
Thursday 1st May	Yr R Staunton Farm Trip
Monday 5th May	BANK HOLIDAY - school closed for all children
Friday 23rd May	INSET Day - school closed for all children
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May	HALF TERM - school closed for all children
Tuesday 3rd June	Owls & Yr1 Hedgehogs HMS Victory Trip
Wednesday 4th June	Badgers & Yr2 Hedgehogs HMS Victory Trip
Friday 4th July	INSET Day - school closed for all children
Wednesday 23rd July - Tuesday 2nd September	SUMMER HOLIDAYS - school closed for all children

PE Days – Spring Term

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dolphins yr3.4 (Mrs Kelly)	Starfish yr3.4 (Mrs Hassana)	Bumblebees yrR (Mrs Miles)	Kestrels yr5.6 (Mrs Precious)	Owls yr1.2 (Ms Martinez)
Orcas yr3.4 (Mr Clark)		Ladybirds yrR (Miss Longyear)	Starlings yr5.6 (Mrs Gosney)	Hedgehogs yr1.2 (Mrs Thiba)
		Owls yr1.2 (Ms Martinez)	Kingfishers yr5.6 (Miss Dawson)	Badgers yr1.2 (Miss Elsom)
		Hedgehogs yr2 (Mrs Thiba)	Dolphins yr3.4 (Mrs Kelly)	Kestrels yr5.6 (Mrs Precious)
		Badgers yr1.2 (Miss Elsom)	Starfish yr3.4 (Mrs Hassana)	Starlings yr5.6 (Mrs Gosney)
			Orcas yr3.4 (Mr Clark)	Kingfishers yr5.6 (Miss Dawson)

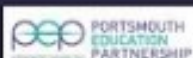
"AI MADE SIMPLE: SUPPORTING YOUR FAMILY IN THE DIGITAL AGE"

Discover how artificial intelligence can transform learning and everyday life for you and your child by joining our FREE webinar series, running in the summer term as part of the "Portsmouth: The Digital City" project.

Within these sessions, you will learn how to harness AI safely, effectively, and creatively at home, whilst also gaining top tips and nuggets of wisdom to empower your family in the digital age.

Each session is tailored to provide practical advice, easy-to-use tools, and insights into how AI can support education, inclusion, and everyday tasks for parents, carers, and children alike.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to stay ahead in the digital world and help your family thrive! Sign up today!



The Digital
City Project

Technology for children, technology for adults, technology for all

Please see the link below regarding parent/carer Cyber workshops. This will be a range of webinars supporting parents and carers with both your own use of AI but also how you can support your child [here](#). You can sign up [here](#).

FREE term-time SEND sessions for ages 11-16 at John Pounds:

Saturday 15th February, 12-1pm

Saturday 22nd February, 12-1pm

Saturday 1st March, 12-1pm

Saturday 8th March, 12-1pm

Saturday 15th March, 12-1pm

Saturday 22nd March, 12-1pm

Book here: <https://eequ.org/book/portsmouth-11-16-send-youth-gymnastics-with-viva-gymnastics-club-12685>

FREE term-time SEND sessions for ages 11-16 at Skill Centre, Hilsea:

Tuesday 11th February, 5-6pm

Tuesday 25th February, 5-6pm

Tuesday 4th March, 5-6pm

Tuesday 11th March, 5-6pm

Tuesday 18th March, 5-6pm

Tuesday 25th March, 5-6pm

Book here: <https://eequ.org/book/hilsea-11-16-send-youth-gymnastics-with-viva-gymnastics-club-12672>

FREE half-term SEND sessions for ages 11-16 at Skill Centre, Hilsea:

Wednesday 19th February, 10am-12pm

Book here: <https://eequ.org/book/hilsea-11-16-send-youth-gymnastics-with-viva-gymnastics-club-12672>

£5 per child SEND sessions for ages 4-10 at Skill Centre, Hilsea:

Tuesday 25th February, 4pm-4.45pm

Tuesday 4th March, 4pm-4.45pm

Tuesday 11th March, 4pm-4.45pm

Tuesday 18th March, 4pm-4.45pm

Tuesday 25th March, 4pm-4.45pm

Book here: https://www.viva-gymnastics.club/service-page/send-gymnastics-for-age-4-10-years?referral=service_list_widget

COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE



Family Learning



February half term Workshops



COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR FAMILY WORKSHOPS.
WE ARE RUNNING 2 MORNING SESSIONS
FROM 10.00AM - 12.00PM
BASED ON THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

Learning	Quizzes
Tuesday 18 th February Money Merry Go Round	Wednesday 19 th February Springtime Fun
Making	Doing

Come along and create together!

Places are limited so please book early!
Maximum of 2 children per family - suitable for children in yR to y6
These workshops will take place at

The Learning Place, 6 Derby Road, North End, PO2 8HH

To book your space call (023)92 621860 or

email: thelearningplace@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Looking forward to seeing you there!

www.learn.portsmouth.gov.uk

www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Girls only

February Half Term Holiday Course

Holiday Course

John Jenkins Stadium

9am to 3pm | Age 7 - 13 | £22 Per Day

Friday 21st February

ACCREDITED
Supported by: HARNESSES

023 9272 8899 | bookings.pompeyitc.co.uk | [pompeyitc](https://www.pompeyitc.com)

SCAN ME



A taste of Portsmouth

Could your favourite recipe feature in our cookbook to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Portsmouth?

Dear parents, carers and families,

In a joint initiative with the Portsmouth, City of Languages initiative, the Solent Language Hub and the University of Portsmouth, we are inviting the different education settings in the city to take part in 'A Week of Celebrating Languages in Portsmouth' (17 – 21 March 2025), organising activities to recognise the linguistic and cultural heritages of learners.

An exciting way to learn about different nations and their customs is, of course, through the food that is special to those places. Many of us will remember a dish from our family traditions or travels or be able to name a meal that reminds us of our childhood or that we look forward to eating during family reunions or celebrations.

We would like to invite you to share with us those recipes of traditional dishes so that we can compile a 'Taste of Portsmouth' recipe booklet, which will give a true flavour of the cultural richness and diversity of our communities. We hope to launch our creation during the *Celebrating Languages in Portsmouth Week*.

Those recipes can be something that you have to jot down on a piece of paper as you do it without thinking, it can be taken from your favourite recipe book that you use and re-use every family reunion, or it can be your favourite recipe from another family member, or it can be your child's favourite traditional dish.

Please send us a copy of your favourite recipe (or more than one if you can't choose!), possibly with pictures, and with details of the country it originates from, **by 14 February 2025** and have a chance to see your choice featured in our recipe book. *(Do let us know if you are happy for your name to appear or if you would prefer for your dish to be included anonymously.)*

Please send your recipe to either of the following email address:

lizlord0502@gmail.com (Liz Lord - Primary Languages Lead, Solent Language Hub and member of Portsmouth, City of Languages Steering Group)

esmith@solentlanguagehub.co.uk (Elle Smith – Solent Language Hub Administrator)