



20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear parents / carers

## Anti Bullying Week



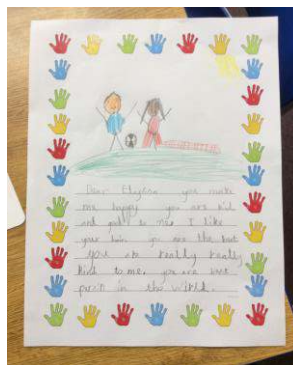
Anti bullying shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents / careers to remember to take action against bullying throughout the year. The theme of 2020 is 'United Against Bullying'. This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge. Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Every person in society has a part to play in coming together to make a difference. At Cottesmore, we see it as a priority to help children understand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school. This week, children have been reminded of the impact of bullying have revisited our school definition of bullying = Bullying is the repeated conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone else. This power may be greater physical and emotional strength or in greater numbers. Or in more children friendly terms, we can remember bullying behaviour as a poor behavioural choice 'Several Times On Purpose.' Children have revisited our child's guide to anti bullying at Cottesmore (which can also be found on the school website) in addition to enjoying a range of lessons in class. The week was marked by everyone wearing odd socks to remind us how being unique is something to be celebrated and a fantastic assembly which can also be found on the school website.

## Peaceful Problem Solving

Peaceful Problem Solving has always been used at Cottesmore in order to help support children work through problems in a calm and effective manner. To ensure the children feel adequately supported and listened to, we use a set script in order to help resolve potential issues. In order for this to work to the best of its ability, we ensure that the children involved feel calm so we use calming techniques to ensure that the child feels emotionally regulated enough in order to talk through their problem (ready). The first child then has the opportunity to speak, explaining how they feel, what happened and what would help support them next. The next child is then encouraged to do the same, reminding both children to listen carefully to the other (set) and so on. Together, we use the content of the conversations to identify a solution that we can put into motion (go). As well as being solution / resolution focused, Peaceful Problem Solving helps to develop children's problem solving skills as well as offering a structure to use individually when working to build positive relationships. Children have recently revisited this with their class teachers.

**World Kindness Day** As noted in last week's newsletter, last Friday, each class created their own Kindness Door and every classroom was full of messages of kindness. Random acts of kindness also took place throughout the school day. During the day, Year 2 chose a name of a class member randomly from a hat. They then wrote a kind letter to the person that they chose, no matter if they were a close friend or not. In the letter, they gave

each other compliments and drew an uplifting picture for their chosen person. The children's faces were a delight to see when they read the compliments they had been given and were so keen to tell me all about them.



## Anti-racism

Children have also been taking part in anti-racism lessons. As a school, it is vital that we prioritise ways that we can further educate our children in order to eradicate racism, racial inequality and racial injustice. We want to develop a generation of anti-racist citizens. The children have been creating posters with the theme, 'Give racism the red card'.



Brighton and Hove City Council have committed to becoming an anti-racist council and to tackling racism and bias in schools.

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/news/2020/action-become-anti-racist-council>

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/news/2020/tackling-racism-and-bias-schools>

The council has been working with consultant Abha Aggarwal and the Brighton & Hove Educators of Colour to develop a strategy that will build on good practice in place to further develop anti-racist practice in all schools. Prior to this period, Cottesmore had already begun such work and had already begun working with Abha directly. As ever, please get in touch if this is something that you would like to further support the school with.

## Children in Need



I am beyond proud to inform you that, thanks to your generous donations, we raised £1215. **13 November 2020** Also, Darcey's fund, from Reception, has also now raised £555. Just incredible. Thank you all so much.

Thank you also to Mrs Brady-Smith for all her incredible work organising all the aspects noted in the newsletter this week.

**Wishing you a restful weekend. Rachel Breen, Headteacher**

## Amazing parent feedback – distance learning

As you know, we have had two bubbles isolating recently. We have received a range of supportive emails and messages that have really helped the teachers as they work in yet another different way. Please do visit the Covid updates section of the school website for more information regarding our home learning plan. Thank you to parents who have emailed in me regarding the excellent provision that has been on offer. For example,

- *May I take this opportunity to formally say that you have some brilliant teachers, delivering excellent teaching resources to your pupils whilst in lockdown. Thank you!*
- *As you know, we are really new to Cottesmore St Mary but I wanted to say a huge thank you to you and the staff team for the work they have provided for the children over this isolation period. We have been completely blown away by both the organisation and the quality of the work provided and the feedback from the teachers, it has kept .... completely occupied and self-sufficient! Thank you again.*
- *I just wanted to say a big thank you for the wonderful remote learning ... has been given during this week. The videos from the teachers have been so clear and informative and the work set has been interesting and presented beautifully. I was enjoying the guided reading lessons and Literacy lessons just as much as my daughter! She understood exactly what she had to do.*
- *The staff have been amazing from the very moment of Monday morning. The videos and the lessons and the tasks set up were so beautifully presented and enjoyable and informative and the feedback and communication ongoing. ... has been able to independently do all the work set and didn't feel at all he was in isolation. It is such a relief for all of us to know that if he needs to self isolate again he is in most brilliant hands. Also big thanks for organising the remote learning platform. It is so easy to follow. I know that hard work has gone on that.*

I would like to reiterate the parents' thanks to all our staff who have been required to isolate, and teach remotely, over the past few weeks. I would like to thank them for continuing to do their job in such a professional and nurturing manner despite the challenges they too faced.

## Winter Support Package

The Government have announced a new winter package to provide further support for children and families. This scheme will allow local authorities to support the hardest-hit families and individuals, as well as provide food for children who need it over the holidays. This **means that food vouchers, as per during lockdown, will now be automatically given to every child in receipt of Free School Meals this Christmas. Mrs Mullans will be writing to these families with more information in the coming week.**



## Relationships and Sex Education for Years 3-6

Summer term is when we would usually teach our RSE units of work which focus on age appropriate relationship and sex education from Reception to Year 6. Due to lockdown, we were unable to teach these lessons in school. We decided to teach the missed units this term so your child is not missing out on the topics. These lessons will take place on November 23rd. It is important you know what your child(ren) will be learning in case you wish to engage in preparatory or follow-up discussions at home. If you would like more information, please contact your child's class teacher.

## School Tours for Prospective Parents

Please find the advertising flyer for our school on the Admissions page of the school website. Please feel free to circulate this document, or a link to our admissions page on the school website, on social media, families / local area groups etc. Due to current restrictions, families are currently unable to visit our school and see how great it is first hand. Please kindly continue to spread positive words about Cottesmore to anyone you know with young children. I'm currently hosting personalised zoom meeting with all interested families in the hope that these, plus information found on the website and admissions page (prospectus, highlights document, newsletter etc) help families with their decision making. Appointments for individual Zoom meetings, or potential individual tours, can be booked by contacting our Admissions Lead, Ruth Yahiatene, on [ruthyahiatene@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:ruthyahiatene@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk) or 01273 555811.

**If you are currently a member of our school family and have a younger child due to start in September 2021. Don't forget that, in addition to completing the online Brighton and Hove admissions form, you must also complete the school Supplementary Information Form (SIF) This can be found on the school website and is required to be delivered to the school office. We encourage you to complete the SIF form sooner rather than later. A reminder that the deadline for Reception applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January.**

## New Governors and Vacancy

### Parent Governors Vacancy

We have two vacancies for Parent Governors on our Governing Board, so we must run an election and you, as a parent or carer, have the right to stand. **We really encourage people to come forward and help make a difference to our school.** If you are interested, please get in touch for more information or refer to our previous PING. If interested, please complete the Parent Governor Election Candidate Form return to [natashacamilleri@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:natashacamilleri@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk)  
Application closure date: 20/12/ 2020

**What do School Governors do?** The governors make sure our school provides good, quality education for all our students, by becoming a member of our school governing board. Ideally governors are committed and engaged people who come from a range of backgrounds, who can bring different insights and experiences to our governance team. The board works with the headteacher and senior leadership team to set the school's vision, aims and objectives. This can include:

- making plans for the school's future
- being accountable for the school's performance
- making decisions about money and the school's budget
- The role of school governors is to support and challenge the headteacher and senior leadership team in strategic matters. School governors must work together as a team to scrutinise the headteacher's overall plans, and make the longer-term strategic decisions, which the senior leadership team is then charged with implementing, according to the policies we have agreed.

## Parents as Partners

Parents as Partners is an online course for parents struggling with conflict and other relationship difficulties. Two courses will run in January 2021, one for parents where alcohol use impacts on their relationship, the other will be a standard course. This is an online course over 18 weeks for couples wanting to improve their relationship (as opposed to their parenting). Course covers strategies to reduce parental conflict, improve communication and manage stress. Parents need to have at least one child under 11 and internet access. Course starts mid-January 2020 at 7:45pm (dates TBC) Phone: 07825862574 (Stephen) or email: [Parent.Relationships@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:Parent.Relationships@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

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| <b>MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup></b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missed RSHE lessons (relationship, sex and health education), from previous lockdown, all week – Years 3-6</li> </ul>                                                                                                                |
| <b>TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup></b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 St Francis Forest School – AM</li> <li>3 St Patrick Forest School - PM</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup></b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 St Claire Forest School</li> <li>Individual school photographs for Year 3 only</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup></b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                  | <b>ADVENT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup></b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup></b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 St Andrew Forest School – AM</li> <li>3 St Joan Forest School - PM</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup></b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup></b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>MONDAY 7<sup>h</sup></b>      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup></b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup></b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup></b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 St Peter Forest School – AM</li> <li>1 St Catherine Forest School - PM</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup></b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup></b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14th Mon Christmas Dinners : Rec - 11.20 / Year 2 - 12.10</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup></b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15th Tues Christmas Dinners: Year 1 - 11.20 / Year 4 - 12.10</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16th Housepoint celebrations</li> <li>16th Wed Christmas Dinners: Year 3 – 11.20 / Year 6 - 12.10</li> </ul>                                                                                                                         |
| <b>THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup></b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 St Catherine Forest School – AM</li> <li>1 St Peter Forest School – PM</li> <li>17th Thurs Christmas Dinners Year 5 – 12.10</li> <li>17th Honeypot celebration – home clothes</li> <li>1pm Class parties for all school</li> </ul> |
| <b>FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup></b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School finishes for Christmas holidays</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                  | <b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER – 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>JANUARY 2020</b>              | <b>2020 = A YEAR OF THE WORD 'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS TO ME'</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup></b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils return for the Spring term</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup></b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup></b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup></b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.15am Reception new intake tours 2020 / 2021</li> <li>3.15pm Year 6 SATs meeting for parents - 6 St Martin classroom (childcare provided)</li> <li>12.45pm Forest School St Catherine</li> </ul>                                    |
| <b>FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup></b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |