



19th March 2021

Dear parents / carers

Holy Week

In the lead up to Holy Week, all classes have enjoyed a reflective Easter liturgy outside in Forest School. Thank you to Mrs Fairbanks for collating images and videos. These can be found in the Catholic Life, Easter and Holy Week, section of the school website. In this section, you will also find other resources that will support you, as a family, during this final time of preparation and as we lead up to the celebration that is Easter Sunday. You might wish to share the following Holy Week links with children at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGmvhYReCVI> (Palm Sunday in rocks)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVj6v0wMUwg&list=PLIYkZkY1KaVZTHFP2135R3LQGk9HnS_wG&index=4 (The Last Supper in rocks)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEydM2uFZFM&list=PLIYkZkY1KaVZTHFP2135R3LQGk9HnS_wG&index=6 (The Crucifixion in rocks)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC_d0rduuYk&list=PLIYkZkY1KaVZTHFP2135R3LQGk9HnS_wG&index=12 (The Resurrection in rocks)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgFZDCguR8E> (The Easter Story told and acted by young children)

In school, we have been focusing on the events of Holy Week as well as looking forward to the joy that is to come as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. How lucky are we that we have a God who loves us so much that he gave us His only son. That Jesus died for us on the cross so that we may have eternal life. God loves all of us so much and he wants us all to be His friends. As we get ready to celebrate Easter Sunday, a reminder that we can all show God's love to others through the choices we make, the kindness we share and by bringing others to Him.



Autism Awareness week

The week marked Autism Awareness week. Autism is a disability that affects how people communicate and interact with the world. Autism is a spectrum condition and affects people in different ways. There are approximately 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK. Like all people, autistic people have their own strengths as well as difficulties. You will have received a flyer promoting further understanding of Autism as well as how you can better support people with Autism in your community and workplace. For example, identifying that Autistic people have communication challenges, from not speaking to needing longer to process information, can experience intense anxiety in social situations, prefer routines and can engage in repetitive behavior and may have sensory issues with noise, light, smell and touch. Autistic strengths include showing intense focus and attention to detail,

considered and reflective approaches, honesty and integrity and creative thinking. You can help autistic colleagues or children by giving clear instructions and putting important points in writing for clarification and by not relying on body language or facial expressions to communicate. Remember to give anxious or agitated individuals space and time to recover. We aim to focus on promoting a developed awareness and understanding of Autism amongst the children and would like to work collaboratively with parents. We will set up a working party in order to plan and develop a shared vision based on the experiences of all. If you would be interested in joining this working party, please get in contact with Anna Mullans.



Poppin' Toppins

Thank you to Poppin' Toppins who provided some gifted cake toppers for cakes for both Mrs White and Mrs Clifton. Please do visit them via Facebook or Instagram or email poppintoppins@yahoo.com for more information. They provide a range of personalised items that are great for any party. For example, cake toppers, stickers, cards and other party bits.



Farewell Mrs Clifton

Mrs Clifton, from the Office, left today as she moves to open her own restaurant. We are so sorry to see Mrs Clifton go as she has been such a positive addition to the school family and will be missed. Once her businesses opens, we will share information for anyone who fancies a trip to Angmering. Huge thank you for all your hard work and always being such a positive force. We celebrated Mrs Clifton via a Zoom goodbye assembly as well as cakes, cards and gifts plus a special lunch (all done in bubbles!)

The wonderful Mrs White

Mrs White retired today. Mrs White has been at the school for 26 years. She has been part of the structure and has had such a positive impact on so many of our young children and their families. To celebrate her time at the school, the whole school dressed up, we held a special Zoom assembly where we gave memory books, cards and presents. A special lunch was organised for the staff and, thanks to the PTA, an ice cream van came to give children an ice cream to celebrate but also as a welcome back to school / thank you for a wonderful half term / well done for navigating the past year. It really did add some pizzazz to Mrs White's last day, as did the dress up. The children, and staff, were in such wonderful spirits and the building echoed with laughter all day – just delightful. A huge thank you again to Mrs White for her incredible dedication to the school and for making a difference to so many. We wish her well and hope that she will stay in touch.



Wishing you a wonderful Easter holiday. Here's to new beginnings and new life! Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Reporting a positive case during the holidays

During the holidays, it remains vital that you continue to report any child positive cases to the school, even after the end of term. It is important that you contact the school if your child becomes symptomatic within 48 hours of their last day in school if they go on to receive a positive test result within six days of the final day of teaching. Please note that you do not need to contact the school, during the holidays, if children become symptomatic more than 48 hours after their last day in school. It is important that, where symptoms have come about within 48 hours of last being on site, a test is taken as soon as possible. It is also extremely important that we are told of any resulting positive cases immediately via email. The only email address to use / that will be checked is rachelbreen@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk. When emailing information, please include a phone number so that you can be called. If a positive case is reported, we will need to follow the usual process. For example, contact PHE, ascertain who has been in contact, contact all those linked, share PHE guidance etc. Please ensure you check your PING accounts in order to access any shared information. Thank you in advance.

Reporting a positive case during term time

Please always report a positive test result for a child asap. You do not have to wait until the office is open. Please email rachelbreen@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk anytime and as early as possible so that we can inform parents with as much notice as possible. It is much easier for the school, and parents, if we can get things in motion before people leave for school.

Lateral Flow Tests

Please see the school website, Covid Updates section, for the letter you received this week outlining the fact that each member of your household is now able to receive Lateral Flow Tests at home. School staff have been completing LFT twice weekly for over a month. They are quick and simple to use. The new variant of Covid-19 is much more transmissible and a large percentage of people are asymptomatic, so these tests add an extra layer of protection for your family, the community and wider population. Whilst these tests have not been known to give false positives, they are recognised to be 80% effective regarding identifying positive results so the need for distancing and other measures is still required even if you receive a negative result and you must still visit a test center test, if you display signs or symptoms, even if your LFT shows negative. This is a swift and simple process that is offered for free, and brings the benefit of helping to contain this virus. Test results need to be logged on a website. This takes a few minutes to upload from a device or phone. If you find this a problem, school can support by helping you learn how to do it. We urge you to collect and complete tests twice weekly and thank you in advance for doing so. The more we do to stop the virus spreading, the less likely potential bubble closures will be plus the less likely transmission. Huge thanks in advance for your support. You can collect up to 2 test kits with 14 individual tests from the following test sites between 1pm and 8pm Monday - Sunday. You don't need to book just turn up and collect.

- East Brighton Tennis Courts, Brighton BN25UA
- Preston Park Brighton BN16SD
- Disused School Site - junction of Mile Oak Road and High Street - Portslade BN41 2PG

For more details, please visit: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

You can also order 1 test kit with 7 individual tests on-line for delivery to your home. For more details:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

For further information about testing: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/covidschools>

Thank you to you and your families for your support.

School shoes

A reminder that school shoes must be black in their entirety. Children have the option of either a more traditional black school shoe (not boot) or a plain black trainer without colored logos. All those wearing grey bottoms wear grey socks and black shoes / trainers. In warmer months those wearing the royal blue gingham summer dress / culottes can opt for white socks and a white trainer or white shoe if they prefer. We appreciate that some children have grown out of school shoes and that, until shops open and the initial flurry if parents trying to buy them subsides, getting ample footwear for your children may be a challenge. Shops are hoping to open from 12th April and we ask that, post then, you do what you can to ensure that footwear follows the school policy. If this isn't possible eg financial reasons or short supply, we ask that you contact your child's class teacher and explain the situation so we can make a note. We can discuss financial assistance, if required, to ensure no child misses out. Any child without written consent will be expected to wear correct footwear.

Free production of Stick Man

Brighton-based children's theatre company Freckle Productions are delighted to announce that their popular stage adaptation of *Stick Man*, based on the book by Julia Donaldson with illustrations by Axel Scheffler, will be available for Brighton & Hove school pupils to stream for free from Tuesday 30th March – Wednesday 7th April. Filmed at the production's final live performance at the Rose Theatre Kingston in December 2020, this made-for-TV version of the show was initially created for families to view at home over Christmas. However, with the extraordinarily tough start to the year, Freckle are keen to give something back to their hugely supportive audiences in Brighton, and hope that *Stick Man* will be an hour of fun for families this Easter. To access the stream, please click the following link and enter the password when prompted:

<https://vimeo.com/freckleproductions/stickman-brighton>

Password: Fam1yTr33

Please note: that this video has been approved for distribution for the families of pupils in Brighton and Hove only. Please do not share this link to any other parties. The live show of *Stick Man* will be back from September 2021, and the theatre company really look forward to welcoming audiences back into the theatre.



Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to all the children who have been playing Times Tables Rockstars at home. If children know these basics, they'll find the Rest of maths much easier. This week, the results are ...

Class with the most active players: 4 St Andrews

Class with the best accuracy: 3 St Patrick

Class with the quickest speed: 2 St Claire



ASC Strikers – free football sessions

ASC Strikers are a community based football club who train and play at Buckingham Park in Shoreham. With The current lockdown rules coming to a close and sports being allowed to resume, they would like to offer an invitation to children in Reception and Years 1, 2 and 3 to participate and enjoy some fun football sessions during Saturday 3rd and 10th April. They are trying to recruit new club players, of all abilities, as well as promote sports health and wellbeing. Reception and Year 1 will take place at 9am – 10am and Years 2 and 3 10.30am - 11.30am. To book a free place, please call 01273 463355 or email

ASCSTRIKERSSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM



EASTER HOLIDAYS Monday 5th April – Monday 19th April Outdoors Project Easter school all holiday	
MONDAY 19th	- Summer Term - School reopens for pupils - RMA football club begins for Year 1 and Year 5
TUESDAY 20th	RMA football club begins for Year 3 and Year 4
WEDNESDAY 21st	Outdoor Project club begins for Year 3 from 3:00pm - 4:15pm every Wednesday
THURSDAY 22nd	- Forest School – Year 1 St Catherine am - Forest School – Year 5 St Stephen pm - Outdoor Project club begins for Year 4 from 3:00pm - 4:15pm every Thursday - RMA football club begins for Year 2 and Year 6
FRIDAY 23rd	- Reception Forest School 2.15 pm Celebration assembly 25th years of Father Alexander withing the priesthood - Outdoor Project club begins for Year 2 from 3:00pm - 4:15pm every Friday
MONDAY 26th	
TUESDAY 27th	
WEDNESDAY 28th	
THURSDAY 29th	- Forest School – Year 1 St Peter am - Forest School – Year 5 St Cecilia pm
FRIDAY 30th	
May	MAY – MONTH OF MARY
Monday 3rd	School Closed Bank Holiday Day
TUESDAY 4TH	- Bikeability – Year 5 - Reception Sight Test Screening - Parent Consultation meetings and SEN meetings 3.15pm – 6pm
WEDNESDAY 5th	- Bikeability – Year 5 - Reception Sight Test Screening
THURSDAY 6th	- Forest School – Year 1 St Catherine am - Forest School – Year 4 St Andrew pm - Bikeability – Year 5 - Reception Sight Test Screening - Parent Consultation meetings and SEN meetings 3.15pm – 6pm
FRIDAY 7th	- Bikeability – Year 5 - Reception Sight Test Screening
MONDAY 10th	Bikeability – Year 5
TUESDAY 11th	- Bikeability – Year 5 12.45-1.45 Year 3 Touring Greek Temples British Museum – Virtual Tour
WEDNESDAY 12th	- Bikeability – Year 5 12.45-1.45 Year 3 Touring Greek Temples British Museum – Virtual Tour
THURSDAY 13th	- Bikeability – Year 5 - School Census - Forest School – Year 1 St Peter am - Forest School – Year 4 St Francis pm
FRIDAY 13th	Bikeability – Year 6
MONDAY 17th	- Mental Health Awareness Week - Year 6 Bikeability
TUESDAY 18th	Year 6 Bikeability
WEDNESDAY 19TH	Year 6 Bikeability
THURSDAY 20TH	Year 6 Bikeability
FRIDAY 21st	Year 6 Bikeability
MONDAY 24th	- School reopens for pupils - Year 6 Bikeability
TUESDAY 25TH	- Year 6 Bikeability - Year 5 Blacklands Activity Day
WEDNESDAY 26th	Year 6 Blacklands Activity Day
THURSDAY 27th	Year 6 Bikeability
FRIDAY 28th	Year 6 Bikeability
HALF TERM MONDAY 1ST – FRIDAY 4TH JUNE Outdoors Project club all holiday	