



Cottesmore St. Mary

Catholic Primary School

THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON



Headteacher: Rachel Breen B.A. Hons.

10th September 2020

Dear parents / carers

We are really looking forward to welcoming you and your child to school. Children from all other years have now returned and have settled into their new routines very well. It has been a delight to see so many smiling faces and to be together as a community again.

Teddy Bear's Picnic - Friday 11th September (home clothes)

10.30am – 11.30am St Jude (Mrs Coleshill) and 1.30pm – 2.30pm St Christopher (Miss Topcam)

These sessions will take place on the school field. Entrance will be via the **field gate on The Upper Drive** (a little further up from the main school gate, if you are travelling toward the Tesco garage). This event is weather permitting and will be cancelled should it rain. Please bring a Teddy, a picnic blanket and any drinks or snacks that you might wish to enjoy. However, please ensure that these items are only used / enjoyed by your family.

As per guidance, it is vital that all adults maintain social distancing. We ask that a distance of, at least, 2 metres is maintained by adults from different households at all times. Please help the school by supporting this.

Whilst we would like to welcome your whole, immediate family, the least number of adults on site, the better. If possible, it would be ideal if only one parent, per child joined us. However, we appreciate that settling your child into school is a key transition event so will leave this to your own discretion.

Story Time - Monday 14th September (home clothes)

10am – 11am Group A Storytime and 1.30pm – 2.30pm Group B Storytime

These sessions will take place in the children's new classrooms. Entrance will be via the **KS1 playground gate on The Upper Drive** (a little nearer to the main school gate compared to the one used for the Teddy Bear's Picnic). Parents are invited to remain on the school field whilst the children become accustomed to their new classroom. We ask that parents ideally drop their child at the classroom door rather than enter the classroom. However, those children who seem to be struggling with the transition can be supported.

We would usually provide hot drinks for waiting parents but, due to restrictions, this will not be possible. You are welcome to bring your own hot drink to consume whilst waiting on the field. You may also wish to bring a blanket to sit on. We will provide some bottles water and individually wrapped snacks instead.

Due to restrictions announced yesterday, to begin as of Monday 14th, parents will only be able to sit in distanced groups of up to six maximum. This will include younger children although, where possible, we ask that younger children remain at home if alternative childcare is available. The field will be split into sections in order to help facilitate this. Again, we suggest that only one adult per child attend.

Both The Teddy Bear's Picnic and Storytime events allow parents the chance to get to know each other. Again, we ask that all those attending follow strict social distancing and again, keep numbers to a minimum. We really do appreciate your support.





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Official school sessions (school uniform please)

Tuesday 15th September **9am – 11am Group B** and **12.45pm – 2.45pm Group A**

Wednesday 16th September **9am – 11.30am All children**

Thursday 17th September **9am – 1.15pm All children (to include lunch)**

Friday 18th September **9am – 1.15pm All children (to include lunch)**

Monday 21st September onwards **9am – 3.10pm All children (to include lunch)**

On school days, children will need to enter via Radinden Manor which is the road that runs along the far side of the school, parallel to The Upper Drive. All Upper Drive gates will be closed at the time of Reception children's drop off and pick up. Please ask a member of staff to direct you to this whilst at any of our welcome events so that you are sure of where to go. The time slot for Reception children to enter, via Radinden Manor gate, is between 9am – 9.10am for drop off and 3.10pm – 3.20pm for pick up. Please do not arrive earlier as you will not be able to come onsite. We ask that families arriving earlier either wait in cars until 9am. This is to avoid cross over with other year group bubbles.

When onsite, 2 metre floor markings and other signage can be found in all areas. Please ensure that social distancing is followed when waiting to drop off or collect your child both on and offsite.

As you already know, children will not free flow into classes as usual, but wait outside, each on a 2 metre line, overseen by their class teacher and TA. As children enter the school building they will be required to wash their hands or receive hand gel.

Over the first few days of Reception, we ask those with confident children make their way into class first. Those who need a bit of extra support, will have adults on hand to help with the transition. It would be helpful if you could talk to your child in advance about what will happen eg that you will say goodbye at the classroom door and their new class teacher and teaching assistant will take them into class to a settling activity of their choice.

When arriving for pick up, we ask that the one adult doing so, waits on a 2 metre distanced line as with drop off.

We appreciate that you have received lots of information regarding new protocols, alongside all the information regarding starting school. Should you require any further information or support, please contact the school office or your child's class teacher. Your child's class teacher emails can be found on the Reception page of the school website and further contacts can be found in the Contact Us section. All recent letters can be found in Current Updates and, as of next week, Newsletters will resume and can also be found on the school website under Newsletters.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Many thanks

Rachel Breen (Headteacher)

