



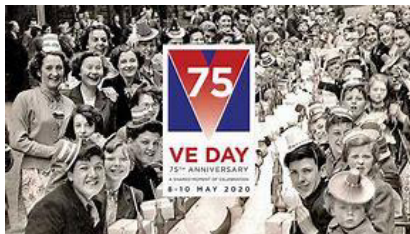
8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents / carers / children

## VE Day

Today marks VE Day when we remember the incredible moment, 75 years ago, when the Second World War ended and peace returned after six years. On that day, back in 1945, the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, told the whole country, on the radio, of the news. Church bells rang out and people spilled onto the streets to show joy and celebration. This day was a momentous time in our history. We have posted various activities linked to VE Day on Home Learning Grids and Seesaw and hope that you can spend a some time thinking about this special day and what it means for us now. It's thanks to all those who fought for us that we are now able to live the way we do. As a nation we had hoped to 'remember' in our assemblies and 'celebrate' with street parties - both of which are now not happening as we had expected. Thank you to St Nicholas' and St Mary's CofE school in Shoreham, who have produced a YouTube assembly using slides from The Royal British Legion and a talk by Reverent James Grant, from St Nicholas' Church. Please click the link to watch the excellent assembly <https://youtu.be/Nyvdmlso930>

Thank you to Captain Tom Moore, who I have written about previously, and all his remaining comrades for all they did during this period. Although 100 years old now, he was just 19 years old when he went out as a soldier. Just a boy really, yet so much responsibility and such a challenging time. Thank you to all those who gave their lives for us. We remember you in our prayers.



## Reception singers

Reception St Christopher have been busy creating. Children made an amazing video for their teachers and bravely sung solo parts to 'This Little Light of Mine'. Whilst watching it, my eyes filled up with happy tears because it was utterly fantastic to see so many little faces and hear their beautiful singing voices. Just amazing and such a treat. I sent it to the whole staff team who were equally as moved and it is now on the school website under the Community section, if you too fancy a tear jerk moment! Thank you so much Reception



## Rainbow Wall

A reminder to send Mr Cutting (details on our Community website page) any pictures of children with their rainbows. It's lovely to these coming in and being added so please do visit the page and take a look. As you know, from a previous letter, a child from Year 3 decided that he wanted to paint his shed wall with a rainbow to say thank you to the NHS. The Argus featured his lovely act of kindness and we too have added it to our Rainbow Wall.



In school this week, we began working to create a rainbow themed display, for the school prayer area, for when you return. We have made a Rainbow Tree of Hope (in place of our Kindness Tree, for now) , have our special Noah's Ark plus various other things that you will enjoy looking at I'm sure. I will send a photograph once it's completed

## Follow your rainbow

The staff and I are thrilled to hear that you enjoyed our video this week. It was lots of fun to make and we were really pleased with the end product. A big thank you to Miss Waters, Year 6, for organising the staff and to her finance, Elliot, who edited it for us. Elliot spent about four hours a day, for a week, watching the 40 staff videos and cutting bits together. I think you'd agree that he did a superb job as did all the staff – great efforts all round. We were all thrilled to hear that Miss Waters had also organised a special guest appearance too! A big thank you to Jo, from S Club 7, for sending the children a message but for also singing on part of the video. Amazing! Jo is hoping to visit the school when we get our stain glass window commissioned. Don't forget to get creating designs and please pass them to me, via your class teacher, using Seesaw. Remember that the theme is Rainbows and Hope. As we said in the video ...

**Children of Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School, all the staff would like to remind you how important you are. Please remember to always dare to dream and always have hope. When it rains, look for rainbows. When it's dark, look for stars. Always follow your rainbow and always reach for the stars! We would also like to say, a huge thank you to everyone working for the NHS, and all other key workers, across the country. You are doing a fantastic job and it really is appreciated.**

Please visit the link below to see us in action or visit the Community page on our school website. The song has already had over 3000 views and appeared in the news.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSae4hbWzRs>

## Popstar sends special lockdown message to Hove schoolchildren

Posted On 04 May 2020 at 3:24 pm By : Sarah Booker-Lewis, local democracy reporter Comment: 0



## Virtual School Games

Due to the current situation, we were disappointed not to be able to participate in the Sussex School Games this year, especially as we represented Brighton and Hove twice last year and won Athletics overall, throughout Sussex. Not to mention, receiving two Spirit of the Games awards. That said, Active Sussex have set up a Virtual Sussex School Games for all households to access and is a nice way of offering all children some sort of sporting competition during this different time. This project will run throughout the Summer Term and has already begun. Never fear, it is not too late to sign up! A new sport, and its four challenges, will be published at 9.30am on a Monday morning, on [www.sussexschoolgames.co.uk](http://www.sussexschoolgames.co.uk), via social media or sent directly to those [signed up to their mailing list](#). Please sign up so that you can receive updates each week. Every week, a different sport will take place, made up of four personal sporting challenges which can be completed from home; in the living room, kitchen or garden, or at school. Scores for each challenge will be submitted online, and will contribute towards the school's average score. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the best scoring schools in each sport. There will also be an Active Adults category with trophies up for grabs, so parents, teachers and carers can get involved too. As well as medals in individual sports, overall leaderboards will be kept, and overall Sussex Champions crowned at the end of the summer term. It would be great to get as many parents, carers and children signing up. **So far, we are 3rd in county for parents, carers and staff taking part but are much lower down for children participation so we would really like that to improve.**

Twitter: [@SussexSchGames](https://twitter.com/SussexSchGames)

Facebook: [Specsavers Sussex School Games](https://www.facebook.com/SpecsaversSussexSchoolGames)

Instagram: [@SussexSchGames](https://www.instagram.com/SussexSchGames)

TikTok: [@SussexSchGames](https://www.tiktok.com/@SussexSchGames)

Ultimately, the objective of the Specsavers 'Virtual' Sussex School Games is to keep as many children as possible active during this period, and to help them benefit from the physical, mental and social positives that representing a school can bring. The organisers will be awarding special 'Spirit of the Games' awards to the schools who are getting the most people up and active so please do encourage fellow classmates. Participants are encouraged to train and improve each week to be the best that they can be. As a bit of extra-motivation, each Monday, they'll be setting a new training challenge alongside the sporting competition, with the chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher as a prize. Participants need to upload their training videos and pictures to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or TikTok, and include the hashtag #SussexSchGames, and a weekly winner will be selected at random. These can be posted from a parent's or school's account. **Go Team Cottesmore!**

## Month of Mary

I will be writing to you more about this next week but, in the meantime, I wanted to remind you all that May is the month of Mary, our school patron. Mrs Fairbanks has set a May Mary Challenge and created a Mary Mass page on the school website (under Catholic Life) so please do visit here for more information and resources to further support your spirituality at home.



**Cottesmore St Mary's May Mary Challenge**  
Build your own Mary Garden either inside or outside

- 1) Find a space in your garden or a plan pot that you already have. Or find a jar that you can use to create a mini garden.
- 2) Add some flowers. Flowers are often a symbol of Mary. We use them in our Mary Mass!
- 3) Add a statue or cut out of Mary (you can draw your own picture too)
- 4) Take a photo and send to Mrs Fairbanks by [Mary@Cottesmore@Cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:mary@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

We will make a 'Mary's rosary stations' with the images



## Financial or food help

Please don't forget that, if you have any financial worries, or are struggling to feed your family, you can contact the school for help. Thanks to parental and staff donations, we have our own Foodbank that can be accessed for those in need. Please don't struggle on alone. Please also remember to visit our website for our key document that signposts local financial and food aid. This can be found in the Current Updates section on the Home page. If usually in receipt of Free School Meals, due to low income, and you haven't yet received your vouchers, please also get in touch. As said above, you are not alone so please don't just try to struggle on. We can help.

**UPDATE - Brighton cooking club is a group, cooking meals for families that need it during this time. If this would be helpful to you, please go online to their website to sign up. What a brilliant resource for the community.**

<https://www.brightoncookingclub.com/>

## Eco work

We hope that you are managing to get out for your daily exercise and possibly getting the chance to enjoy the nature where you live. As I've said before, the school field and Forest School area is currently bursting with beautiful wildlife. This term, whilst you are at home staying safe, Miss Wilkinson, our Eco Lead and Year 5 teacher, has linked up with a scheme called Young Climate Warriors. This scheme has created a series of fun and innovative challenges that you can complete at home. We would ideally love every member of the Cottesmore Community to become a young climate warrior! You can find the tasks on our Eco page, on the school website. If you complete the challenges, Miss Wilkinson would love to see how you get on and will add some to this page. Please send your pictures and messages to [KateWilkinson@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:KateWilkinson@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk)



This week's challenge 24th April

Remember to Hit the RED BUTTON - CHALLENGE COMPLETED!

Can you remember the devastation caused by Storm Dennis - it was only 2 months ago!  
Climate change is making droughts and floods worse.  
Can you save water this week?  
Switch off your tap whilst brushing your teeth!  
Turn off the dripping tap! 5-minute shower limit!  
Go to the [wateraid.org](http://wateraid.org) and learn about water issues around the world.

The average individual in the UK uses 140 litres of water per day. A typical bath takes 80 litres. A dripping tap can waste 95 litres in a day.

Worldwide, more than 800 children under 5 years old die every day from diarrhoea, caused by dirty water.

Climate change is making water shortages and flooding worse -  
WaterAid video - <https://youtu.be/000IzoeZSAk> [www.youngclimatewarriors.org](http://www.youngclimatewarriors.org)

We need to succeed in halting climate change, otherwise 1 in 4 children will live in regions where water is dangerously scarce by 2040.

Young Climate Warriors

**Online safety** Please continue to be aware of online safety and remember that Apps such as Zoom and Houseparty can be hacked and other, none invited, guests can sometimes join. We would suggest that they are only used under adult supervision. Please visit the Current Updates section on the website as we have posted various documents that highlight ways to keep your child safe when online. Sussex Police have provided a document regarding online safety when using Zoom plus and Mrs Marchant, our Computing Lead, has compiled an excellent document regarding general online safety reminders for parents (this is useful at all times of the year). There are a range of linked websites which are also certainly worth visiting.

As I said last week, whilst we may miss being a physical community, we are still a community nonetheless and you are in our thoughts every day. I do hope that you have found the phone calls home helpful and please, just remember to keep in touch. We are always here for you. Rachel Breen, Headteacher