



10th December 2021

Dear parents/ carers,

Advent – peace

The second Sunday of Advent allows us to reflect on the importance of peace. This week, children have thought about what choices we can each make in order to show peace to others. Peace can come in many forms - self love and acceptance/ finding inner peace, offering peace in the form of forgiveness, helping others build bridges with those they may have fallen out with and many more. The dictionary definition of peace no doubt rings true for many of the asylum seekers we have supported this week.



peace

/pēs/ +0

noun

- 1 freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquillity
'you can while away an hour or two in peace and seclusion'
synonyms: tranquillity, calm, stillness, peace and quiet, placidness, quiet, quietude, hush
- 2 freedom from or the absence of war or violence.
'the Greeks were to be open to warships in time of peace'
synonyms: law and order, law and order, order, peacefulness, peacefulness, harmony, peacefulness, law and order, law and order
'we pray for peace'

Your help for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Thank you again for your very generous donations to help those who had arrived, without anything, to Brighton and Hove. Care4Calais Brighton continue to support them and were very thankful for our donations this week. If anyone still has anything to spare, items would still be greatly appreciated. A full list of items is on their Google doc which is a live document and therefore updated regularly with precisely what is needed.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EsDHMPmYiPLxCWE1yYZHcL0rPKzH-DkPktjHXCeOs/edit?usp=sharing>

If you have further items that you'd like to drop off please book a slot at the Care4Calais Brighton collection at One Church, Florence Road, Brighton every Tuesday evening 5.30pm-7.45pm.

If you'd like

to get in touch with Care4Calais, please contact them via

brighton@care4calais.org. You can also donate to their fundraiser. Thanks to

James and Lyra's mum for taking our collected items to the collection point this week and alerting us to the new arrivals - there are now 84 arrivals in the hotel. As well as hopefully feeling increased peace, your donations will no doubt offer some form of hope as per our focus for the first week of Advent.



TV debut in Germany

A few weeks ago, Catarina and Daniel travelled to Germany and took part in a German television quiz show "1, 2 oder 3". Their team did really well and won the show! What a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to speak German. The show will be live in March 2022.



Fun times in Year 2

Year 2 have had a super term with so many exciting events taking place. Children have been learning all about the seaside in Victorian times. They enjoyed watching a real life Punch and Judy show and were captivated by the wide selection of puppets on display. After watching the show, children were able to handle some of the puppets and have a Q&A session with the puppeteer, who has been performing for over 50 years.



Year 2 also had a fantastic time on their trip to the i360. They developed their understanding of maps by spotting some of Brighton's landmarks from a bird's eye view and then went to the beach for some fieldwork and beach school activities. Children used natural resources to create artwork on the beach and ended the day with a calm, tranquil meditation on the shore.



Sofia E wrote the following

In the morning, we hopped on the magnificent tall coach. We went to the floating British Airways i360. I saw Churchill square and I also saw the rusty west pier. Next we went to the beach and we did sketching of beautiful things we saw. My favourite thing was the i30 and relaxing and sketching, I was taking my time. We had such a fantastic day.

This week, Year 2 had a magical 'Polar Express Day' today. In Guided Reading sessions, children have been exploring the picture book, making predictions and learning new vocabulary linked to the text. The day was full of magic. The children made their own ticket, which was hole punched by the conductor. They travelled through snowy terrains, recording feelings and experiences in a mini diary. This will inspire story writing in the coming days. The most magical surprise of all came when the children discovered that Santa had delivered them a magical bell each. In case you do not know the story, the bell is what the little boy asks for from Santa. If you can hear it ring, it means that you believe in Santa and Christmas magic. The children's delight reminded us why it is a blessing to work with children - a very special day for all.



Wishing you a wonderful weekend full of hope and peace. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Cottesmore Star Trail

We are pleased to say that we are holding a Star Trail again this December. The idea is that our families will display a star in their windows for families, in the wider community, to look at throughout Advent and the Christmas season. The message and idea behind this action is to unite and remind our neighbours about this special season of Advent. A star is an affirmation of joy and celebration, the star of Bethlehem representing the guidance of God - 'Star of wonder, star of night, guide us to thy perfect light'. We are hoping many of our families will take part. Please send in your photo of your displayed star to colettefairbanks@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

With special thanks to St Joseph's Catholic School, Hollingdean for sharing this super idea with us last year. Please visit the Catholic Life section of our website to see what we achieved with our stars last year <http://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/advent-at-cottesmore-st-mary/>

Nativities / Christmas Liturgies

This year, each year group will share a Christmas Liturgy, with their parents / carers, in the Forest School area. Children will dress as Christmas carolers, in warm clothes and entertain you with festive songs, around a lit camp fire. Some children will share simple readings whilst a tableau, reflecting the nativity, is created. We are hoping that this will all very atmospheric, offering reflection whilst allowing us to celebrate together. Parents / carers are invited to join us. Please note that this will not be a seated event. As this is an outdoor event, it will unfortunately have to be cancelled if extremely poor weather / rain.

KS1

Reception - Tuesday 14th December at 9.15am

Year 1 - Wednesday 15th December at 9.15am

Year 2 - Thursday 16th December at 9.15am

KS2

Year 6 - Monday 13th December at 2.30pm

Year 5 - Tuesday 14th December at 2.30pm

Year 4 - Wednesday 15th December at 2.30pm

Year 3 - Thursday 16th December at 2.30pm

Please can all children dress in usual school uniform on their performance day (not school PE kits) and wear warm coats. We also suggest that children bring hats, gloves and scarves on their performance day. Some children will dress up to form part of the tableau and the school will provide these costumes to go over their school uniform so that they are warm enough.

Any parent attending will be required to have completed a Lateral Flow Test at home, before the event, so please do ensure you have some ready. On arrival to school, you will be asked to show your negative Lateral Flow Test result. We ask that anyone with any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 also do not attend (persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell). You will also be required to wear a mask. Hands will be sanitised on arrival and we will hold registers to support contact tracing if required. Due to Covid cleaning arrangements, parents will not have general access to school toilets so please come prepared for this.

KS1 - once you have dropped your child off with the class teachers in the infant playground, please head straight to the Forest school area on the field.

KS2 - entrance will be via the field gate found on The Upper Drive. The gate will be opened at 2.15pm and will be shut promptly at 2.30pm.

We look forward to celebrating with you all.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Every year, we operate a Reverse Advent Calendar where staff bring in items for our local Food Bank, run at St. George's church. We also offer this to families too. So, if you are able to donate any food items – tins, dried goods etc, please drop these in the KS2 shelter on the KS2 playground or directly at the school office. Please visit the following page to see exactly what they are short of or to make a financial donation instead.

<https://www.hangletonfoodbank.org/donations>



Food support for our own families

As you know, we have previously operated our own Food Bank for Cottesmore families who are struggling financially. If you are worried about the holidays and feel you would benefit from some support, please contact annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk to discuss how we can help

Holiday and Activities Food Support

The winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers free enriching activities for eligible pupils in the Christmas holiday. HAF is for children aged 4 to 16 who are in full-time education and receive benefits-related free school meals. For more information and to see what's on go to: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/HAF

Winter Recipe Booklet

The Public Health Schools Team have teamed up with the Healthy Nutrition Project Officer and Gems Wholesome Kitchen to create a Winter Recipe Booklet. It contains a range of affordable and nutritious meals, including breakfast, hearty main meals, excellent snack ideas as well as top tips for winter. The recipe booklet has been sent to all our families via Ping and it will also be added to the school website. The recipes look delicious and are all costed out. Healthy meals designed for lower budgets.



Christmas Dinner

This year, Christmas Dinner for the children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be on Wednesday 15th December and on Thursday 16th December, children in Reception, Years 1 and 2. All children will automatically be catered for, to have a Christmas dinner on the appropriate day, and, in KS2, their ParentPay account will be debited by £2.20, unless you send them to school with a packed lunch. All children in KS1 receive a free lunch each day so their Christmas dinner will remain at no charge. On the day of their Christmas dinner, children are also invited to wear colourful party clothes / Christmas jumpers to help with the festivities.

All children will be required to bring a packed lunch from home on the day that week when it is not their Christmas Dinner but is the Christmas dinner of the other KS – please see above. If your child is registered for free school meals, due to low family income, and you will require a school dinner to be provided for them when they are required to bring a packed lunch, please email ruthyahiatene@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk and we will arrange one for you.

MONDAY 13th	Y6 Nativity – 2.30pm
TUESDAY 14th	9.15am – Reception Nativity - Y5 Nativity – 2.30pm
WEDNESDAY 15th	9.15am – Y1 Nativity - Y4 Nativity – 2.30pm - Christmas Dinners: KS2 (these year groups wear Christmas jumper / colourful clothes) - Honeypot celebration – home clothes for selected children
THURSDAY 16th	9.15am – Y2 Nativity - Christmas Dinners: KS1 (these year groups wear Christmas jumpers/ colourful clothes) - Y3 Nativity – 2.30pm
FRIDAY 17th	- Class parties for all school – whole school wear Christmas jumpers / colourful clothes - School finishes for Christmas holidays
	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 20th DECEMBER – 4th JANUARY 2022
JANUARY 2022	2022 = A YEAR OF THE WORD 'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS TO ME'
MONDAY 3rd	Bank Holiday
TUESDAY 4th	Inset Day – closed for pupils
WEDNESDAY 5th	- Pupils return for the Spring term - No Outdoors Project this week - Little Shepherds Day
THURSDAY 6th	
FRIDAY 7th	
MONDAY 10th	- Baptism of the Lord (Sunday 9th) - Outdoors Project starts this week - Reception Bikeability - Balance
TUESDAY 11th	- Reception Bikeability – Balance - Anti-racism workshops for KS2
WEDNESDAY 12th	- Reception Bikeability – Balance - Anti-racism workshops for KS2
THURSDAY 13th	Reception Bikeability - Balance
FRIDAY 14th	Canon Colin to school
SATURDAY 15th	Closing Date for Local Authorities applications 2022/2023
MONDAY 17th	
TUESDAY 18th	
WEDNESDAY 19th	Indoor Athletics 2pm - 4.30pm (Y5 & Y6)
THURSDAY 20th	
FRIDAY 21st	Father Alexander to school
MONDAY 24th	
TUESDAY 25th	Hairspray Performance at Cardinal Newman for Y5 & 6 – Arrive 9.15am, start 9.30am, finishes at 12pm
WEDNESDAY 26th	
THURSDAY 27th	
FRIDAY 28th	Father Tony to school
FEBRUARY	
MONDAY 31st	
TUESDAY 1st	
WEDNESDAY 2nd	Reception Trip to see "the Tiger who Came for Tea"
THURSDAY 3rd	9.15am Buddy Mass at Newman Chapel – yaer group TBC
FRIDAY 4th	