



12th November 2021

Dear parents / carers



Remembrance Day, All Saints and All Souls

Over the last two weeks, we have been learning and thinking about Remembrance Day, All Saints and All Souls. All Saints Day is always recognised on November 1st and all Souls Day on November 2nd. Both of these days remind us of people who are in Heaven and we talked to the children about them in more detail. Children discussed our school saints during All Saints as well as identifying the reasons we think about them. We also talked about people in Heaven that each one of us may like to remember during All Souls. Our tree of remembrance was added to our prayer area and children have been hanging the names of people they want to remember.

Children thought about how, on 11th November, every year, we stop, think and take time out of our lives to think about those people who are in Heaven due to protecting their own, and others, country many years ago. At eleven o'clock on Remembrance Day (Thursday), we all stopped, for a two-minute silence. Children discussed how on it was at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month that World War One ended back in 1918. At eleven o'clock, the guns fell silent and every year, Remembrance Day reminds us of this moment. Children talked about how silence is good for remembering as it helps us to stop thinking about what is going on right now, or what we are going to do next but gives us time to reflect. Children thought about how they can honour and respect all those that we are remembering as well as spend time thinking about all people who are in Heaven.

Some children also created wreaths of remembrance at home and others brought in pictures and information regarding family members eg Great Grandfathers who were sadly killed during the war many years ago. We offer our prayers for all those in Heaven.



Music for a Winter's Evening – St Peter's

Father Alexander would like to invite you to a wonderful evening of candlelight and beautiful music at Saint Peter's, led by their 10am Music Group. This will take place this evening, Friday 12th November, 7.30 - 8.30pm, in St Peter's Church. The evening will include beautiful liturgical songs and a special guest appearance from one of their talented youth groups. As it is the month of November, they will be raising money for the charity 'CRUSE', who do important work with those who have been bereaved. There will be refreshments in their newly refurbished Hall afterwards.

Sustainable Action Group

As you know, a few weeks ago, part of our newly-elected Eco Council attended the 'Inspiring sustainable action in your school' workshop. This was hosted by Sussex Wildlife Trust and took place at the Rampion wind farm visitor centre which is next to the i360. Our representatives participated in workshops linked to making changes for a more sustainable future. Since their return, I was lucky enough to join the whole Eco Council who met to discuss their ideas and formulate a plan for action.



Ms McCartney opened the meeting and talked through the workshops that the reps had attended. Children were invited to discuss which had inspired their future plan of action most and gave reasons why. Alice nominated the 'Fast Fashion' as her favourite and we discussed how school uniform is mainly made in Bangladesh and India which requires many air miles in order to get it to the UK for us to buy. Teddy noted how he had learnt that school fleeces aren't ideal as their microfibres go into the water supply when it is washed. Samuel noted that the water saved by not producing the fleeces would be approximately 25,000 litres per fleece. We raised the idea of eliminating the fleeces from our uniform and I agreed that this could be possible. Obviously those already purchased could still be worn and also continue to be sold via our second hand uniform shop, we would just look to remove them from future purchase options. Isobel had learnt that having a school logo on items means they can't be recycled so we will explore losing the logo on the blue sports T-shirts. This would then mean that parents could buy the tops for less and it would make it recyclable. Another workshop that the children enjoyed, was the 'City Meadow' session. During the Eco meeting, we discussed how we could create a small meadow and jointly agreed that at the top, left of the field, above the wall of the old swimming pool would be a good place.



A meadow would encourage pollinators and in particular, butterflies. We thought the name Butterfly Meadow sounded appropriate for the project. We also discussed the workshop that alerted us to the problem of cutting down trees and the relationship between humans and trees. Ms McCartney told the committee that we have ordered 100 trees to plant in the school grounds to offset our carbon footprint. One special tree would be planted for the Queen's Jubilee and others planted by each member of the Eco committee. The rest would be planted by children attending Forest School. Many more ideas were mentioned. For example, a fancy dress swap shop, energy usage, lunchboxes, less plastic use and a meat free recipe book. These were noted for future meetings and are scheduled for discussion in Spring and Summer terms. In the meantime, we are putting actions in place to address the points noted above. During assembly, we discussed the Glasgow based COP26 and shared all the points noted. We also shared a video of the event attended by the Eco Committee.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JH8pvQLW_wU

Wishing you a relaxing weekend and continuing to keep all those in Heaven in our prayers. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Friends of Cottesmore Primary - FOCP

This term, we re-launched the PTA and a new committee was elected. The new team have rebranded and become **Friends of Cottesmore Primary (FOCP)**. We are delighted to welcome them and are thrilled that fundraising and community events can begin again. Thank you so much to everyone who has offered to help – it is so appreciated. All are welcome and the more involved, the merrier, so please do get in touch if you feel you have time to offer.



Information from Katie Head (Chair) and Mrs McGuire (Year 5 teacher and FOCP school lead)

We are always keen to welcome any support and volunteers, even if it's on an ad hoc basis, we are a school family whom all want the same results. If you can offer any time or ideas, please so email us on friendsofcottesmoreprimary@gmail.com. Equally, we are interested in any potential business sponsorship. If this is something you feel you could offer, or know someone who could, please do get in touch.

Who are we:

New Chair - Katie Head
New Treasurers – Andrezza Cox & Tallulah Cullen
New Secretary – Emma Moore
In-School FOCP Lead – Mrs McGuire (Year 5 Teacher)

Class Reps:

Our new Class Reps are there to support with sharing messages and getting event ideas / dates etc circulated amongst parents in their year group. We are currently looking for an additional rep for Years 2, 3 and 4. If you think you could support us with this role, please get in touch via our email address. Current reps are

Reception – Collette Fairbanks & Stephanie Downes
Year 1 – Tony Burnett, Susana Fierro Garcia, Jodie Alderson & Rabea Hayes
Year 2 – Laura Wragg
Year 3 – Patricia Ryan
Year 4 – Nicola Morek
Year 5 – Rali Sarker & Catherine Sprackling
Year 6 – Marta Rysinska Ozer

Raising vital funds for our school:

Over the coming weeks, you will be notified of an optional standing order mandate which will allow you to offer monthly contributions towards our school. You can donate as a little as £1 a month, but collectively this will go a long way to supporting our children. As you can imagine, with two years of the pandemic and no fund raising events, our funds are low. The school has a wish list and we would love to support them with raising additional money towards books for class libraries, extra resources for Forest School and more resources for practical Science lessons.

Upcoming events:

Our first event will be the school Christmas Fair. This has been arranged for Friday 10th December and will take place, after school, on the KS2 playground. 3pm - 4:30pm. Please put the date in your diary and come along and support us. There will be a range of stalls on offer. For example, games, tombola's, cakes, crafts stalls etc. Father Christmas might even make an appearance and we are hoping to be serenaded by the school choir. Secondhand uniform will also be on sale. If you would be interested in supporting us and could help with the set-up / clear down, please get in touch via our email address. All help would be so gratefully received.

Home clothes day – Friday 26th November

In preparation for the Christmas Fair, we would like to invite the children to come to school wearing their own clothes on 26th November in exchange for a donation of a bottle of drink (wine or similar) and / or pre-packed sweets for our tombola stalls. More details to follow shortly.

Home clothes day – Friday 10th December

On the day of the Christmas Fair, we would like to invite the children to come to school wearing their own clothes in exchange for some homemade / pre-bought cakes that we could sell on our cake stall. More details to follow shortly. **Please can any items brought in be NUT FREE.**

We would like to thank all parents and carers who have already offered their services and support so far. If you would like to be added to our FOCP helpers list, please get in touch via our email address friendsofcottesmoreprimary@gmail.com

We look forward to working with you all and providing enjoyable events, as well as raising money for the school.

Parents' Consultation Meetings

Thank you for taking time to attend our Parent Consultation meetings. We hope you found them useful. If you have any feedback on how these could be further improved, please get in touch. Equally, if you have any follow up questions or concerns, please email your child's class teacher directly (email addresses can be found on your child's year group page on the school website) and they can arrange a follow up meeting with you.

If required, you may also wish to contact the Senior Leader responsible for the behaviour, wellbeing and progress of all in your child's year group.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 = Mrs McFarland
katiemcfarland@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Year 3 and specialist subjects = Mrs Brady Smith
erinbrady@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Years 4, 5 and 6 = Mrs Christofi
aurachristofi@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Should you need further support, please contact Mrs McLoughlin who is responsible for Teaching and Learning / Assessment (progress) as she leads the Senior Leaders noted above.
catherinemcloughlin@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

As ever, Mrs Mullans can be contacted to discuss anything regarding children's additional needs / SEND support as well as behavior support
annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

MONDAY 15 th	- School Tours for Reception 2022 - Anti Bullying Week - Children wear odd socks day (linked to antibullying week)
TUESDAY 16 th	School Tours for Reception 2022
WEDNESDAY 17 th	- School Tours for Reception 2022 - Waterhall Cross Country - No Netball Club due to Cross Country - Y1 St George Forest School – AM - Y3 St Martin Forest School - PM
THURSDAY 18 th	Flu Vaccinations – Whole School
FRIDAY 19 th	- Children in Need - Feel Good Friday - Non-School Uniform Day - Deadline to hand in Love in a Box
MONDAY 22 nd	School Tours for Reception 2022
TUESDAY 23 rd	School Tours for Reception 2022
WEDNESDAY 24 th	- School Tours for Reception 2022 - Y2 Visit i360 & the beach - Y1 St Teresa Forest School – AM - Y3 St Cecilia Forest School - PM
THURSDAY 25 th	
FRIDAY 26 th	Non school uniform day for FOCP Christmas Fair – bring in a bottle and / or pre packed sweet contributions
December	ADVENT
MONDAY 29 th	Phonics Screening for children in Year 2
TUESDAY 30 th	Phonics Screening for all children in Year 2
WEDNESDAY 1 st	- Phonics Screening for all children in Year 2 1 St George Forest School – AM 2 St Patrick Forest School - PM
THURSDAY 2 nd	School Tours for Reception 2022
FRIDAY 3 rd	School Tours for Reception 2022
MONDAY 6 th	
TUESDAY 7 th	
WEDNESDAY 8 th	- Y1 St Teresea Forest School – AM - Y2 St Monica Forest School - PM
THURSDAY 9 th	KS2 outdoor carols and nativity – time TBC but likely 6pm
FRIDAY 10 th	- Non school uniform day for FOCP Christmas Fair – bring in a cake (homemade or bought) for the cake stall. NO NUTS. 3pm – 4.30pm FOCP Christmas Fair (KS2 playground)
MONDAY 13 th	
TUESDAY 14 th	Outdoor KS1 nativity events throughout the day – time and year group TBC
WEDNESDAY 15 th	- Outdoor KS1 nativity events throughout the day – time and year group TBC - Christmas Dinners: KS2 (these year groups wear Christmas jumper / colourful clothes) - Honeypot celebration – home clothes for selected children
THURSDAY 16 th	- Christmas Dinners: KS1 (these year groups wear Christmas jumpers/ colourful clothes) 1pm Class parties for all school – whole school wear Christmas jumpers/ colourful clothes
FRIDAY 17 th	School finishes for Christmas holidays
	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 20 th DECEMBER – 4 th JANUARY 2022
JANUARY 2022	2022 = A YEAR OF THE WORD 'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS TO ME'
MONDAY 3 rd	Bank Holiday
TUESDAY 4 th	Inset Day
WEDNESDAY 5 th	Pupils return for the Spring term