



Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Breen



6th September 2024

Dear parents / carers



Welcome back It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back at the school. As a Catholic school, community plays a pivotal role in all that we do and it is a real pleasure to have the whole school back together. As ever, we have been so impressed with how well everyone has settled back into school life and the wonderful attitudes that have already been shown. It has been a delight to welcome new members to the school family - both new staff, new children and new parents. As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need anything at all. Thank you again for all your kind cards, generous gifts and thoughtful emails at the end of term. Your support is always very much appreciated. It is a real treat to work with your super children each day.

Mission and Values In class, children in Years 1 – 6 have reflected on, and completed activities linked to, our Mission and Values that reflect the ethos of the school. They also thought about the school's Latin motto, 'Mane Nobiscum Domine' (Stay with Us Lord / Abide with us O Lord) that we keep as a nod to the history of the school. Not many schools are as old as Cottesmore or have the history that we do, so we always feel that it was important to keep something that came before us and this motto has been with the school for many, many years. Our Learning Muscles continue to run alongside the school Mission and Values. We review all of these annually so, if you have any feedback regarding any changes you'd like to see, please do get in touch.



Our Mission



As a community of life-long learners,

with Christ at the centre,

we strive to do our best and make a difference to the world.

Dare to dream and always have hope,

revealing Jesus to others through the choices we make,

while living life to the full.



Mane Nobiscum Domine - Stay with us Lord

Luke 24:29

LOVE

BELIEVE

ACHIEVE

Welcome Mass Father David led a Welcome Mass for children in Years 2 – 6 to celebrate the beginning of the new school year as well as to formally welcome new staff and all new children. Children thought about how they can invite God into their lives even if they can't see Him. Father David discussed how God loves to hear from us when we pray. The children sat beautifully and the Mass choir sang beautifully. What a lovely way to welcome everyone back and those who are new.



Welcome Reception We have been delighted to welcome the new Reception children, and their families, to Cottesmore St Mary. We have been impressed with how well the children have adapted to their new routines and it has been an utter pleasure to visit their classes and see them playing and learning alongside their new friends in class. As well as familiarising themselves with their new class and the range of activities on offer, there have been get-to-know you games and children have even practised writing their name. It's been wonderful to see them adapt so quickly and grow in confidence. We're very proud of them.



Baby Grand Piano

We are delighted to have received the wonderful donation of a baby grand piano. A local musician, Muriel Margaret Heart, died last year and it was her wish that her beautiful piano be donated to our school, where family members had previously Attended. Muriel was a great pianist and a music educator - awarded an MBE in 2005 for her services to music. The grand piano now takes pride of place in our school hall and will be well used. You can find out more about Muriel following this link.



<https://brightonwomenshistory.org.uk/muriel-margaret-hart-mbe-1924-2023/>

It has been lovely to see you all this week. The children have settled really well into their new classes and it is a delight to have the building full again. Here's to another super year. Another big welcome to all who are new. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Meet your child's new teacher and see the classroom

This year, instead of posting Meet the New Teacher videos, we are inviting parents into their child's new class.

Visits to Years 3-6, Monday 9th September 8.55am-9.20am.

Visits to Years 1-2, Tuesday 10th September 8.55am-9.20am.

Visits to Reception, Tuesday 17th September 8.55-9.20am.

If you have children in differing classes, but in the same key stage, you can move between both (if their sessions are on the same day).

If you would like to attend these sessions, we ask that you drop your child at school as usual time (8.40am latest) so they can be registered. You can go offsite and return at 8.55am (Radinden Manor gate only) or wait in playground, until 8.55am. This will allow teachers the chance to settle the children and take them to song practice. After this, at 8.55am, on their correct days, families wishing to visit Year 1, Year 2 St Patrick, Year 5 and Year 6 will be invited to enter the school, via the cloister (wooden) doors by the school hall and can make their way to their child's class. If your child is in the huts, you can wait outside them as you will be invited in from their own entrances. If your child is in Year 2 St Monica (downstairs with Miss Fletcher), you can wait outside her classroom door, on the KS1 playground, and she will invite you through that when ready. If your child is in Reception, you can wait outside the Reception classroom doors as you will be invited in through those. There will be no formal presentation or talk from the class teachers, this is just an opportunity to put a face to their name and see your child's classroom. The class teacher and TA will be there to answer any 1:1 questions. A Class Information Sheet will be given out at the session and this will have all the information you might need for the year ahead. This handout has been sent to you via Ping so don't worry if you are unable to make these sessions, you won't miss anything other than seeing the classroom and saying hello to the teacher and TA.

Homework

Reading books and records will be sent home Monday 9th September (Reception will be the week after). The first homework will be posted on Seesaw on Friday 13th September. Don't forget to ask your child's class teacher for a hand out if you prefer.

Charge for School Meals

As children enter Year 3 in September, a reminder that unless families are in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), meals eaten will need to be paid for via ParentPay. We ask that you keep the account in credit. The cost of a meal is £2.60. Thank you.

Uniform / PE kits / Forest School clothes

From 9th September, PE kits will be worn on PE days. PE kits are also to worn by children Reception and Year 1 for their Forest School sessions. Please bring waterproofs and wellies. Children in Years 2 - 6 can wear home clothes for Forest School. Please can home clothes that are worn be suitable for outdoor learning in mud and possibly damp weather. If your Forest School day also falls on a PE day (for those in Years 2 - 6), you can choose what your child wears eg PE kit or home clothes.

School uniform is to be worn for all other school days and all school events unless noted in the dates section of the school newsletter.

Change to School Day start time from Sept

A reminder that our school day is now 8.40am – 3.10pm.

Radinden Manor gate is opened at 8.30am for a free flow into school and is locked at 8.40am. All children are expected to be in class, not coming through the gate, by that time. Anyone coming through the gate eg at 8.39am may be marked as late if there is not enough time for them to be in their actual classroom in time for the 8.40am register. Anyone coming after the gate is closed, will have to enter via the main school office and will also be marked as late. Pick up at 3.10pm remains as usual as do all club pick up times.

Nut free school

Due to allergies, we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. An allergic reaction

(anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of nut products, cross contamination and breathing nut dust in the air. Since this condition can be life threatening, we ask all members of our school community for their help in minimising the risk to children at risk by avoiding giving children nuts or nut products in their packed lunches. Caterlink, who provide our school lunches, ensures that all they provide is nut free.

Please do not give children nuts, nut products or snacks / bars containing nuts for break time snacks or as part of a packed lunch. We do acknowledge that many foods are labelled as 'may have been produced in a factory handling nuts' or 'may contain traces of nuts'. Such items can be brought into school, we are referring to those that identify that nuts are present.

Please note, where a member of staff notices a pupil eating something that is not permitted (this also includes other food not permitted in school, such as sweets), the item will be removed and the member of staff will explain why this has to be done. We thank you in advance for your co-operation and support regarding this matter.



Safety in Radinden Manor

Way before my time, an unofficial one way system began down Radinden Manor. This was to help prevent the congestion that can sometimes occur at pick up. Parents usually ask that I raise this with you in the hope that as many parents as possible refrain from driving up Radinden Manor (from the direction of The Old Shoreham Road) but instead, drive down from the direction of Dyke Road (so that the school gates are on your left). This may take some families on a longer route but it would help with traffic. Obviously this isn't something that the school can enforce hence just raising it.

In order to ensure safety of all, please also refrain from pulling in on the zig zags at drop off and asking children to jump out of the car. Please park in a designated place. One final request, is to also kindly park with respect to our neighbours and don't park or stop (even if still in your car) across their drives, not to mention not parking on double yellow lines.



September 2025

If you are currently a member of our school family and have a younger child due to start school in September 2025, don't forget that, in addition to completing the online Brighton and Hove admissions form, you must also complete the school Supplementary Information Form (SIF). This can be found on the school website and is required to be delivered to the school office. We encourage you to complete the SIF form sooner rather than later, especially if you require a priest's signature. A reminder that the deadline for Reception applications is 15th January. Sometime off but good to start thinking about it now.



Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood's too short to be spent on a smartphone

We're on a mission to

01.

Bring parents together to start new and positive conversations about the problems of smartphones in childhood

02.

Empower parents to take collective action in their local communities - agreeing to delay giving their children smartphones until at least 16

03.

Demonstrate that parents are demanding change at scale, and therefore force the government and tech companies to act

Why we're doing this now

We've been put in an impossible position by the tech companies. It's a lose lose - either allow our children access to something all the evidence tells us is damaging, or say no and risk alienating them among their peers at a crucial stage of their social development. **We believe something needs to change, and it starts with all of us.**



Scan to find out more

This movement will always be digital first. But we recognise the irony, and we know not everyone who needs to know about this issue is online as much as we are.

This flyer is free to download so you can print it and hand it out at the school gates, social clubs, or any IRL situation.

How you can get involved

Join your regional WhatsApp group.

You'll find the links to all regional groups at linktr.ee/smartphonefreechildhood

Start a WhatsApp group for your school to begin a conversation with your community

- we've put together a toolkit to help you smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/resources

Follow us on Instagram

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

Sign up to our newsletter. We'll be sharing all our plans, advice and inspiration here as the movement grows.

smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/subscribe

Please:

- Keep to A4 size, fit to page, black and white single sided print
- Only print what you need, and use FSC certified paper if possible
- Don't attach to public or private property without consent
- Be mindful of 'no unsolicited mail' notices

SEPTEMBER	
MONDAY 2 nd	* INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
TUESDAY 3 rd	* First Day back at School for Years 1 – 6 * New Reception children Group A only 9.30am – 11.30am * New Reception children Group B only 12.45pm – 2.45pm
WEDNESDAY 4 th	* Year 6 St Benedict Forest School am * Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm * New Reception children Group B only 9.30am – 11.30am * New Reception children Group A only 12.45pm – 2.45pm
THURSDAY 5 th	* All new Reception children 8.45am – 11.30pm * Welcome Mass for children in Years 2 - 6 TBC (no parents)
FRIDAY 6 th	* All new Reception children 8.45am – 12.50pm * Welcome Mass for children in Years 2 - 6 TBC (no parents)
MONDAY 9 th	* KS2 meet the new teacher 8.55am – 9.20am * Fairtrade fortnight * Reading books and reading records sent home * All new Reception children 8.45am – 12.50pm
TUESDAY 10 th	* Year 1 & Year 2 meet the new teacher 8.55am – 9.20am * All new Reception children all day
WEDNESDAY 11 th	* Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am * Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 12 th	
FRIDAY 13 th	* Roald Dahl Book Day – children to share favourite Roald Dahl books in class * Year 5 Swimming * Homework starts
MONDAY 16 th	* Fairtrade fortnight
TUESDAY 17 th	Reception meet the new teachers 8.55am – 9.20am
WEDNESDAY 18 th	* Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am * Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 19 th	
FRIDAY 20 th	* Year 5 Swimming * Fairtrade cake sale after school
MONDAY 23 rd	
TUESDAY 24 th	
WEDNESDAY 25 th	* Year 5 St Josephine Forest School am * Year 1 St George Forest School pm * Diabetes Screening for the whole school (must give consent)
THURSDAY 26 th	Year 2 Beach School Stone Age man visiting Year 3 in School Hall European Languages Day - celebrating languages spoken in school
FRIDAY 27 th	Year 5 Swimming
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER	OCTOBER = MONTH OF THE ROSARY and BLACK HISTORY MONTH
MONDAY 30 th	
TUESDAY 1 st	PTA AGM 7pm - school hall. All welcome
WEDNESDAY 2 nd	* Year 4 St Cuthman Forest School am * Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 3 rd	Year 4 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace
FRIDAY 4 th	Year 5 Swimming
SUNDAY 6 th	Grandparents Day
OCTOBER	
MONDAY 7 th	
TUESDAY 8 th	
WEDNESDAY 9 th	Year 4 St Lewinna Forest School am Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 10 th	* World Mental Health Day and World Homeless Day * Year 5 Beach School
FRIDAY 11 th	Year 5 Swimming Year 2 Beach School PTA Reception Welcome Disco 4.30pm – 5.45pm
MONDAY 14 th	* Choir school trip to Glydebourne
TUESDAY 15 th	* 9am - Reception Harvest. Forest School, parents welcome
WEDNESDAY 16 th	* 9am - Year 1 Harvest. Forest School, parents welcome * Year 3 St Martin Forest School am * Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 17 th	* 9am - Year 3, 4 and 5 mass, parents welcome (school uniform) * Flu Vaccination – all years
FRIDAY 18 th	9am - Year 2 Harvest. Forest School, parents welcome Year 5 Swimming Show Racism the Red Card Day - wear red today Possible Year 4-6 PTA Film show
MONDAY 21 st	* Year 6 Harvest Mass (with other schools), Newiman. Children only (school uniform)
TUESDAY 22 nd	Parent Consultation phone calls and SEN 3.20pm - 6pm
WEDNESDAY 23 rd	Honeypot celebration – home clothes for selected children / class.
THURSDAY 24 th	* Individual and sibling school photographs – all to wear school uniform eg no Forest school or PE clothes * PTA uniform sale after school - items between £1 and £2 * Parent Consultation phone calls and SEN 3.20pm - 6pm * PTA Halloween Cake Sale after school – please bring in shop bought / homemade donations and leave them in the KS2 structure before school. Nothing containing nuts.
FRIDAY 25 th	* INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
THURSDAY 31 st	* Closing date for secondary school applications
HALF TERM HOLIDAY Monday 28th October – Friday 1 st November Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field	

NOVEMBER	
MONDAY 4 th	
TUESDAY 5 th	9am -10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 6 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 7 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
FRIDAY 8 th	Year 5 Swimming Donations of wine for the PTA Christmas Fair Year 5 and 6 PTA film show after school – date TBC
SUNDAY 10 th	World Science Day
MONDAY 11 th	- Anti-Bullying Week - wear odd socks - Remembrance Day (Remembrance Sunday is Sunday 10th) 9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
TUESDAY 12 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 13 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 World Kindness Day Year 2 St Patrick Forest School am Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 14 th	
FRIDAY 15 th	- Year 5 Swimming - PTA Year 3 Welcome to KS2 Welcome Disco 4.30pm – 5.45pm - Children in Need - non school uniform in exchange for money towards collection
MONDAY 18 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
TUESDAY 19 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 20 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 - Year 2 St Monica Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 21 st	
FRIDAY 22 nd	- Year 5 swimming - Year 5 and 6 PTA film show after school – date TBC - Donations of toys, books etc that can be used at th PTA Advent fair
MONDAY 25 th	
TUESDAY 26 th	
WEDNESDAY 27 th	- Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm - Choir to Brighton Centre (rehearsal in day and show in evening)
THURSDAY 28 th	1.30pm Years 3 – 6 Beauty and the Beast pantomime at school
FRIDAY 29 th	Year 5 swimming Donations of Christmas boxed biscuits, chocolates or cakes that can be used at the PTA Advent Fair
DECEMBER	
MONDAY 2 nd	Advent begins
TUESDAY 3 rd	
WEDNESDAY 4 th	Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 5 th	Interactive Fairy Tale Show for Reception - Year 2. Fairytale costumes or party clothes for children in Reception only
FRIDAY 6 th	Reception and Year 1 parent / carers Phonics workshop. School hall. 8.50am. PTA Advent Fair, school hall and outside, 3.15pm – 4.45pm. School uniform day (or PE kit is usual PE day).
MONDAY 9 th	
TUESDAY 10 th	
WEDNESDAY 11 th	
THURSDAY 12 th	
FRIDAY 13 th	
MONDAY 16 th	Year 6 Nativity- 2.30pm
TUESDAY 17 th	Year 2 Nativity- 9.15am Year 5 Nativity- 2.30pm
WEDNESDAY 18 th	- Year 1 Nativity- 9.15am - Year 4 Nativity- 2.30pm - Christmas Dinners: KS2 (these year groups wear Christmas jumper / colourful clothes). All children in KS1 to bring a packed lunch this day. - Honeypot celebration
THURSDAY 19 th	Reception Nativity - 9.15am Christmas Dinners: KS1 (these year groups wear Christmas jumpers / colourful clothes). All children in KS2 to bring a packed lunch this day. Y3 Nativity - 2.30pm PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 20 th	- Class parties for all school and Father Christmas to visit Reception – Year 3. - School finishes for Christmas holidays
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January	