



8th November 2024

Dear parents / carers

All Saints / All Souls

This week, children thought about All Souls Day which was on November 2nd. This day reminds us of people who are in Heaven. We talked about people in Heaven that each one of us may like to remember. Mini Vinnies set up a prayer station where children could write prayers for those in Heaven. Thinking and praying for all those who have loved ones who are no longer here.



Remembrance Day

We have also been talking and thinking about Remembrance Day. Our Tree of Remembrance has been added to our prayer area and children have been hanging the names of people they want to remember. Children have 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. At eleven o'clock on Remembrance Day, we have discussed how we will all stop for a two-minute silence. 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 who we are remembering as well as spend time thinking about all people who are in Heaven. We offer our prayers for all those in Heaven and support for those left behind.



A Prayer of Remembrance

God, thank you for the people in our lives whom we are remembering in a special way during the month of November. We thank you for being a compassionate God who walks with us in our dark moments. We are thankful for all who continue to love and support us through our grief. Lord, continue to be a light for us, giving us hope and courage.

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples, and establish harmony among the nations.

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrating Grandparents

Our grandparents are a special gift in our lives. They watch over us as we grow and are often some of the most important teachers in our lives. As you know, we will be inviting all grandparents into school on Thursday 1st May 2025, 1:45pm-2:45pm, to celebrate the contribution that they make to the lives of the children and the wider school family. Children, with attending grandparents, will join them completing activities linked to the Rosary (as this event will take place in May which is the month of Mary). In the meantime, we have gathered images of children's grandparents for a special slide show to show just how much they mean to us. This video has been posted on our school website so you can share it and home. We hope the children's grandparents enjoy it.

<https://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/gps/>



Autumn Termly [2nd half] Overviews on Website

The Half Termly Overviews for the 2nd half of the Autumn Term have been published on year group pages on our school website. These overviews give you detailed information about the upcoming topics and, whether it's exciting science topics, creative art projects, or language learning opportunities, there's something for every child to look forward to. We encourage you to find out, and have conversations with your child, about what they will be learning at school: perhaps you would like to investigate further, provide background reading or extra practice/support at home. If you have any questions about forthcoming topics, please speak to class teachers.



Wonderful Choir

A big thank you to our wonderful KS2 choir who have been brightening up assemblies recently. They have also been singing for families visiting our school on tours. These children come to choir every Monday, before school, and will soon be performing for parents at the Brighton Centre.



Wishing you an enjoyable weekend. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Christmas at Cottesmore

We appreciate that it's early but a reminder of the dates for our, hall based, **Nativity liturgies:**

- Year 6 Monday 16th December at 2:30 pm
- Year 2 Tuesday 17th December at 9:15 am
- Year 5 Tuesday 17th December at 2:30 pm
- Year 1 Wednesday 18th December at 9:15 am
- Year 4 Wednesday 18th December at 2:30 pm
- Reception Thursday 19th December at 9:15 am
- Year 3 Thursday 19th December at 2:30 pm

Please can all children dress in school uniform unless directed otherwise by their class teacher (no PE kits). Some children will dress up and the school will provide these costumes. If your child has a nativity play at 9:15am, once you have dropped your child off with the class teachers as per usual start time, you may head straight to the hall. Alternatively, we will reopen Radinden Manor gates, at 9.05am but they will close promptly at 9:15am. If your child has a nativity play at 2:30pm, Radinden Manor gates will open at 2:20pm and they will close promptly at 2:30pm. At both of these times of day, we can't guarantee that the office will be available to escort latecomers through the building. We look forward to celebrating with you all.

PTA Christmas Collections and Events

Our amazing PTA team, Friends of Cottesmore Primary (FOCP), is hosting our annual **Advent Fair** for our children and their families. The event will be held in the school hall on **Friday 6th December at 3.15pm- 4.45pm.**

Some important dates of upcoming events to share.

- Friday 22nd November – Please bring in books and toys that are in good condition and leave in the shelter on the KS2 playground.
- Friday 29th November – please bring in Christmassy boxed chocolates and biscuits for the Advent Fair. Please leave these in the shelter on the KS2 playground.
- Friday 6th December – Advent Fair. Please bring in cakes and sweet treats to be enjoyed at the Fair later. Please leave these in the shelter on the KS2 playground and label all ingredients for any allergies. As always, no nuts in homemade or bought bakes as we are a nut free school.

If you are able to help out in any way at these events, including offering ideas for stalls, helping run a stall, helping setting up or clearing down, please email:

friendsofcottesmoreprimary@gmail.com

Thank you for all your continued support.

Odd Socks Day – 11th November

We will be launching Anti-Bullying week this year with 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 11th November. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity for children to express themselves and appreciate individuality and uniqueness. We would love to see the children come to school in a pair of odd socks on this day. Let's all stand out and celebrate who we are.



Governors' Building Fund and Gift Aid

As an Aided school, we are required to provide 10% of any money received for capital on maintenance works.

At present, all parents are asked to make a minimum voluntary contribution of £10 per term, or £30 a year, PER Pupil (not family) into a ring-fenced fund so that we are able to meet these financial commitments. Some families are in a position to pay more, for which we are extremely grateful.

The 10% is required because Cottesmore St Mary is a Catholic Aided school. A Catholic Aided school is owned by the Diocese. However, an Aided school is funded by the Local Authority for day to day running costs. For example, the salaries of the staff, utilities and resources. Annually, Aided schools are able to bid for maintenance money, via the Diocese, who in turn are provided with money by the Department of Education. If bids are successful, an Aided school has to then fund 10% of the overall amount offered. Aided schools generate this 10% via annual or termly parental Gift Aid donations.

As an Aided school, if we are unable to provide 10% towards successful bids, the money is lost and any essential capital or maintenance spend has to come out of money that is provided by the Local Authority for the children.

We ask that families create an annual or termly standing order for their contributions for each child that attends Cottesmore. Please don't forget to set an end date, for all standing orders, to be the summer that your child leaves Year 6 as we can't offer refunds once your child has left the school.

Payments can be arranged either via online banking or your mobile banking app for ease. It is also helpful if you complete the Gift Aid declaration form if you are a UK tax payer. Gift Aid is a Government backed scheme that allows the school to reclaim an additional 25p of tax for every £1.00 that you donate at no additional cost to you. This also goes towards releasing more money for our building fund. This extra money is also vital so please do contact the office if you need the form to be resent.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Children in Need

On Friday 15th November, children will come to school in home clothes as we raise money for Children in Need. Any donation will be welcomed and is also optional. We look forward to sharing with you how much we raise. We will have buckets on the gates or, if you would like to donate online, please follow the link to our JustGiving page: https://www.justgiving.com/page/cottesmore-st-mary-hove-1729756703604?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fcottesmore-st-mary-hove-1729756703604&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pf-p-share

Lets raise the roof for Pudsey this year!



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 5 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. • Donations of toys, books etc that can be used at the 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
THURSDAY 28 th	Years 3 – 6 Beauty and the Beast pantomime at school at 1.30pm
FRIDAY 29 th	Year 5 swimming Donations of Christmas boxed biscuits and chocolates 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 • Choir to Brighton Centre for One Voice Singing Festival (rehearsal in day and show in evening)
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). Please bring donations of cakes and sweet treats.
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	
JANUARY 2025	
MONDAY 6 th	• Pupils return to school
TUESDAY 7 th	
WEDNESDAY 8 th	
THURSDAY 9 th	
FRIDAY 10 th	
MONDAY 13 th	9am – 10am Possible school tours for Reception 2024
TUESDAY 14 th	
WEDNESDAY 15 th	• Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am • Year 1 St George Forest School pm • Closing Date for Reception Local Authorities applications 2025/2026
THURSDAY 16 th	
FRIDAY 17 th	
MONDAY 20 th	
TUESDAY 21 st	
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	• Year 6 St Benedict Forest School am • Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 23 rd	
FRIDAY 24 th	
MONDAY 27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day
TUESDAY 28 th	Year 4 Viking Day
WEDNESDAY 29 th	• Year 5 St Josephine Forest School am • Year 1 St George Forest School pm • Chinese New Year
THURSDAY 30 th	• Year 6 school trip to Downs Junior Air Raid Shelter
FRIDAY 31 st	
FEBRUARY	