



13th December 2024

Dear parents / carers

Advent and kindness

This week saw us celebrate the second week of Advent. Children continued to reflect on ways in which they can prepare for the birth of Jesus. They continue to talk about what choices they can make during this time of preparation and how their promises / choices can show Jesus to others. As part of Advent promises, we have a focus on kindness. Some ideas have been sent via Ping.

Open the Book

Thank you to the Open the Book team from Cardinal Newman School who delivered an assembly to children in KS1. This is a group of Year 9 students from Cardinal Newman School, led by Jane Noble, their school chaplain. They visit local primary schools to share Bible Stories, and of course the messages they contain. The theme of this assembly was the Parable of the Good Samaritan which fits in wonderfully with our Advent message of showing kindness to others. The children enjoyed the acting, singing and the costumes as well as getting the opportunity to participate. It was great to see some ex-Cottesmore pupils as part of the group.



Pantomimes

Children in KS2 recently enjoyed a fun filled, interactive pantomime of Beauty and the Beast and children in KS1 enjoyed an interactive Cinderella pantomime. It was wonderful to see the children shout out all the usual panto lines (yes, he is most definitely behind you!) as well as some of them join the actors on stage and take part. What a lovely way to celebrate!



Thank you FCOP / PTA

A huge thank you to our super PTA for a superb Christmas Fair. What a wonderful event for the whole family. HUGE thanks to all who were involved in making this happen. We really appreciate all that you do. **Thank you so much to Nicholas James for sponsoring the Mr Marvel Magic Show.** Thank you also to those who helped on the day – the stalls and activities were great fun. It was also lovely to be serenaded by the choir and the Fairtrade committee did a great job on the hot chocolate stall. Thank you to Year 6 members of our Faith in Action group for helping adults run various stalls. We received the following email thanking them – *A massive thank you to the wonderful helpers of Y6. We've had nothing but positive comments from both stall holders and parents whose children you've served and helped. You were amazing setting up the stalls and jumped to each challenge. What a wonderful bunch. Thank you for the fantastic raffle also. Finally, to all families who came and supported by being there. A whopping £3507 was raised.* As you know, some of this will go towards resources for the music room and some will go towards further developments in our Forest School area. Thank you for your support.



Bread making in Year 5



Wishing you a festive 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 together.

Christmas Dinner

If your child chooses to have lunch on their Christmas dinner day, you will be debited the usual amount of £2.65 from your Parent Pay account. Children can of course still bring in a packed lunch if they do not want a Christmas lunch and you will not be charged. On the day of their Christmas dinner, children are invited to wear colourful party clothes / Christmas jumpers to help with the festivities.

KS1 Christmas Dinner (children in Years Reception, 1 and 2) will be on Thursday 19th December.

All KS1 children will automatically be offered a Christmas lunch on this day. On Wednesday 18th December, there will be no school dinners available for KS1 children. We therefore ask that you provide a packed lunch, for KS1 children, from home on Wednesday 18th December.

KS2 Christmas Dinner (children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be on Wednesday 18th December.

On Thursday 19th December, children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 will have their Christmas Dinner, and due to the popularity of this, there will be no school dinners available on this day for your KS2 child. We therefore ask that you provide a packed lunch from home on Thursday 19th December. On the day that any child is asked to bring a packed lunch, if they are registered for free school meals (Pupil Premium) and you will require a school packed lunch to be provided for them please email the office by 10th December.

Cottesmore STAR trail and Advent bags

We hope that many of you will display a STAR in your windows for other families to look at throughout Advent and the Christmas season. The idea behind this 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'. A template has been sent to you via Ping. On rotation, children will also be taking home an Advent prayer bag to use overnight. The prayer bag includes a candle to light, prayers to say and little objects to hold whilst praying. Please have a go at completing some of the prayer ideas in the bag with your child and then return the prayer bag the following day so that another child can enjoy the activity.

HAF activities over the Christmas holidays.

There are still some spaces available, so please book using the link below. Funded by the Department for Education, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme will be providing free activities over the school Christmas holidays for those in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. All participants also receive a meal.

Visit Brighton & Hove's online booking tool to see everything available and request a booking:

<https://eequ.org/brightonhovehaf>

Each eligible participant can be booked on up to 4 HAF places over the school Christmas holidays, with one activity per day. Please visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/HAF to learn more about HAF, or contact HAF@brighton-hove.gov.uk with any questions. Please book soon to avoid disappointment.



Thank you to Under Pressure

Thank you to Tony Burnett, for high pressure washing the section of tiles outside the Cloister doors. We didn't realise they were so colorful! What a super job. They look amazing and we are very grateful that you did this for us at no charge.

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
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 2025
TUESDAY 14 th	
WEDNESDAY 15 th	- Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm - Closing Date for 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	- Year 2, 3 and 4 buddy mass 9.15am Newman. Parents welcome - Reception St Peter, Year 3 St Martin and Year 5 St Josephine only Parent Consultation zoom calls and face to face and SEN 3.15pm – 6pm - Smartphone Free Childhood meeting. School hall. 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Ticketed event.
FRIDAY 24 th	
MONDAY 27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day
TUESDAY 28 th	Reception St Peter, Year 3 St Martin and Year 5 St Josephine only Parent Consultation zoom calls and face to face and SEN 3.15pm – 6pm
WEDNESDAY 29 th	- Year 5 St Josephine Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm - Chinese New Year - Anti Racism and racial literacy workshop for parents. 9am in the school hall
THURSDAY 30 th	- Year 6 school trip to Downs Junior Air Raid Shelter - Year 1 and 5 buddy mass 9.15am Newman. Parents welcome
FRIDAY 31 st	
FEBRUARY	
MONDAY 3 rd	
TUESDAY 4 th	
WEDNESDAY 5 th	- Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 6 th	- Year 3 school trip to Brighton Museum - Reception and Year 6 buddy mass 9.15am Newman. Parents welcome
FRIDAY 7 th	
MONDAY 10 th	
TUESDAY 11 th	- Safer Internet Day – extra online safety lessons in school - International day of women in science
WEDNESDAY 12 th	Honeypot Party
THURSDAY 13 th	- Year 5 school trip to Brighton Pavilion - Year 4 Viking workshop - PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2 - PTA Valentines cake sale after school
FRIDAY 14 th	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils = 21 st February International Mother Language Day
HALF TERM Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field	