



15th November 2024

Dear parents / carers



Anti-Bullying Week

This year's Anti-Bullying theme has been 'Choose Respect'. We launched the week by all wearing 'odd socks' to express ourselves and appreciate individuality and uniqueness. During the week, children have taken part in activities focusing on how to handle disagreements and differences of opinion without resorting to bullying. Instead, encouraging all to champion kindness, because being kind is a mark of strength.

Children have also focused on the message "we may not be best friends with everyone, but we must choose respect", emphasising that it is entirely possible to disagree with someone while still respecting them.

Some tips that we have been teaching the children, in relation to how they can engage respectfully and constructively in conversations, especially when there are disagreements, are:

- **Try to understand and listen.** Listen to what the other person is saying without interrupting, even if you don't agree with them. Letting people speak and trying to understand their viewpoint makes people feel respected.
- **Keep an open mind.** Remember that not everyone is the same or thinks the same and we are all entitled to our own opinion.
- **Don't get personal.** Address the issue at hand without making it about the person.
- **Choose respect.** Disagreeing with someone is never an excuse for bullying. We don't have to agree with someone to treat them with respect. Use a non-accusatory and respectful language and tone.
- **Know when to agree to disagree.** Understand that it is okay to have differing opinions, and that disagreement does not mean we cannot get along.
- **Think positively.** Focus on the good in the situation – such as the things you agree on.

By encouraging children to practise these strategies, we can create respectful environments where differing opinions are seen as opportunities for growth and learning, rather than as sources of conflict.

Remember, our definition of bullying is

Several Times On Purpose

Our "child-friendly" version of our Anti Bullying guide has been written by and is for Cottesmore children. You can access a copy of this document via this link <https://cottesmorewebcontent.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/antibullying2019/antibullying.html#p=1>

If you have any concerns relating to anything noted above, please contact your child's class teacher. We are all here to help and always want children to feel safe and secure.

Children in Need

Thank you so much for your kind donations for Children in Need. If you would still like to donate online, please follow the link to our JustGiving page. We have already surpassed our £500 target and, thanks to online and cash donations, raised over £1000. Utterly amazing!

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



Author Visit in Forest School

Year 2 were thrilled to have the author Sophie Bresnahan visit Forest School and read her book 'The Mouse and the Mushroom Blooms'. The book tells a story of discovery as the mouse finds different species of mushrooms and discovers the important magic of mycelium growing below ground. The children were transfixed by the story and played a game where they linked each other together with wool (mycelium) and looked for their own mycelium growing. They then had an opportunity to make their own mushrooms linked by mycelium, out of clay, to take home. If anyone would like to buy the book, Sophie has given us a discount code valid until 30/11. Do visit <https://www.looploop.co.uk/product/book-mouse-mushroom/> and order, using code COTTESMORE at payment. Please include your child's name as reference and the book will be delivered to school (so no postage charge).



Year 1 Wormery

Year 1 built their own wormery in Forest School this week and learnt how to carry a worm on a leaf, not their hand. They put some fruit skin in the wormery to see if the worms turned it to compost. What fun!



Thank you again for your generosity and donations for Children In Need. As ever, please do reach out if your family needs help as we can offer support. 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

With the festive season just around the corner, we're getting ready for our exciting Advent Fair and we need your help to make it a magical event for everyone. Here are the important dates you need to remember so we can all spread some holiday cheer together!

- **Friday 22nd November** – It's time for a little decluttering before Christmas. Please donate toys, bric-a-brac and teddies that are in good condition. Leave them in the shelter on the KS2 playground and help us gather treasures for the Advent Fair.
- **Friday 29th November** – Christmassy boxed chocolates and biscuits are a must for the Advent Fair. Please bring these in and leave them in the shelter on the KS2 playground.
- **Friday 6th December** – Advent Fair Day is here! Get ready to enjoy an afternoon full of treats and fun. Please bring in cakes and sweet treats to share at the Fair later on. Drop them off in the shelter on the KS2 playground and make sure to label all ingredients for any allergies. As always, we are a nut-free school, so no nuts in any of the bakes, whether homemade or bought.
- **Mr. Marvel's Magical Show!** As part of our Advent Fair excitement, we are thrilled to announce that Mr. Marvel will be joining us to put on a spellbinding magic show! Prepare to be amazed as he dazzles with tricks, laughs, and surprises for kids of all ages. There will be three showtimes to choose from. To buy a ticket, use the link below—spaces are limited, and it's a show you won't want to miss!

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/SOCSEVENTS>

- Festive Raffle Tickets Now Available!

Don't miss out on the chance to win some fantastic prizes in our Christmas Raffle! Tickets are now on sale, and all proceeds will go toward supporting our school and making the Advent Fair even more special. You can purchase your

tickets online through the link below:

<https://raffall.com/369843/enter-affle-to-win-pta-prizes-hosted-by-cottesmore-st-marys-pta>

Tickets are £1 and feel free to buy as many as you like to increase your chances of winning some fabulous festive treats!

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

Let's make this season extra special for our children and the whole school community. We appreciate all your donations and support to make our Advent Fair a wonderful celebration of the season. Thank you for your generosity and festive spirit. We can't wait to celebrate with you all! Many thanks, The PTA Team



School Dinner Survey – Caterlink

Caterlink really values feedback from all its stakeholders to help us develop and or improve the service we provide to your school and your pupils. This term we have committed to seek feedback from your parent/guardians.

With this in mind, please can you complete the survey link below for parents/guardians to complete before 6th December 2024. Feedback will be provided to the Council and schools that have been chosen for this survey in the spring term 2025.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUqRqXZF2X8CwT9dFlaCqxONGitM1QVUKO5LWtmRIB4jTlw/viewform>

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 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 donataions of cakes and sweet treats.
MONDAY 9 th	
TUESDAY 10 th	
WEDNESDAY 11 th	
THURSDAY 12 th	
FRIDAY 13 th	* Reception and Year 1 parents / carers phonics workshop. 8.50am – 9.30am. School hall.
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 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	
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	
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
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	