



20th December 2024

Dear parents / carers



Thank you

I cannot believe that the Autumn term has already come to a close, time has certainly flown. A big thank you to the children for bringing our school to life and always doing their best, they have done themselves proud. Thank you to the whole staff team, who provide wonderful opportunities, both academically and holistically, for all in our care. We really are blessed to have such a fantastic team of adults who give above and beyond in order to make the children's school experience enjoyable. I would also like to thank you, the parents and carers, for your continued support. I know that the whole staff, myself included, would like to thank you for your generous Christmas gifts and kind messages – we have all been very touched. Thank you to PTA/FOCP, and all who help out on events, as you make such a difference to our school community ensuring that we are able to provide extra resources to support the children's school experiences. Finally, a big thank you to our Parish Priests and Governors for all your guidance, support and hard work. How blessed we are.

Christmas Liturgies

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Christ and the children have done a wonderful job of helping us to do just that. It has been wonderful to be able to share year group Christmas Liturgies with you. During these, the children have encouraged us to think about the Joy of Christmas and the Hope brought to us through the birth of Jesus. They warmed our souls with traditional and festive songs, sharing readings all whilst completing tableaux reflecting the Nativity. These were atmospheric and offered reflection whilst allowing us to celebrate together. Thank you to all, especially the children who always remind us of the meaning of Christmas so well.

Thanks to your kind donations, £859 was raised for City Mission and The Early Birth Association. Keeping all families supported by these charities in our prayers.



Advent Prayers

Thank you to Chaska, Year 6, for his reflective Advent prayer that has been shared within our school but also with other, local Catholic schools when we created a Newman Family of Schools Advent prayer booklet.

Almighty Lord,

We pray that you give us hope, a flaming candle shining brightly in the night, guiding us to You.

Come O Lord, prepare us this Advent with the faith that Mary had in You.

Come O Lord of life, let the light of the candles in our hearts burn brighter at this time.

Come righteous Lord, grant us the peace You gave unto us. Amen.

One Voice

Recently, children in the choir took part in 'One Voice' at the Brighton Centre. They joined other schools, from across the city, to form a choir of 800 children. It was a wonderful event that also featured local music groups. The children performed on stage to a huge audience. What an atmospheric and festive experience for all. The children did a super job and we were very proud of them. Thank you to Mr Bondonno and all adults involved. Wonderfully festive.



Christmas celebrations

It is always a pleasure to work in a school pre Christmas and see everything through the eyes of the excited children. Children enjoyed dressing up in Christmas outfits and listening to Christmas music as they enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner. Party games were played and party food eaten during Christmas class parties and St Nicholas even took time to make a visit to children in KS1.



Thank you again for the kind and thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts. They really are appreciated. It is such a pleasure to work with your wonderful children every day and to be a part of our lovely school community. Wishing you all an enjoyable, restful and blessed Christmas and see you in the new year. Rachel Breen, Headteacher.

Thank you to Under Pressure

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



under pressure

We were delighted to recently renovate the school's paving area, which revealed some brighter tones!

BEFORE AND AFTER



Tony Burnett
High pressure washer cleaning
for patios and driveway restoration.
07967 506 177 underpressuretb@gmail.com
Sussex and surrounding areas



Financial support / heating this winter

We are aware that families may be facing financial challenge this winter. As ever, we want to work closely with any families who may be struggling to heat their homes or feed or clothe their children. If this is you, we urge you to get in touch as we are able to signpost to organisations that can help with a range of support. On occasions, we are also able to access specific grants that may help directly with aspects such as heating. We are always able to offer free uniform to families who are in financial challenge as well as shoes, coats and other items.

Club support

We are aware that there are a significant number of families who don't quite meet the criteria for Pupil Premium funding but are also finding things a challenge. We currently offer Pupil Premium children £50 towards a club of their choice, each term, so please get in touch if you have not yet accessed this. We also have access to some free spaces in a range of after school clubs, as well as holiday clubs, which we reserve for other families in certain circumstances. If you do not meet the criteria for Pupil Premium funding but are on a low income and finding it hard to fund such activities, please do get in touch so we can see if we can help. All information will be treated in confidence but we will have to ask some personal questions in order to prioritise who gets what help. Please email annamullans@Cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Christmas events at St Peters Church

Very best wishes from Canon David for Christmas and the New year. On Sunday 22nd December we are having our Carol Service at 6.30pm to which all are invited, followed by a gathering in the Hall. We are looking forward to welcoming you at our Christmas Masses, which are 6pm and 12 Midnight on Christmas Eve, and 8.30am, 10am, and 11.30am on Christmas Day. Please bring your children to the Church during the Christmas season (25th December – 12th January) to visit the crib and say a prayer to Jesus, especially for children around the world and for peace in 2025.

Phonics video

The video version of the phonics workshop is available on the school website, on the Reception Page. <https://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/reception-learning/> This page is full of information and resources. If you scroll down, you will see the relevant video that says Phonics and Reading meeting for Reception. It also contains all of the slides shared at the meeting.

Safety in Radinden Manor

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.

Please 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. Please make it your new year promise to park with consideration for those who live in Radinden Manor Road.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
SPRING TERM '25 BOOK NOW

Fun, exercise, fresh air & different activities every week

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR THIS TERM INCLUDE:

- DINO DAY & TREASURE MAPS
- APACHE FIRELIGHTING & SHELTER MAKING
- POKEMON CARD MAKING & STACK ATTACK
- PHARAOH'S REVENGE & EGYPTIANS
- PLOP TRUMPS & WILD CATS
- NERF: BATTLEMENT & MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
- MAKE A BASKET & FOREST PHOTO FRAME
- MOLKKY & CAMPFIRE MARSHMALLOWS
- THE KEY INGREDIENT: LOTS OF FUN!

COTTESMORE ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
WEDNESDAYS 3:30 - 4:20 PM
YEARS 1 - 6
8TH JANUARY - 3RD MARCH 2025
TOTAL COST: ONLY 12 WEEK TERM

THE OUTDOORS PROJECT

MORE INFO & BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK
HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS - IN-CLASS PARTS FOR LEARNERS GROUP
OFSTED REGISTERED & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

- **Pupils return to school**

- 1 St Teresa Meet the New Teacher 8.55am – 9.20am.

- Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am
- Year 1 St George Forest School pm
- Closing Date for Local Authorities applications 2025/2026

- Year 6 St Benedict Forest School am
- Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm

- 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.
- Smartphone Free Childhood meeting. School hall. 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Ticketed event.

- Holocaust Memorial Day

- Reception St Peter, Year 3 St Martin and Year 5 St Josephine only Parent Consultation zoom calls and face to face.

- 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

- Year 6 school trip to Downs Junior Air Raid Shelter
- Year 1 and 5 buddy mass 9.15am Newman. Parents welcome

- Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am
- Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm

- Year 3 school trip to Brighton Museum
- Reception and Year 6 buddy mass 9.15am Newman. Parents welcome

- Safer Internet Day – extra online safety lessons in school
- International day of women in science

- Honeypot Party

- 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

- **INSET DAY – school closed to pupils**
= 21st February International Mother Language Day

HALF TERM
Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February
Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field