



22nd November 2024

Dear parents / carers

Thank you Father Chris

Father Chris visits our school every Thursday. He visits a different class and answers and 'Big Questions' that they may have about the Catholic Faith or God. Children look forward to these sessions and it is a delight to have him join us.



Buddy Time and the Rosary

Year 6 buddies joined children in Reception to teach them all about the Rosary and give them special Rosary bracelets. Children had a go at writing important words and enjoyed decorating a picture of Mary. The Reception children could then tell the others what their bracelet meant and what it was used for. Year 6 planned the whole session. What a lovely time together.



Year 4 Art

Year 4 have enjoyed their recent Jabberwocky project in Art. They have created the most fantastic illustrative booklets based on the Lewis Carroll poem. What a talented group they are.



Comedy Fun

Well done to Chaska (Year 6) who took part in a Comedy Show recently. What a wonderful experience and how impressive of him to do this.

"Last month, I performed standup comedy at the Dome's Studio Theatre, as part of the Brighton Dome Comedy Festival. I was one of 16 people who took part in a workshop every weekend for 5 weeks. We prepared our material for the 27th October when we performed. I really enjoyed myself and am excited for my next one."



Supporting Maths at home

Thank you for all of the support that is given at home to help your child. A reminder that on our website, we have a range of different resources that can be used to help further maths progression. This is in the Curriculum section / Maths.

www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/mathematics/

You will find links to each year group's scheme of learning which can help you to track the areas that are being taught in class. Alternatively, your child's year group's half termly overview, that is sent via Ping each half term, will give a rundown of the content taught in class over that half term. Towards the bottom of the website page, you will also find videos that demonstrate the way children are taught to calculate in our school. Watching these can help aid consistency in the approaches practiced at home and at school. Further down, you will find a link to a range of White Rose booklets that provide age-appropriate questions for each area of the Maths curriculum for your child's year group. These can be used at home to further support and practice the key skills. If you have any questions, please get in touch with your class teacher.



Year 5 Swimming

Over the Autumn Term, Year 5 have attended swimming lessons at King Alfred Leisure Centre. During these sessions, children developed their ability to use a range of different swimming strokes. They also focused on swimming confidently and competently for at least 25 meters as well as ensuring that all were able to enter the water safely. Children have made great progress. The staff at King Alfred also praised the children for showing great perseverance each week. Well done Year 5.

Medical appointments

A reminder that, where possible, medical / dentist appointments should be scheduled out of school hours. If unavoidable, school require notification 7 days in advance unless it is an emergency appointment. School will then request that a medical leave of absence form is completed before your child is collected (available from the school office). At this time, you will also need to provide proof of appointment. You will also need to record what you have done to try and make this appointment out of school hours and why this was then unavoidable. For example, routine dentist appointments in the school day are unlikely to be authorised as these can usually be scheduled for school holidays or after 3.10pm. Without advance notice, the school is unable to guarantee that office staff are able to leave the office, as it may then be unattended, in order to collect your child. Please factor in such things when arranging collection. Also, if a form hasn't been completed before an ad hoc collection, this will need to be done on arrival.

Thank you for your ongoing support. 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

- **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-raffle-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, please email: friendsofcottesmoreprimary@gmail.com
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.

Vacancy for Midday Supervisor Assistant

The Governors of Cottesmore St Mary in Hove wish to appoint a Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our motivated, enthusiastic and committed lunchtime team. This role will require you to:

- Supervise the children while eating their lunch
- Encourage and motivate children to eat their lunch
- Set up and clear away playground equipment
- Encourage and promote positive play

We are looking for someone who is committed to the Catholic vision of our school and enjoys working with children aged 4-11.

Closing Date: Friday 6th December 2024

Interview Date: Friday 13th December 2024

Start date: Monday 6th January 2025

The application pack is obtainable upon request from the school. Please contact the school office or visit the Vacancies page on the website and download.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Cutting the cost of keeping warm



We understand how difficult it can be when energy bills start to rise. By making some small, simple changes we can all save money while staying safe and well.

Save money when cooking

When cooking, put a lid on your pan as this can save you money on your energy bill. Putting a lid on your pan allows water to boil faster and the lid keeps the heat in the pan, rather than letting it escape, speeding up cooking time and helping you use less energy.

Slow cookers save money! Slow cookers are an extremely efficient way to cook, you can batch cook meals. Likewise, microwaves and air fryers are also great alternatives to using ovens.

Switch off your appliances

Turning off lights and switching appliances off standby when not in use can save £52 a year on energy bills.



Do not over fill

Only boil as much as you need, overfilling your kettle wastes energy.



Turn down your thermostat



By turning down your thermostat from 22°C to 21°C, you could save £90 on your energy bills.

Wash on eco or 30°C or cooler cycles when you can. Washing at 30°C rather than higher temperatures could save £12 a year

LED lights

Switch your lights to energy-friendly LED light bulbs. If you are able to replace your old light bulbs with LEDs, you could save around £40* a year and as a bonus, they last five times longer



Full load

Only wash with a full load, cutting back on just one washing cycle a week can save you an additional £12 a year and further savings on metered water bills.



Use a washing bowl

Using a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap can save you money on your energy and water bills if you have a water meter. You only need to run a typical tap for 95 seconds before you would have filled a washing up bowl.⁵

Take shorter showers

Spending just one minute less in the shower can save £16 a year in a typical household and uses far less energy than taking a bath. Sticking to 4-minute showers could save a typical household £60 on energy bills and around £75 on metered water bills every year.⁶

Replacing an inefficient shower head with a water-efficient one can reduce your yearly gas bill by £25. If you have a water meter as well, you can save another £35 – that's a total saving of £60 each year.⁷



Maximise your income

Every year, millions of households miss out on thousands of pounds worth of benefits, that they are entitled to. Turn2us's benefit calculator easily and quickly identifies any benefits you are entitled to claim to increase your income.

Visit: benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk/

We're committed to helping our customers keep safe and well. We work with a number of services and organisations that can provide help and support on energy fuel efficiency.



Safer Homes Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Fitting a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in your home is a great way of keeping you and your family safe from the dangers of (CO). CO is an odourless, tasteless, and invisible gas that is dangerous, and can be created from faulty gas appliances.

The Safe Homes programme offers households a free CO alarm (maximum of one per household). Scan the QR code to request an alarm or visit: client.simplythankyou.co.uk/co2neutral/login.php

Please use the below details when requesting your free CO alarm:
Username = coalarms Password = Saferhomes123



Help and support with energy bills



National Energy Action (NEA)

If you need advice and support on your energy bills, please visit: nea.org.uk/get-help



Citizens Advice

If you need information on grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills, please visit: citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/



Groundwork

If you need help with saving money on your energy bills or improving efficiency within your home, please visit: groundwork.org.uk/energy-efficiency-and-fuel-poverty/



The Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free service that helps energy companies to look after customers who have extra communication, access, or safety needs. It helps us tailor our services to support households who need extra help with everyday energy matters like bills, and also in the unlikely event of a power cut or gas supply interruption.

Find out if you are eligible and register at: thePSR.co.uk



ROYAL PAVILION & GARDEN

REGENCY CHRISTMAS TREES

FATHER CHRISTMAS

CAROL SINGERS

MOUSE TRAIL

BANQUETS

ICE RINK

Christmas
at the
Royal Pavilion



BRIGHTON
& HOVE
MUSEUMS

16 NOVEMBER 2024
- 5 JANUARY 2025



Illustration by Rachael Homer

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 = 21st February International Mother Language Day
HALF TERM Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field	