



25th October 2024

Dear parents / carers



Year 6 Mass at Newman

Children in Year 6 took part in a special mass at Cardinal Newman alongside Year 6 children from all other local Catholic schools this week. The focus of the mass was saying thanks for all the good things that we have and showing our gratitude to God through the choices we make. As ever, the children listened and participated beautifully and showed themselves to be great ambassadors for our school. Angelina and Chaska sung wonderful solos and Jasmine read her bidding prayer confidently. Our Mass Choir also represented the school well as they sung on the altar. To mark this special celebration, Cardinal Newman school gifted all participating schools a special prayer card. Thank you also to Cardinal Newman for hosting the Year 6 children.

Praying the Rosary with Canon David

It was super to see so many children from KS2 join our Rosary prayer group with Canon David. They talked about how Catholics use a Rosary as they meditate on the life of Jesus and call on Mary to offer their prayers to God and thought about events that happened in the life of Jesus (Mysteries). Cottesmore's virtual Rosary can also be found in the Catholic Life section of the school website. There are also a range of other documents that would help you to pray the Rosary at home should your family wish to make this an extra special focus during this month.



City Mission Children in KS2 enjoyed an assembly lead by City Mission who talked about the work they do and how their foodbank helps many in our City. The assembly included an interactive game that helped us think about how sharing what we have with others can have great benefits. Did you know that the letters in Harvest can be rearranged to spell starve (lose the h) and also share (lose the t and v) – words that help us remember the meaning of Harvest. Thanks you again for all your donations of food. They were thankful to take these back to their head office.

Open the book Thank you to children from Newman who came and delivered an assembly to KS1 this week. They told the parable of the Lost Sheep and reminded the children how God loves us and how important we are to Him. Some children for Reception even dressed up and took part. Thank you to the Year 9 children from Newman for giving up their time to come and visit.

Visit to Glyndebourne

We recently large group of musicians to see the opera at Glyndebourne. The children had already learnt about the music and characters ahead of the trip. The opera was sung in Italian but the children had no problem keeping up with the plot. The performance was really interesting with visualisations of a poet writing and re-writing the story as it unfolded before them. The set also kept changing as the poet had new ideas. One highlight was one of the singers rocking out with a giant ham in the center of the stage as he sang! Children said they felt really lucky to be able to see a full, professional performance set in such a magnificent theatre. Hopefully this will inspire them in their own music making.



Forest School

Reception have been enjoying Forest School, specially toasting marshmallows. They've learnt to be green dragons around the fire circle and to only come in when invited by an adult. They also enjoyed building dens and exploring nature.



Cave Art

In Art this term, children in Year 3 have focused on their Stone Age topic, exploring cave art. They discovered how cave paintings were created and then made their very own 'cave painting' under the table using torches. Children were inspired by the book 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura and even spray painted their own hands on their work to represent signatures - just like the prehistoric age!



Parent Consultation Meetings

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you (phone or face to face) for the recent parent consultation meetings. We are glad that you found them useful. If you have any further questions. or need any further support, please contact your child's class teacher. We are here to help.

Wishing you an enjoyable half term and thank you for your ongoing support. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Reception September 2025 – please encourage new families to visit our school

If you are currently a member of our school family and have a younger child due to start school in September 2025, don't forget that, in addition to completing the online Brighton and Hove admissions form, you must also complete the school Supplementary Information Form (SIF). This can be found on the school website and is required to be delivered to the school office. We encourage you to complete the SIF form sooner rather than later, especially if you require a priest's signature. A reminder that the deadline for Reception applications is 15th January.

Please encourage families who are new to our school to visit one of our open days. The dates and times of these are

9am Tuesday 5th November
9am Wednesday 6th November
9am Thursday 7th November
9am Monday 11th November
9am Tuesday 12th November
9am Wednesday 13th November
9am Monday 18th November
9am Tuesday 19th November
9am Wednesday 20th November

Families can email office@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk with their preferred date/dates and their full name, the name of their child (who they are considering enrolling at the school) and mobile number.

In the meantime, you may wish to watch a video that we created when, due to Covid 19, parents were unable to visit the school.

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/482774309>

Please do share this with friends.

The Admissions Page of our school website also contains a range of helpful information, including the promotional video, so you may wish to explore this also.

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

Please spread the word about Cottesmore to all that you know. We admit families from category 11 (the lowest category) so please do encourage friends and families that you know to get in touch. We look forward to hearing from all prospective parents and are here to help in anyway. If schools don't fill, they lose vital funds so getting as many applications as possible is vital.



Do you need help?

If your family is finding the cost of living a challenge and you are finding yourselves needing to access a food bank, please do reach out to the school as there are many ways in which we can help.

All information is treated in confidence.

How we
can help

Parenting Programme

Parents sometimes come to us to discuss challenges they may face at home, linked to their child's behaviour and regulation. We always signpost parents wanting to explore this further to sign up for a Triple P parenting course. Those attending can do so as a preventative measure but also reactive.

These courses are useful for all families and offer opportunities to reflect as well as learn additional strategies with professionals. They offer face to face and online sessions.

The Triple-P Parenting Programme is a multi-level system of support to prevent and treat social, emotional and behavioural challenges in children by enhancing parent knowledge, skills and confidence.

<https://www.triplep.net/glo-en/home/>

For a wider range of online courses, please follow this link.

<https://www.triplep-parenting.uk.net/uk/triple-p/>

These courses also cover various aspects of positive parenting and are available for a full year, providing parents with flexibility and ongoing access to valuable content.



HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November
Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field

NOVEMBER	
MONDAY 4 th	
TUESDAY 5 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 6 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 7 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
FRIDAY 8 th	- Year 5 Swimming - Donations of wine for the PTA Christmas Fair - Year 1 & 2 PTA, after school film show
SUNDAY 10 th	World Science Day
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 3 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 23rd December – Friday 3rd January
Pupils return to school on Monday 6th January 2025.