



5th December 2025

Dear parents / carers

Advent

This week saw us celebrate the start of Advent. Children have begun to reflect on ways in which we can prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus. They have talked about what choices they can make during this time of preparation and how their promises / choices can show Jesus to others. Children have been writing Advent promises to hang in our prayer area. Children also discussed how the first Sunday of Advent encourages us to reflect on hope. Children were encouraged to think about how they could show hope through their kindness towards others.

Cottesmore STAR trail and Advent bags

We hope that many of our Cottesmore families will display a STAR in their windows for families to look at throughout Advent and the Christmas season. The message and idea behind this action is to unite, and to remind our neighbours about this special season of Advent. A STAR is an affirmation of joy and celebration, and the star of Bethlehem represents 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.

During Advent, and on rotation, children will be taking home an Advent prayer bag to use overnight and return the next day. The prayer bags include a candle to light, prayers to say and little objects to hold whilst praying. You may wish to complete some of the prayer ideas, that are in the bag, with your child. During Advent, we always encourage a focus on kindness. At the end of the newsletter, you will find some ideas if you would like to take part in this year's Advent Kindness Challenge.

Do send in any photos of your child taking part in any of these Advent activities. Please email any images from the challenges to colettefairbanks@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Little Red Riding Hood Pantomime

Children in KS2 thoroughly enjoyed their pantomime (oh yes they did!). It was wonderful to watch their faces throughout the show and hear their participation. It was a super show and a wonderful way to start December.



Polish Advent Year 2 have enjoyed making Polish lanterns for Advent. In RE, the children enjoyed learning about different ways people prepare for Advent across the world.



Rosary Buddy Time

Children in Reception and Year 6 really enjoyed special time together. Children in 'Faith in Action' taught mini lessons on the Rosary and made take away ones for their buddies. The children engaged in this so well and they really enjoyed their time together.



Pope Leo This week, Mini Vinnies reflected on Pope Leo's trip to the Middle East, including Turkey and Lebanon. They wrote prayers of support for Christians around the world who are persecuted and not able to freely pray to God and practise their Christian faith. Thank you to our Minnie Vinnies for giving up their time to do this.



Nicholas James
SALES LETTINGS AUCTIONS

Proud sponsors of
**Cottesmore St Mary
Catholic Primary School**

Looking forward to seeing you at the Advent Fair this afternoon. A HUGE thank you for the PTA for their work making this super event happen. 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 15th December at 2.30 pm**
- **Year 2 Tuesday 16th December at 9.15 am**
- **Year 5 Tuesday 16th December at 2.30 pm**
- **Reception Wednesday 17th December at 9.15 am**
- **Year 4 Wednesday 17th December at 2.30 pm**
- **Year 1 Thursday 18th December at 9.15 am**
- **Year 3 Thursday 18th 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, the office won't have capacity to escort latecomers through the building. We look forward to celebrating with you all.

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 18th December.

All KS1 children will automatically be offered a Christmas lunch on this day. On Wednesday 17th 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 17th December.

KS2 Christmas Dinner (children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be on Wednesday 17th December.

On Thursday 18th 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 18th 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.

Christmas Jumpers

Please donate any outgrown Christmas jumpers to the school. These will be given to families who may need additional support. If we receive lots, our ECO committee will hold a seconds sale which will help with sustainability.

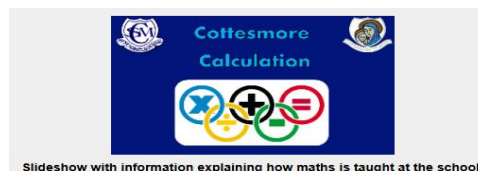


Supporting Maths at home

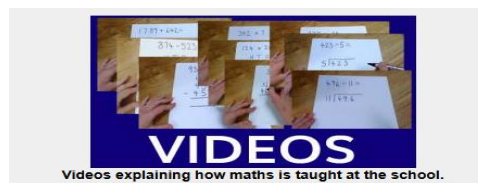
Thank you for all of the support that is given at home to help your child. A reminder that on our website, we have a range of different resources that can be used to help further Maths progression. This is in the Curriculum section / Maths and on Year Group pages.

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 practised 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.



Slideshow with information explaining how maths is taught at the school.



Videos explaining how maths is taught at the school.



Link to a pdf showing help with maths at home.

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). You will also need to provide proof of appointment and 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.



Cottesmore St Mary

Advent Gratitude & Giving Challenge



Every day for Advent we celebrate what you are grateful for and ways you can give back to the community. Share your gratitude with others #givethanksgiveback

1st December- 24th December

- Something that made you smile
- Give someone a compliment
- Something that reminds you its advent
- Something you love about our school
- Give someone a hug
- Awe and Wonder image that reminds you of God's Love
- An act of kindness
- A sound that makes you feel at peace
- Something beautiful you saw today
- Something that made you laugh today
- Do something kind for a classmate
- Something that you have achieved today
- Create a list of songs that make you smile
- Take 3 minutes just for yourself
- Tell someone all the reasons why you love them
- Sit with someone new at lunchtime
- Smile at everyone you see today
- Be thankful for your favourite foods
- Something you are looking forward to
- Pick up litter in your local environment.
- Create a thank you prayer to God saying what you are thankful for
- Leave a happy note for someone to find





art room
BRIGHTON

CHRISTMAS ART WORKSHOPS 2025

WEEK ONE

Monday 15th December: K-Pop Demon Hunters Christmas Special!
 Tuesday 16th December: Jamie Smart Christmas Cartoons
 Wednesday 17th December: Snoopy Christmas Special!
 Thursday 18th December: Kawaii Cute Christmas Workshop!
 Friday 19th December: K-Pop Demon Hunters Christmas Special!

Saturday 20th December:

Weekend PARENT & CHILD Christmas printing workshops
 10am - 12.30pm and 1pm - 3.30pm

WEEK TWO

Monday 22nd December: Jamie Smart Christmas Cartoons
 Tuesday 23rd December: K-Pop Demon Hunters Christmas Special!

ALL DAY WORKSHOPS SUITABLE FOR 6 - 13 YEAR OLDS

£40 PER DAY 9AM - 3PM

www.artroombrighton.co.uk



AS FEATURED IN
THE TIMES
the guardian
 The Daily Telegraph

AS SEEN ON


Teachers are graduates with PGCEs and enhanced DBS



TaDA! TOP ACT DRAMA ACADEMY

developing **confidence, self-esteem, teamwork**
 and, above all, **imagination**

TaDA! is thrilled to offer Junior drama club every Friday, starting right after school and finishing at 4:20pm. Drama classes provide a wonderful opportunity for your child to build their confidence, spark their imagination and develop creativity and spontaneity – all while having loads of fun in a safe, supportive and joyful environment.

Students say...

The activities are always different and always fun. Scarlett, Age 11

It's made me much more confident acting in a group. Frank, Age 9

It's the best club in the world. Toby, Age 7

I enjoy the freedom to express myself. Maddie, Age 11

**Only £7.50 per class.
 Book today!
 Limited Availability!**

**IMPROVISATION
 SPEECH/VOICE
 MIME
 ROLE PLAY
 CHARACTERISATION
 ACTING TECHNIQUES
 MOVEMENT
 THEATRE GAMES
 MUSICAL THEATRE
 STORYTELLING
 PUPPETEERING
 MASKS
 SCRIPT WORK**

Every class is tailored to suit the dynamics of each group and focused on developing specific skills.

Contact Us

mobile: 07841 115250
 email: claire@top-act.co.uk
www.top-act.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!
 Kind regards,
 Claire Lewis
 Principal

To register and for more information,
 please visit: www.top-act.co.uk – limited spaces available.

MONDAY 8 th	
TUESDAY 9 th	
WEDNESDAY 10 th	• Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm • Peter Gwillam (Gov) talking to Y6 re. Amnesty International pm
THURSDAY 11 th	• Interactive Fairy Tale Show for Reception - Year 2. Fairytale costumes or party clothes for children in Reception only • Hall in use for Y6 1.30 – 3 pm – Newman Y8 drama students
FRIDAY 12 th	
MONDAY 15 th	• Year 6 Nativity - 2.30pm
TUESDAY 16 th	• Year 2 Nativity - 9.15am • Year 5 Nativity - 2.30pm
WEDNESDAY 17 th	• Reception 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 18 th	• Year 1 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 19 th	• Class parties for all school and Father Christmas to visit Reception – Year 3. • School finishes for Christmas holidays
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January	
JANUARY 2026	
MONDAY 5 th	• Pupils return to school
TUESDAY 6 th	
WEDNESDAY 7 th	
THURSDAY 8 th	
FRIDAY 9 th	
MONDAY 12 th	
TUESDAY 13 th	
WEDNESDAY 14 th	• Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am • Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 15 th	• Closing Date for Local Authorities applications 2025/2026
FRIDAY 16 th	
MONDAY 19 th	
TUESDAY 20 th	
WEDNESDAY 21 st	• Year 5 St Josephine Forest School am • Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm • Year 6 school trip to Downs Junior Air Raid Shelter • Year 5 to Brighton Girls School – Space Day
THURSDAY 22 nd	• Reception and Year 6 Buddy Mass at Cardinal Newman School Chapel – parents welcome
FRIDAY 23 rd	• Year 2 school trip to the Sealife Centre
MONDAY 26 th	
TUESDAY 27 th	• Holocaust Memorial Day
WEDNESDAY 28 th	• Year 6 St Benedict Forest School am • Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 29 th	
FRIDAY 30 th	
FEBRUARY	
MONDAY 2 nd	
TUESDAY 3 rd	
WEDNESDAY 4 th	• Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am • Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm • Year 3 school trip to Brighton Museum
THURSDAY 5 th	• Year 1 and Year 5 Buddy Mass at Cardinal Newman School Chapel – parents welcome
FRIDAY 6 th	•
MONDAY 9 th	
TUESDAY 10 th	• Safer Internet Day – extra online safety lessons in school • Year 5 school trip to Brighton Pavilion
WEDNESDAY 11 th	• International day of women in science
THURSDAY 12 th	• Year 4 Viking workshop • PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 13 th	• PTA Valentines cake sale after school
HALF TERM Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field Tuesday 17 th February - Shrove Tuesday and Chinese New Year Lent - 18th February to Thursday 2 nd April Saturday 21 st February - Internation Mother Language Day	