



7th November 2025

Dear parents / carers



All Saints / All Souls

This week, children thought about All Souls' Day, which was on November 2nd. This day reminds us of people who are in Heaven. We talked about those people in Heaven that each one of us may like to remember. Some Mini Vinnies set up a prayer station where children could write prayers for those in Heaven. Thinking and praying for all those who have loved ones who are no longer here.

Remembrance Day

We have also been talking and thinking about



Remembrance Day. Our Tree of Remembrance has been added to our prayer area and children have been hanging up the names of people they want to remember. Children have thought about how, on 11th November, every year, we stop, think and take time out of our lives to think about those people who are in Heaven as a result of working to protect their own, and others', countries. At eleven o'clock on Remembrance Day, we have discussed how we will all stop for a two-minute silence. Children talked about how silence is good for remembering as it helps us to stop thinking about what is going on right now, or what we are going to do next but gives us time to reflect. Children thought about how they can honour and respect all those whom we want to remember as well as spend time thinking about all people who are in Heaven. We offer our prayers for all those in Heaven and our support for those left behind.



A Prayer of Remembrance

God, thank you for the people in our lives whom we are remembering in a special way during the month of November. We thank you for being a compassionate God who walks with us in our dark moments. We are thankful for all who continue to love and support us through our grief. Lord, continue to be a light for us, giving us hope and courage.

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples, and establish harmony among the nations.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Synod research Over the academic year, young people across all Catholic Schools in Brighton and Hove will be involved in the first 'synodal' process of its kind in England and Wales. Young people are being invited, and supported, to share their thoughts, hopes, and aspirations about our Church and how to make it a place where all young people can thrive. Our RE Council is leading on this Citizens UK Synodality Project to find out what encourages young people across the Brighton Deanery to take an active interest in their faith and church life. The Council trialled questions, which we hope will help our young people to express their views, by recording responses on large sheets of paper. They will now help their teachers lead this activity with their classes so that everyone's voice is heard. Responses will be fed back at the next Synodality Meeting with other schools.



Parking

Following liaison with Cllr Jacki O'Quinn, we have been informed that the Council will be increasing before- and after-school parking enforcement visits after the half-term break. A reminder that during school drop-off and pick-up times we urge you to park safely, considerately and in accordance with parking regulations to help ensure the safety and accessibility of the area for all. Thank you for your support.



School lunches

We invite School Governors to make random visits to see lunchtime in action. Here is some of the feedback from a recent one. *I chose the burger, sweetcorn and wedges. Salad was available on another table with bread. Water was on every table and the children were able to help themselves. I sat with Year 2 children who discussed their favourite food options during the week. They were wonderfully talkative. All pupils were polite and knew how to behave during and at the end of the lunch session. The food was of good quality and there was little left on any child's plate. They all enjoyed their meal choices. A positive visit as the food and the company were both enjoyable.*

Thank you for your ongoing support for the school. If you ever need to talk, please come and see me in the playground before or after school as we are always here to help. Have a restful weekend. Rachel Breen, Headteacher.

Reception September 2026 – 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 2026, 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. The deadline for Reception applications is 15th January.

The remaining dates and times are:

- 9am Monday 10th November
- 9am Tuesday 11th November
- 9am Wednesday 12th November
- 9am Monday 17th November
- 9am Tuesday 18th November
- 9am Wednesday 19th November



Please spread the word about Cottesmore and encourage friends and families to get in touch. We look forward to hearing from all prospective parents and are here to help in anyway.

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 9.15 am, 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 9.05 am, but they will close promptly at 9.15 am. If your child has a nativity play at 2.30 pm, Radinden Manor gates will open at 2.20 pm and they will close promptly at 2.30 pm. 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.

Children in Need

On Friday 14th November we will be asking all children to dress up in their own clothes to try and raise some money for Children in Need. Over the past 4 years, we have raised over £4000 for CIN and we would love to increase this amount. Any donation is optional. If you would like to donate online, please follow the link to our JustGiving page: https://www.justgiving.com/page/cottesmore-st-mary-hove-9?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



Governors' Building Fund and Gift Aid

As an Aided school, we are required to provide 10% of any money received for capital on maintenance works.

At present, all parents are asked to make a minimum voluntary contribution of £10 per term, or £30 a year, PER PUPIL (not family) into a ring-fenced fund so that we are able to meet these financial commitments. Some families are in a position to pay more, for which we are extremely grateful.

The 10% is required because Cottesmore St Mary is a Catholic Aided school. A Catholic Aided school is owned by the Diocese. However, an Aided school is funded by the Local Authority for day to day running costs. For example, the salaries of the staff, utilities and resources. Annually, Aided schools are able to bid for maintenance money, via the Diocese, who in turn are provided with money by the Department of Education. If bids are successful, an Aided school has to then fund 10% of the overall amount offered. Aided schools generate this 10% via annual or termly parental Gift Aid donations.

As an Aided school, if we are unable to provide 10% towards successful bids, the money is lost and any essential capital or maintenance spend has to come out of money that is provided by the Local Authority for the children. This year we were able to have brand new heating throughout the whole school as, thanks to the donations, we could pay the 10% needed to win the bid.

We ask that families create an annual or termly standing order for their contributions for each child that attends Cottesmore. Please don't forget to set an end date, for all standing orders, to be the summer that your child leaves Year 6 as we can't offer refunds once your child has left the school.

Payments can be arranged either via online banking or your mobile banking app for ease. It is also helpful if you complete the Gift Aid declaration form if you are a UK tax payer. Gift Aid is a Government backed scheme that allows the school to reclaim an additional 25p of tax for every £1.00 that you donate at no additional cost to you. This also goes towards releasing more money for our building fund. This extra money is also vital so please do contact the office if you need the form to be resent. Thank you so much.

Year 5 and 6 Film Show

The PTA are holding a Year 5 and 6 film night on Friday the 21st November. After speaking to the children, they decided on Minecraft the Movie (PG) (2025). This will take place after school and collection will be at 5.10 pm Radinden Manor Road exit. The cost is £5 to include a packet of crisps and a biscuit. Children are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to reduce single use plastic usage.

To sign up: Please follow the following link below. www.ticketsource.co.uk/socsevents

There are 128 tickets available for this screening. Any tickets remaining by the Friday 14th November will be offered out to siblings or other children who would like to join in the fun. If you have any questions about the event and/or would like to help out with the event please do not hesitate to contact us on friendsofcottesmoreprimary@gmail.com

Many thanks, PTA Film Team



Christmas Fair 2025

SAVE THE DATE
Friday 5th
December



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 10 th	- Anti-Bullying Week – Power for Good. - World Science Day – Peace and Development - Remembrance Day (Remembrance Sunday is Sunday 9th) 9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
TUESDAY 11 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 12 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School am Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 13 th	World Kindness Day
FRIDAY 14 th	- Year 5 Swimming - Children in Need - non school uniform in exchange for money towards collection
MONDAY 17 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
TUESDAY 18 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 19 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 - Year 2 St Monica Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 20 th	
FRIDAY 21 st	- Year 5 swimming - Year 5 and 6 PTA film night after school – more information to follow
MONDAY 24 th	
TUESDAY 25 th	
WEDNESDAY 26 th	- Year 2 St Patrick Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm - Years 3 – 6 Red Riding Hood pantomime at school at 9.30pm
THURSDAY 27 th	
FRIDAY 28 th	Year 5 swimming
DECEMBER	
MONDAY 1 st	Advent begins
TUESDAY 2 nd	Choir to Brighton Centre for One Voice Singing Festival (rehearsal in day and show in evening)
WEDNESDAY 3 rd	Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 4 th	
FRIDAY 5 th	Reception and Year 1 parent / carers Phonics workshop. School hall. 8.50am PTA Advent Fair, school hall and outside, 3.15pm – 4.30pm. School uniform day (or PE kit is usual PE day). Please bring donations of cakes and sweet treats
MONDAY 8 th	
TUESDAY 9 th	
WEDNESDAY 10 th	Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 11 th	Interactive Fairy Tale Show for Reception - Year 2. Fairytale costumes or party clothes for children in Reception only
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	

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JANUARY 2026	
MONDAY 5th	Pupils return to school
TUESDAY 6th	
WEDNESDAY 7th	
THURSDAY 8th	
FRIDAY 9th	
MONDAY 12th	
TUESDAY 13th	
WEDNESDAY 14th	- Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 15th	Closing Date for Local Authorities applications 2025/2026
FRIDAY 16th	
MONDAY 19th	
TUESDAY 20th	
WEDNESDAY 21st	- Year 6 St Benedict Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 22nd	Reception and Year 6 Buddy Mass at Cardinal Newman School Chapel – parents welcome
FRIDAY 23rd	Year 2 school trip to the Sealife Centre
MONDAY 26th	
TUESDAY 27th	Holocaust Memorial Day
WEDNESDAY 28th	- Year 5 St Josephine Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 29th	Year 6 school trip to Downs Junior Air Raid Shelter TBC
FRIDAY 30th	
FEBRUARY	
MONDAY 2nd	
TUESDAY 3rd	
WEDNESDAY 4th	- Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm - Year 3 school trip to Brighton Museum
THURSDAY 5th	Year 1 and Year 5 Buddy Mass at Cardinal Newman School Chapel – parents welcome
FRIDAY 6th	
MONDAY 9th	
TUESDAY 10th	Safer Internet Day – extra online safety lessons in school
WEDNESDAY 11th	International day of women in science
THURSDAY 12th	- Year 5 school trip to Brighton Pavilion TBC - Year 4 Viking workshop - PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 13th	PTA Valentines cake sale after school

HALF TERM
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February
Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field

Tuesday 17th February - Shrove Tuesday and Chinese New Year
Lent - 18th February to Thursday 2nd April

Saturday 21st February - Internation Mother Language Day