



12th September 2025

Dear parents / carers



Welcome back It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back at the school. As a Catholic school, community plays a pivotal role in all that we do and it is a real pleasure to have the whole school back together. As ever, we have been so impressed with how well everyone has settled back into school life and the wonderful attitudes that have already been shown. It has been a delight to welcome new members to the school family - both new staff, new children and new parents. As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need anything at all. Thank you again for all your kind cards, generous gifts and thoughtful emails at the end of term. Your support is always very much appreciated. It is a real treat to work with your super children each day.

Summer work We have had a very busy summer in school. The whole school has been fitted with new radiators, thermostats and pipework. What we had was archaic! We are also delighted to say that the huts now have units that will offer additional heat in winter as well as cool air in summer. As you can imagine, this was a HUGE job and the building was turned upside down. I wish I had taken photographs along the way as it's so hard to imagine now. Mr Clark and our cleaning team did an amazing job ensuring that the school was ready for the children's return. Amongst other things, we also worked on recruitment for Front of House – thank you for your help promoting this.

Welcome Reception We have been delighted to welcome the new Reception children, and their families, to Cottesmore St Mary. We have been impressed with how well the children have adapted to their new routines and it has been an utter pleasure to visit their classes and see them playing and learning alongside their new friends in class. As well as familiarising themselves with their new class and the range of activities on offer, there have been get-to-know you games and children have even practised writing their name and drawn self portraits. It's been wonderful to see them adapt so quickly and grow in confidence – they have been so grown up in the dining hall at lunchtime. We're very proud of them.



Welcome Mass Canon David led a Welcome Mass for children in Years 2 – 6 this week, to celebrate the beginning of the new school year as well as to formally welcome new staff and all new children. This was also a Teaching Mass so Mrs Fairbanks talked the children through each part of the Mass and why we do and say what we do and what we can be thinking during certain parts. We prayed for each other and the whole school family. Canon David encouraged children to think about how they can be kind, just like Jesus. The children sang beautifully. It was a lovely way to welcome everyone back as well as those who are new.



Mission and Values In class, children in Years 1 – 6 have reflected on, and completed activities linked to, our Mission and Values that reflect the ethos of the school. They also thought about the school's Latin motto, 'Mane Nobiscum Domine' (Stay with Us Lord / Abide with us O Lord) that we keep as a nod to the history of the school. Not many schools are as old as Cottesmore or have the history that we do, so we always feel that it is important to keep something that came before us and this motto has been with the school for many, many years. Our Learning Muscles continue to run alongside the school Mission and Values. We review all of these annually so, if you have any feedback regarding any changes you'd like to see, please do get in touch.



Our Mission



*As a community of life-long learners,
with Christ at the centre,
we strive to do our best and make a difference to the world.*

*Dare to dream and always have hope,
reaching Jesus to others through the choices we make,
while living life to the full.*



*Mane Nobiscum Domine - Stay with us Lord
Luke 24:29*

LOVE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Here's to another super year and a big welcome to all who are new. Rachel Breen, Headteacher.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs from 7.35am – 8.30am. It is drop in. The cost to attend Breakfast Club is £3.50 from 7.35am and £3 from 8am. Please note that last orders for breakfast are at 8.15am so any child arriving after that, will need to pay the usual amount but will have to eat breakfast at home. Before your child attends Breakfast Club, please ensure that your ParentPay Breakfast Club account is in credit. Most families top this up weekly or monthly to ensure there is always enough to cover costs. You do not need to pre book places but you do need to have enough funds in the account to cover each session. Due to previous large debts being accrued in the past, we are no longer able to offer access to children whose account isn't in credit and, we are sorry to say but your child is unable to attend Breakfast Club until this has been cleared.

We offer free Breakfast Club places to any families in receipt of Free School Meals, linked to Pupil Premium. We have a list of who is in receipt of this so you do not need to email in. We can also offer fully or part funded places as hardship support for families who may need some extra help from time to time. If your family would benefit from some hardship support, please email annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk who will be happy to discuss possible support.

Nut free school

Due to allergies, we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. An allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of nut products, cross contamination and breathing nut dust in the air. This condition can be life threatening, so please avoid giving children nuts or nut products in their packed lunches or for snacks. Caterlink, who provide our school lunches, ensures that all they provide is nut free. Many foods are labelled as 'may have been produced in a factory handling nuts' or 'may contain traces of nuts'. Such items can be brought into school, we are referring to those that identify that nuts are present. If a member of staff notices a pupil eating something that is not permitted (this also includes other food not permitted in school, such as sweets), the item will be removed and the member of staff will explain why this has to be done. Thank you in advance.



Staff car park – for staff only please

A reminder that the staff car park is for staff only. It is not for dropping off for Breakfast Club, choir, or another reason to be in school early or for picking up from Starfish. Please park on The Upper Drive. You can then walk down the path that runs behind the staff car park and buzz in through the Breakfast club gate. Also, please don't use the car park for drop off at usual time, if wet weather, or because you are late. Parent cars pulling into the car park increases risk of car park accidents. We have also had times when staff members were unable to enter the car park due to parents dropping children off. This then impacts the working day of the school and ensuring everything runs smoothly.



Staff only

PTA AGM – 8th October – All welcome!

We're excited to let you know that our PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is happening on Wednesday 8th October, 7pm, in the school hall. Everyone is welcome.

It's a great way to meet other parents, share your ideas and find out how you can help make our school even more special for the children. We'd love to see lots of you there. Thank you to our amazing PTA for all they / you do.

Homework

Reading books and records will be sent home Monday 15th September (Reception will be the week after). The first homework will have been posted on Seesaw today, Friday 12th September. Don't forget to ask your child's class teacher for a hand out if you prefer.

Charge for School Meals

As some children enter Year 3, a reminder that unless families are in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), meals eaten will need to be paid for via ParentPay. We ask that you keep the account in credit. The cost of a meal is £2.65.

Meet your child's new teacher and see the classroom

You are invited to see your child's new class, meet their teacher and find out more about the year ahead.

Visits to Years 3-6, Monday 15th September 8.55am-9.20am.

Visits to Years 1-2, Tuesday 16th September 8.55am-9.20am.

Visits to Reception, Monday 22nd September 8.55-9.20am.

If you have children in differing classes, but in the same key stage, you can move between both (if their sessions are on the same day). If you would like to attend these sessions, we ask that you drop your child at school as usual time (8.40am latest in class) so they can be registered. You can go offsite and return at 8.55am (Radinden Manor gate only) or wait in playground, until 8.55am. This will allow teachers the chance to settle the children and take them to Songs of Worship. After this, at 8.55am, families wishing to visit Year 1, Year 2 St Patrick, Year 5 and Year 6 will be invited to enter the school, via the cloister (wooden) doors by the school hall and can make their way to their child's class. If your child is in the huts, you can wait outside them as you will be invited in from their own entrances. If your child is in Year 2 St Monica (downstairs with Miss Price), you can wait outside her classroom door, on the KS1 playground, and she will invite you through that when ready. If your child is in Reception, you can wait outside the Reception classroom doors as you will be invited in through those. There will be no formal presentation or talk from the class teachers, this is just an opportunity to put a face to their name and see your child's classroom. The class teacher and TA will be there to answer any 1:1 questions. A Class Information Sheet will be given out at the session and this will have all the information you might need for the year ahead. This handout will also be sent out via Ping so don't worry if you are unable to make these sessions, you won't miss anything other than seeing the classroom and saying hello to the teacher and TA.

MONDAY 15 th	- All new Reception children full day 8.30am – 3.10pm - Reading books and reading records sent home (these will be checked every Monday) - KS2 meet the new teacher 8.55am – 9.20am
TUESDAY 16 th	Year 1 and Year 2 meet the new teacher 8.55am – 9.20am
WEDNESDAY 17 th	- Year 6 St Benedict Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 18 th	
FRIDAY 19 th	Year 5 Swimming
MONDAY 22 nd	- Fairtrade Fortnight - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
TUESDAY 23 rd	- Reception meet the new teachers 8.55am – 9.20am - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
WEDNESDAY 24 th	- Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
THURSDAY 25 th	- Stone Age man visiting Year 3 in School Hall - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
FRIDAY 26 th	- European Languages Day - celebrating languages spoken in school - Year 5 Swimming - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER	OCTOBER = MONTH OF THE ROSARY and BLACK HISTORY MONTH
MONDAY 29 th	Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
TUESDAY 30 th	- Flu Vaccinations – all years - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
WEDNESDAY 1 st	- Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
THURSDAY 2 nd	- Individual and sibling school photographs - all to wear school uniform eg no Forest school or PE clothes - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
FRIDAY 3 rd	- Year 5 Swimming - Year 4 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
SUNDAY 5 th	Grandparents Day
OCTOBER	
MONDAY 6 th	
TUESDAY 7 th	
WEDNESDAY 8 th	- Year 5 St Josephine Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm - PTA AGM and drinks. 7pm School hall – all parents welcome.
THURSDAY 9 th	
FRIDAY 10 th	- Year 5 Swimming - World Mental Health Day and World Homeless Day - Year 6, level 2 bikeability, 8 children, on road so adult needed. 1.15pm – 2.45pm. Bring – or borrow – bike and helmet. - PTA Year 3 Welcome to KS2 Welcome Disco 3.15pm – 4.30pm
MONDAY 13 th	Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
TUESDAY 14 th	9am - Reception Harvest. Forest School, parents welcome - Year 6 Harvest Mass (with other schools), Newman. Children only (school uniform). - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
WEDNESDAY 15 th	- Year 5 and 6 choir to Glyndebourne (Midsummer's Night Dream) 9am - Year 2 Harvest. Forest School, parents welcome - Year 4 St Cuthman Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
THURSDAY 16 th	9am - Year 3, 4 and 5 Harvest mass, parents welcome (school uniform) - Parent Consultation phone calls and SEN 3.20pm - 6pm - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
FRIDAY 17 th	9am - Year 1 Harvest. Forest School, parents welcome - Show Racism the Red Card Day - wear red today - Year 5 Swimming - Year 6 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet) - PTA Reception Welcome Disco 4.30pm – 5.45pm
MONDAY 20 th	
TUESDAY 21 st	Parent Consultation phone calls and SEN 3.20pm - 6pm
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	- Year 4 St Lewinna Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 23 rd	- PTA uniform sale after school - items between £1 and £2 - PTA Spooky Cake Sale after school – please bring in shop bought / homemade donations and leave them in the KS2 structure before school. Nothing containing nuts.
FRIDAY 24 th	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
HALF TERM HOLIDAY Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field Friday 31st October Closing date for secondary school applications	

NOVEMBER	
MONDAY 3 rd	
TUESDAY 4 th	9am -10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 5 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 - Year 3 St Martin Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 6 th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
FRIDAY 7 th	Year 5 Swimming
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 donataions 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	