



14th November 2025

Dear parents / carers

Anti-Bullying Week



Anti-Bullying Week took place this week with the theme 'The Power of Good'. Children have been encouraged to use their Power for Good to safely speak up and raise awareness when they see bullying, face to face or online. Key messages the children have learnt:

- Each of us holds a power - the power to choose kindness, to speak up, to stand beside someone who feels alone. Bullying behaviour thrives in silence, but when we use our voices, our actions, and our choices for good, we create positive change.
- Being powerful doesn't mean being loud or forceful. It means having the courage to do what's right, even when it's hard. It means including others, standing up when someone is being hurt, and creating a community where everyone feels safe and valued.
- It takes real strength to be kind in a world that isn't always fair. Choosing kindness is a powerful act – not a weakness. Stand tall. Speak kindly. Be the strength someone else might need today.

As part of our Anti-Bullying work, we revisit the definition of bullying with pupils / students. We define bullying as:

"...behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via social media or the internet) and it usually involves a power imbalance. It can involve verbal taunts, name calling, physical injury, and damage to property, rumour spreading, shunning or ridicule and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of ethnicity, religion, belief, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation or disability, or because a child is in care, has caring responsibilities or mental health issues. It might be motivated by actual differences, perceived differences or as a result of association with someone else."

At Cottesmore St Mary, we remember the Anti-Bullying definition as: Several Times On Purpose (STOP).

Our school's Anti-Bullying Policy is reviewed and updated regularly. Please click the link to read about our Anti-Bullying provisions: https://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/uploads/policy_docs/Sept2022_Updates/AntiBullyingPolicy2022.pdf

In addition, we have a "child-friendly" version of this policy,

'Cottesmore St Mary's Guide to Anti-Bullying' which has been written by and for Cottesmore children. You can access a copy of this document here:

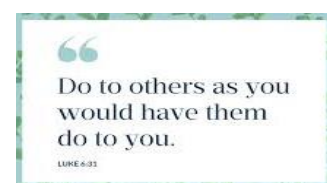
<https://cottesmorewebcontent.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/antibullying2019/antibullying.html#p=1>

Please visit our Anti-Bullying webpage

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

World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day was also this week. Children explored ways they can be kind to others and also themselves. They explored how one kind word leads to another and how kindness fuels kindness.



If you have concerns in connection with anything relating to kindness and anti-bullying, please contact your child's class teacher. We are all here to help and always want children to feel safe and secure.

Children in Need

Thank you so much for your kind donations for Children in Need. If you would still like to donate online, please follow the link to our JustGiving page. We have already surpassed our target and, thanks to online donations, currently at £399, as well as cash donations of £120.60. We have raised £519.60. How super. The Just Giving page will remain live over the weekend for any alter contributions. https://www.justgiving.com/page/cottesmore-st-mary-hove-9?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



Remembrance

Following on from Remembrance information in last week's newsletter, Mini Vinnies took part in a special prayer space focusing on people we love who we miss. They thought about when someone they love leaves or dies, the gap that they can leave in their lives and how they might miss them. Minnie Vinnie's wrote the person's name and said a quiet prayer noting all the good memories they had with them.

Praying for all families who have lost people they love. Thank you for your kind CIN donations. Wishing you an enjoyable weekend. Rachel Breen, Headteacher.

Advent Fair and Donation Week We are delighted to announce that our Advent Fair will take place on Friday 5th December. To help make the event a great success, we will be holding a rolling drop-off week for donations from Monday, 1st December to Friday, 5th December. This year, instead of a weekly rotation of items, we kindly invite families to drop off any of the following at the KS2 shelter at your convenience throughout that week:

- Teddies in good condition
- Bottles of wine or similar
- Boxed chocolates



Thank you for your generous support. We look forward to celebrating the Advent season together. The PTA Team.

Changes to site access

For safeguarding reasons, from Monday 17th November, only parents, carers or those directly collecting children from Cottesmore will be able to go onto their school site, both in the morning and at the end of the day. This will impact Newman students who sometimes use the school grounds as a shortcut to Radinden Manor. From Monday, most secondary aged pupils will be asked to walk around the site using the public roads. Older siblings, from secondary schools, may collect their Cottesmore siblings, but are asked that they do so without their own friendship groups and only do so if they are taking the child home or meeting a parent or carer. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

Autumn Termly [second half] Overviews on Website

The Half Termly Overviews for the 2nd half of the Autumn Term have been published on the relevant year group pages on our school website. These overviews give you detailed information about the upcoming topics and, whether it's exciting science topics, creative art projects, or language learning opportunities, there's something for every child to look forward to. We encourage you to find out, and have conversations with your child, about what they will be studying at school: perhaps you would like to investigate further, provide background reading or extra practice/support at home. If you have any questions about forthcoming topics, please speak to class teachers.

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.

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. 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 in this matter.



E-scooter trial public consultation 10th November to 21st December 2025 – message from B&H Council

We are considering taking part in a controlled trial of an e-scooter hire scheme, operated by Beryl, the city's current Bikeshare provider. If approved, the trial would begin in summer 2026 and offer residents and visitors a new, affordable, and sustainable way to travel. We want to hear your views on safety measures, hire zones, hub locations and how e-scooters could fit into the city's transport network. You can access the survey at any time from Monday 10th November here <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/escooter-survey> It will take around 10 to 15 minutes to complete and is open until Sunday, 21st December 2025.



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.

BRM Parent and carer support

The first city wide parent forum for BRM parents / carers and parents / carers of BRM children and young people is taking place on Monday 26th January at Friends Meeting House 6.30pm to 8.30pm. The Brighton and Hove City Council's Anti-Racist Team would love to see you there.



Governor vacancy

School governors play a vital role in education. By volunteering as a governor for a school, you can make a difference by shaping the future of children and young people. We are in need of a Foundation (Catholic) Governor at Cottesmore. If you are Catholic and feel that you have some time to give to helping further develop our school, please do get in touch with our joint Chairs of Governors, Katie Raymond and Thomas Medveczky

katieraymond@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

thomasmedveczky@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

What is Governance?

The Governor's role is to both support and challenge the school leadership team. In their latest Governance Handbook, the Department for Education (DfE) is encouraging governors to focus on three core functions:

- Strategic Direction: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Critical Friend: holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Ensure Accountability: overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

How do I start?

- Our Chair would contact you for an informal chat to discuss the role, hours taken to fulfil it, how you would be supported etc. Following that, if still interested, as part of our school's commitment to Safer Recruiting practices, our Chair would contact you for interview. This will also be an opportunity to plan specific roles that will suit you as a member of our body.
- You will be given a Diocesan Application Form. This includes a declaration that must be signed by a Parish Priest.
- As you would be working around young people, you would be asked to fill the forms for a standard DBS background check. Please do consider offering your time in this very worthwhile voluntary position.

For more information about Governance, you may wish to follow these links: <https://www.nga.org.uk/about/become-a-governor-trustee/>

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/education/governance>





PASSIONE
NAPOLETANA
Pizza

Advent Fair 2025

5th December

3:10 – 4:30

LILLYS VAN
HOT DRINKS
Waffles
& **HOT DOG**

GAMES & CRAFTS • FACE PAINTING • HAIR BRAIDING
WINE/CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA • TEDDY TOMBOLA
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES • FOOTBALL SHOOTOUT
BASKETBALL CHALLENGE • CAKE DECORATING
EXTERNAL STALLS • AND MUCH MORE



**MR MARVEL
MAGIC SHOWS**



WITH THANKS TO OUR
GENEROUS SPONSOR

**Nicholas
James**

MONDAY 17th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
TUESDAY 18th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 19th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 - Year 2 St Monica Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 20th	
FRIDAY 21st	- Year 5 swimming - Year 5 and 6 PTA film night after school – more information to follow
MONDAY 24th	
TUESDAY 25th	
WEDNESDAY 26th	- 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 27th	
FRIDAY 28th	Year 5 swimming
DECEMBER	
MONDAY 1st	Advent begins
TUESDAY 2nd	Choir to Brighton Centre for One Voice Singing Festival (rehearsal in day and show in evening)
WEDNESDAY 3rd	Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 4th	
FRIDAY 5th	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 8th	
TUESDAY 9th	
WEDNESDAY 10th	Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 11th	Interactive Fairy Tale Show for Reception - Year 2. Fairytale costumes or party clothes for children in Reception only
FRIDAY 12th	
MONDAY 15th	Year 6 Nativity - 2.30pm
TUESDAY 16th	- Year 2 Nativity - 9.15am - Year 5 Nativity - 2.30pm
WEDNESDAY 17th	- 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 18th	- 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 19th	- Class parties for all school and Father Christmas to visit Reception – Year 3. - School finishes for Christmas holidays
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd 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 - Year 6 school trip to Downs Junior Air Raid Shelter
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	
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	