



17th October 2025

Dear parents / carers

Harvest

Thank you to the children who helped us reflect on Harvest and encouraged us to think about how important it is to give thanks for what we have as well as sharing what we have with others. Children in KS1 led their own Harvest liturgies within the Forest school area and it was a pleasure to invite parents to celebrate with us. What wonderful singing, prayers, readings and musical accompaniment we enjoyed. Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 took part in a reflective Mass, with parents, and it was a pleasure to worship together, giving thanks to the Lord for the abundant fruits and blessings He provides. Thanks to your donations, £340 was collected, as well as lots of food for Hangleton and Blatchington Food Bank and City Mission. Thank you for your generosity. Children in Year 6 took part in a special Mass at Cardinal Newman alongside Year 6 children from all other local Catholic schools. The focus of the Mass was saying thank you 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 respectfully and showed themselves to be great ambassadors for our school. Rose confidently read the prayer she had written and the Year 5 and 6 children from our Mass Choir represented the school magnificently, singing the Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation from the Sanctuary. Cardinal Newman school gifted all participating schools a Carlo Acutis votive candle for their prayer tables. Thank you to Newman for hosting this.



Year 3 disco

Year 3 children enjoyed their 'welcome to KS2' disco last week. A big thank you to the PTA for organising this free, event. The children danced and danced whilst adults were able to chat. It was a pleasure to watch the children, amongst their friends, having such a good time.



Show Racism the Red Card and Black History Month

We recognised Show Racism the Red Card day today. Children / staff came into school wearing red items of clothing. Children took part in lessons focusing on consequences of racism and how to be an upstander. They spent time reflecting on how we can all be actively anti-racist in our daily lives and shared thoughtful ideas about kindness, respect and fairness for everyone. Children wrote special prayers asking for courage to ensure that they always have the courage to stand up for what is right as well as for a world where everyone is treated equally. In Year 5, children also focused on the story 'Don't Touch My Hair.' They discussed how everyone's hair is beautiful and unique and talked about how hair can represent many things, like culture, identity and heritage. They discussed the importance of asking for consent before touching someone's hair, even when the intention is kind, as everyone deserves to have their personal space respected. Posters were created to display sharing the anti-racism message and commitment to equality and respect.



As a school, we want to develop a generation of anti-racist citizens who can all play a part in making the world a more just and inclusive place. Black History Month offers the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the positive impact of black heritage and culture. The history of Black people and people of colour is represented throughout our school curriculum throughout the school year. We continually reflect on our practice and ways in which we can further diversify and decolonise our curriculum. We work to ensure every child feels seen and celebrated through the resources we use.

Our book list which celebrates Black authors and ideas for books for home: <https://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/uploads/Reading/DiverseReadingBooksList2022.pdf> For more information, do visit our Anti-racism and Racial Literacy webpage on our school website.

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



We are committed to making a difference to this aspect of education and understanding of children within our school. If you would like to be involved, please get in touch with us. Have a lovely 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. We encourage you to complete the SIF form sooner rather than later, especially if you require a signature. The deadline for Reception applications is 15th January. Please encourage families who are new to our area to visit one of our open days. The dates and times 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 re-watch a video that we created when parents were unable to visit the school. Please do share this with friends.

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

The Admissions Page of our school website also contains a range of helpful information.

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

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. If schools don't fill, they lose vital funds so getting as many applications as possible is vital.



Volunteer Readers

We are keen to welcome parents and carers to become volunteer readers at Cottesmore. We believe that reading opens doors for children and it is our passion to make every child a reader. Regular practice plays such an important role in becoming fluent and confident. If you are able to give at least half an hour of your time, consistently every week, for at least one school term, we would love to hear from you. Please email

katiemcfarland@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk if you are interested. As part of the process, we will ask for two references and documents needed for us to complete a DBS. Please note that volunteer readers will be placed in year groups other than that of their own child.

School Photographs

We're delighted to inform you that the photos are now live on our website for parents to view and purchase. If they took home the shoot sheet on photography day, you already have everything you need to order but as these often get lost, full proofs have also been sent home so you can maximise the time you have to take advantage of the **free delivery offer which expires on 19th October**.

Using the secure link and code sent to you, you can:

- Choose from a variety of print sizes and packages including customisable packs
- Order keepsakes, special prints and gifts to treasure at home or share with family
- Unique add-ons that you've never seen before

This Year's Special Offers

- Buy 2, get 3rd free on digital downloads
- 10% discount on additional prints or packages ordered at the same time (ideal for families)
- Up to 50% off on selected add-on products.

Ordering online is quick and easy, and all purchases help support your school. We hope you enjoy looking through your child's photographs. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of capturing these special moments.

Kind regards, JP Photographic Ltd. Team

INSET Day

Don't forget that the school has an INSET day and is closed to pupils on Friday 24th October.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE

THANK YOU...

to everyone who donated and bought from the uniform sale yesterday!

TOGETHER WE RAISED

£245

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Free Cricket Holiday Camps

These camps are currently only for students who receive free school meals.

We are running two FREE All Stars Cricket holiday camps during the October half term for children aged 5 - 8 years at the home of Sussex County Cricket Club. These fun-filled sessions are a great chance for children to get active, make friends, and develop new skills. The camps are suitable for any child, regardless of their previous cricket experience. It does not matter if they have never picked up a bat before or if they already play regularly for a club – everyone is welcome. The day will involve lots of fun cricket activities, run by fully qualified, first aid-trained, and DBS-checked coaches. Each participant will also receive a free personalised All Stars T-shirt, backpack, cricket bat and ball to take home.

Camp Dates – please note children may attend ONE date
Monday 27th October 2025 – Bursary code: MIZVQ
Tuesday 28th October 2025 – Bursary code: EGY5W
Important: Please only book one course per child. Multiple bookings will not be accepted.

Location: The Indoor School, at the 1st Central County Ground, Eaton Road, Hove, BN3 3AN

Timings: Drop-off at 09:00. Pick-up at 15:00.

Who: Boys and girls, aged 5–8 years.

Cost: Free – input the bursary code during checkout to remove the cost of the camp booking. Each parent/carer can book for up to 3 children.

Places are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and students from other schools in the local area will also have the opportunity to book on. We advise you to book on quickly to avoid spaces filling up, as we are unable to increase the capacity of these camps.

For more details or questions, please contact Ayscha Woods at: ayscha.woods@sussexcricket.co.uk



Pings and School Newsletter

Following our Parent Survey last year, one point for development was to reduce the number of Pings that families received.

The weekly newsletter will now be used as the one document that contains all you need to know. For example, information about e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter events (times, gates, who needs to bring what). Things such as how and when to book for Parents' Evening will also be added here and you won't be sent a separate Ping. Half termly overviews and documents such as a Meet the New Teacher notes will be signposted via the newsletter e.g. where to find them on the school website. Flyers for holiday clubs will only be sent via the newsletter, reminders for PTA events, booking information etc. If you find reading the newsletter, sent via Ping, hard to read on your mobile phone, access it via the school website as, when you open it here, it has been edited so it fits a phone screen.

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

Some things will still be sent via Ping. For example, bumped head notification, personalised reminders e.g. Breakfast Club, school lunches, school trips etc. Some things such as Flu Vaccination information, will also be sent via Ping as they will have consent forms attached. There will be times when things are sent via Ping that you feel maybe shouldn't have been and, as we navigate a new way of working, we would welcome any feedback regarding Pings you have received that you feel could have just been included in the newsletter.

We will not send reminder Pings about school events and things needed for these e.g. Forest School clothes etc. as we will expect parents to have read the school dates (also in the newsletter) and made a note. However, we do find that, when we don't send Ping reminders, some parents do call the office to check if things are happening / find information. In future, please look at the newsletter or use WhatsApp groups first to ensure you've done all you can to find the answers, before calling the school. Staff in the office are incredibly busy and calling them for questions that can be answered by looking at certain documents, means that they are taken away from other tasks that impact the children in a positive way.

We are currently drafting a Parent Handbook which contains a summary of many important Pings sent over the last two years so you have one document to also refer to for information relating to parking, uniform, medicines, absence, lost property, snacks etc.

We enjoy working in partnership with you and are open to any feedback with regards to communication.



10th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers/Guardians,

The council is increasingly concerned about the impact of smartphones on our children's development and wellbeing, and we know this concern is shared across many of our school leaders, teachers and school staff.

Smartphones have become an integral part of modern life, with most adults relying on them to access information and stay connected with family and friends.

However, research suggests that smartphones and social media can have negative effects on children and teenagers. Many children receive their first phone while still in primary school, and by the age of 12, the majority already own a smartphone.

- A group of Brighton & Hove schools have come together and committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to make our city schools smartphone-free.
- Most children already cannot use smartphones during the school day: the majority of secondary schools across Brighton & Hove have a smartphone-free policy. Similarly, most primary schools do not allow phones to be used during the school day.

Brighton & Hove City Council fully supports schools in Brighton & Hove which decide to become smartphone free.

We anticipate a shift in the coming years, with fewer children receiving smartphones upon entering secondary school. This expectation is based upon a growing awareness that smartphones are not essential for school attendance and an increasing understanding of the risks associated with early smartphone use.

Several secondary schools have already introduced parent pacts for students in Year 7, and it is expected that participation in such initiatives will continue to increase annually. While exceptions may be made for children with specific medical requirements or those acting as young carers, these cases are few and should be reviewed by the child's school on an individual basis.

A growing number of parents and schools across the country are choosing to take this action. If you need to contact your child while they travel to and from school, a simple 'brick' phone will allow for this. 'Brick' phones do not have internet connectivity, and they are inexpensive.

We would like to work together with parents to safeguard children, preserve childhood and continue to develop important transferable life skills. **We would ask that families help us by signing up and agreeing not to provide a smartphone until their child is 14** (unless they have a specific need for one). By doing so, we will protect our children's mental health and wellbeing and set a standard for how communities can come together to challenge the norms that no longer serve our children.

If you would like to find out more about support for parents who want their children to be smartphone free, do please visit [Smartphone Free Childhood](#).

Yours faithfully,



Cllr Emma Daniel
Cabinet Lead for Children, Families & Youth Services

MONDAY 20 th	
TUESDAY 21 st	Parent Consultation phone calls and SEN 3.20pm - 6pm Year 6 Height and Weight
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	Year 4 St Lewinna Forest School am Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 23 rd	- 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. - PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 24 th	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
HALF TERM HOLIDAY Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field Friday 31 st 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	