



17th December 2025

Dear parents / carers

Thank you

A big thank you to the children who bring our school to life every day. Well done for doing your best this term – you should be very proud of yourselves. Thank you to the whole staff team, providing wonderful opportunities, both academically and holistically, for all in our care. We really are blessed to have such a fantastic team of adults who give above and beyond in order to make the children's school experience enjoyable. Thank you to you, the parents and carers, for your continued support. The staff, myself included, would like to thank you for your generous Christmas gifts and kind messages – we are very touched. Thank you to PTA, and all who help out on events, as you make such a difference to our school community ensuring that we are able to provide extra resources to support the children's school experiences. Finally, a big thank you to our Parish Priests and Governors for all your guidance, support and hard work. Working with you is so valued and we appreciate all that you do. How blessed we are.

Christmas Liturgies

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Christ and the children have done a wonderful job of helping us to do just that. It has been wonderful to be able to share year group Christmas Liturgies with you. During these, the children have encouraged us to think about the Joy of Christmas and the Hope brought to us through the birth of Jesus. They warmed our souls with traditional and festive songs, sharing readings all whilst completing tableaux reflecting the Nativity. These were atmospheric and offered reflection whilst allowing us to celebrate together. Thank you to all, especially the children who always remind us of the meaning of Christmas so well. Thanks to your kind donations, over £500 was raised for B&H Foodbank and City Mission. Keeping all families supported by these charities in our prayers.



Singing at Brighton Pavilion and on Regency Radio

Last weekend, the choir serenaded Christmas shoppers and visitors as they sung a range of Christmas songs outside Brighton Pavilion. What an atmospheric and festive experience for all! The children did a super job entertaining passers-by. Thank you to Mr Bondonno. Wonderfully festive!



It was also super to hear the choir on Regency Radio today. The choir was pre-recorded, singing a range of Christmas songs and some of the children were interviewed. What a wonderful term it has been for the choir!

Year 5 Schools Singing Programme Children in Year 5 have been part of the Diocesan-run Schools' Singing Programme again this year. They receive weekly choral sessions with a Diocesan singing teacher. Schools involved, across the Diocese, created a beautiful recording of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem.' This has formed the Christmas card from the Diocesan Education Service 2025. Year 5 from Cottesmore are seen singing at 2min 32secs but the whole card is well worth a watch. <https://vimeo.com/1145678083>



Christmas celebrations

It is always a pleasure to work in a school pre Christmas and see everything through the eyes of the excited children. Children enjoyed dressing up in Christmas jumpers and listening to Christmas music as they enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner. Party games were played and party food eaten during Christmas class parties and Father Christmas even took time to make a visit to children in KS1.



Thank you again for the kind and thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts. They really are appreciated. It is such a pleasure to work with your wonderful children every day and to be a part of our lovely school community. Wishing you all an enjoyable, restful and blessed Christmas and see you in the new year. Rachel Breen, Headteacher.

Vacancy for Midday Supervisor Assistant

The Governors of Cottesmore St Mary wish to appoint a Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our motivated, enthusiastic and committed lunchtime team.

This role will require you to work Monday – Friday 11.30am – 1pm. During which, you will:

- Supervise the children while eating their lunch
- Encourage and motivate children to eat their lunch
- Set up and clear away playground equipment
- Encourage and promote positive play

We are looking for someone who is committed to the Catholic vision of our school and enjoys working with children aged 4-11.

Closing Date: Friday 2nd January 2026

Interview Date: Wednesday 7th / Thursday 8th / Friday 9th January 2026 tbc.

Start date: As soon as possible after interview - pending checks.

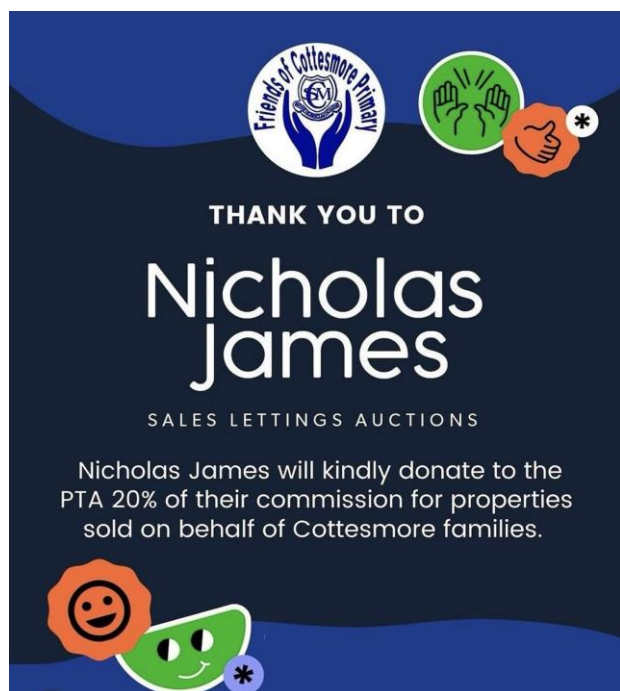
The application pack is available on the school vacancies page of the school website.

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

A hard copy of the pack is also available upon request from the school. Please contact the office on 01273 555811.

We look forward to receiving your application. Please can all completed applications be sent to:

rachelbreen@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk



Nicholas James have pledged to donate 20% of their commission to the school for any properties sold or let through Nicholas James by Cottesmore families. All you need to do is let them know when you instruct them that you're a Cottesmore family and they'll do the rest. We're so grateful for their continued support which is helping to make a difference to our school and children.

Financial support / heating this winter

We are aware that families may be facing financial challenge this winter. As ever, we want to work closely with families who may be finding things a challenge. We can signpost to organisations that can help with a range of support should any family wish to reach out. On occasions, we are also able to access specific grants that may help. We are always able to offer free uniform to families who are facing financial challenge as well as shoes, coats and other items.

Club support

We are aware that there are a significant number of families who don't quite meet the criteria for Pupil Premium funding but are also finding things a challenge. We currently offer Pupil Premium children £50 towards a club of their choice, each term, so please get in touch if you have not yet accessed this. We also have access to some free spaces in a range of after school clubs, as well as holiday clubs, which we reserve for other families in certain circumstances. If you do not meet the criteria for Pupil Premium funding but are on a low income and finding it hard to fund such activities, please do get in touch so we can see if we can help. All information will be treated in confidence but we will have to ask some personal questions in order to prioritise who gets what help. Please email:

annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Christmas Jumpers

Don't forget to donate any outgrown Christmas jumpers to the school. These will be saved and given to families who may need additional support. If we receive lots, we will hold a seconds sale which will help with sustainability.



Tinsel

If you have any unwanted tinsel at home that you no longer need, we would be very grateful for donations as this can be used as part of our table decorations at next year's Christmas dinner. We are hoping to reuse and recycle materials where possible. Any colour or length would be welcome. Please bring any donations in when we return after the Christmas break.

Eco Working Group

We would like to invite volunteers to join our school's ECO Working Group. As a Gold accredited school, we are incredibly proud of our environmental education strategy, one that we are dedicated to maintaining, strengthening, and building upon. Our aim is to continue developing meaningful and sustainable initiatives that support all pupils in becoming responsible and environmentally conscious citizens. To do this, we would love to further work in partnership with parents and carers who have an interest in the environment, sustainability, or simply a desire to contribute to our ongoing eco efforts. Our first meeting will take place on: Wednesday, 28th January, 2pm - 3pm. If you would like to be involved, share ideas, or learn more about our initiatives, we warmly welcome you to join us. Please email Mrs Alemany directly.

GraceAlemany-Lilley@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

SPRING TERM 2026



"MY SON HAD SO MUCH FUN. HE WANTS TO GO BACK FOR MORE TOMORROW!"



"MY DAUGHTER WAS FULL OF BEANS AND BURSTING WITH LOVELY STORIES WHEN I COLLECTED HER"

FUN, EXERCISE, FRESH AIR & DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR THIS TERM INCLUDE:

YETI DINNER PLATES
CAMPFIRE COOKOUT: MARSHMALLOWS
CUDDLY TOY CATAPULT ASSAULT
MINIBEAST MAYHEM: BUG HUNTING
VIKING RUNESTONES & CODE BREAKING
BUSHCRAFT: FIRELIGHTING TECHNIQUES
BUSHCRAFT: HEAD SHELTER MAKING
FAIRY DOORS & TREE SPIRITS
& AS USUAL: FUN TIMES & ADVENTURE!

WATCHING CHILDREN'S CONFIDENCE GROW & NEW FRIENDSHIPS FORM AT OUR CLUBS IS ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING THINGS WE DO.

COTTESMORE ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
WEDNESDAYS 3:10 - 4:20PM
YEAR GROUPS 1 - 6
7TH JANUARY - 25TH MARCH 2026
PRICE: £88 (11 WEEK TERM)



MORE INFO & BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK
HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - SAILINGS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP
OFSTED REGISTERED & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



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.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

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 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 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 6 St Benedict 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 - Year 5 school trip to Brighton Pavilion
WEDNESDAY 11th	International day of women in science
THURSDAY 12th	- 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 - International Mother Language Day	