

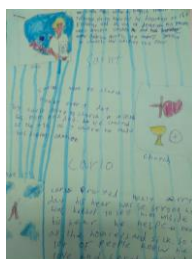


19th September 2025

Dear parents / carers

Carlos Acutis

During assemblies this week, children learnt about the Church's new Saint, Saint Carlos Acutis. Carlo was a young Italian teenager with a deep love for the Eucharist and a passion for technology. He was very active in Parish life, even as a young boy. He showed a strong devotion to Jesus, through daily Mass and through praying the Rosary. Despite his young age, he had a powerful spiritual maturity. He once said, **"The Eucharist is my highway to heaven."** Carlo created a website documenting Eucharistic Miracles from around the world, a project that took him over two years. He used his talents to help others, especially those who were bullied, lonely or in need. At the age of 9, he set up charity work that helped those without homes, find food and shelter. Sadly, at the age of 15, Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia and passed away shortly after. He faced this with faith and grace, offering his suffering to God. He was beatified in 2020. He reminds us that holiness can begin at any age, and that we don't need to wait to do good in the world. What an inspiration! Children were asked to think about what they could do to help others, as well as how they can bring people to God.



Clara (Year 3) was inspired by what she heard in assembly and created an informative fact file all about Saint Carlo Acutis. She wrote 'Carlo went to church nearly every day. By going to church it inspired his Mum and Dad. He started at the age of 7 when he made his first Holy Communion.'

Child Led Worship

Across the school, children also reflected on Carlo's life and his impact on the world during their Child-led worship sessions. They considered how they could be more like Carlo, asking God to show them how they can help others and show his love. In these sessions, the children take ownership of the worship, planning how the class will gather, and go forth from the sessions, including ideas about how to put the message of the Gospel into practice.



Budding Historians

This week, Year 4 started their 'Romans' topic in History. They put on their historian hats by working together in groups to debate the advantages and disadvantages of Roman invasion. The children made great judgements and are excited to be going to Fishbourne Roman Palace, the largest Roman home in Britain, to explore this topic further.



Forest School Fun

6 St Benedict had a wonderful time in their first Forest School session this year with our great new Forest School teachers. The new teachers set up an inspiring variety of activities and were impressed by the children's creativity and imagination. They made friendship bracelets, natural-material necklaces and dens, mixed blackberry and clay paint, lit fires and tried out the brand-new mud kitchen. A firm favourite was a game of 'Try not to fall off the plank seesaw.' This fantastic session was finished off with a not-quite hot chocolate and biscuits.



In The Beginning

Reception have been learning all about the Creation story in their RE lessons. The children ordered pictures to show their understanding of the story, finding out what God created on each day. Finally, they rested, just like the Bible tells us that God did after creating our beautiful planet. Year 1 carried out some Visio Divina sessions using artwork based on the Creation story, considering what they noticed and how it reminded them of the story of how the world was made. What a wonderful world we have!



Another big welcome to all our new families and children. It has been wonderful to see how well they have all been settling in. If you need anything at all, please get in touch. We are also out before and after school to help with any questions. Have a wonderful weekend. Rachel Breen, Headteacher.

Choir and Orchestra

Choir and Orchestra are run as free music clubs for children at school in Key Stage 2 and take place before school on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please find details of each club below and email Mr Bondonno with your child's name and class, if you would like them to attend.

AlexBondonno@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Choir for Key Stage 2

Choir is a free club run for children in Years 3 - 6.

Choir takes place on Mondays, 8am-8.30am.

Choir members are expected to attend every week and arrive on time.

We will sing a wide range of music and choir members will lead singing at school events, and also perform at external performances. This term we will be working towards performing at the One Voice event at the Brighton Centre in December, as well as a Christmas event at Brighton Pavilion. We will also be performing to new parents visiting our school on school tours later this term.

Places are limited so please apply via email as soon as you can. If we are oversubscribed then children in higher year groups will be given priority. The deadline for this was 15th September but you can still email in case there are any spare places.

Orchestra for Key Stage 2

Orchestra is a free club run for children in Years 3 - 6. It is open to all children.

Orchestra takes place on Tuesdays, 8am-8.30am.

Orchestra members are expected to attend every week and arrive on time.

Children who learn an musical instrument are strongly encouraged to attend, but the club is open to all children, including those who do not have instrumental music lessons. Keyboards and percussion instruments are provided.

Orchestra will take place in the Music Room before school. We will work at a variety of music which will be performed at school events.

Nut free school

Due to allergies, we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL.. Please avoid giving children nuts or nut products in their packed lunches or for snacks. 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.



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.

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 have been sent home this week. (Reception will be next week). Homework has been posted on Seesaw. Don't forget to ask your child's class teacher for a handout if you prefer.

Meet your child's new teacher and see the classroom

Parents, from Years 1 – 6 were invited to see their child's new class, meet their teacher and find out more about the year ahead this week.

Class information sheets have also been sent out via Ping.

Visits to Reception will take place on Tuesday 23rd September, 8.55am - 9.20am and their notes will be sent out that week.

Parent Consultation Meetings 3.20 pm - 6 pm

Thursday 16th and Tuesday 21st October

Don't forget that our SchoolPing online booking system will be active for you to make appointments until 9am Tuesday 30th September. If you find you have any difficulties booking an appointment, please get in touch with the school office. Each consultation will last up to 10 minutes. If you would prefer the potential option of a face-to-face meeting, please request this at the time of booking by writing 'face-to-face' in the comments section. If you don't record this, you will have to take your meeting by phone. In addition to the Parents' evening consultation, you have the option of also receiving an Interim Report, which will identify your child's level of attainment, whilst also noting progress and future targets for core subjects. The contents of these will always be discussed verbally regardless of whether a hard copy has been requested or not. Should you require a hard copy, we ask that you email your child's class teacher by 9am Monday 6th October. This will be discussed verbally in the meeting and a copy emailed to you straight after. Mrs Mullans will continue to provide extra meetings for parents of children with additional needs / SEND. Please email Mrs Mullans directly to book your appointment on Thursday 16th October, with her; annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk. If your child is registered as having additional needs, you are able to book a consultation with their class teacher as well as an additional one with Mrs Mullans. The teachers look forward to working in partnership with you.



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) - SchoolPing online booking system for Parents Evening closed
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	Interim report request for Parents Evening closed
TUESDAY 7 th	PTA uniform sale after school - items between £1 and £2
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. - Author Andy Day visiting Reception - Year 4, in the school hall at 10am
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 - 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.
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 donatations 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	