



23rd October 2025

Dear parents / carers

Praying the Rosary

The month of October is always dedicated to the Rosary. This is because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated every year on October 7th. During worship, children have discussed how Catholics use a Rosary as they meditate on the life of Jesus and call on Mary to offer their prayers to God. They talked about how Catholics do not worship Mary or the saints, but ask them to pray to God on our behalf. Children focused on the fact that the Rosary can help us focus on our prayer so that our mind doesn't wander. Praying the Rosary, and meditating events that happened in the life of Jesus (Mysteries), can help our wellbeing and our relationship with God. Children thought about times when you might be given a set of Rosary beads as well as times when they might pray the Rosary. Some children in KS2 joined our Rosary prayer group with Canon David. A reminder that Cottesmore's virtual Rosary can also be found in the Catholic Life section of the school website as well as other links that would help you to pray the Rosary at home should your family wish to make this an extra special focus during this month.



City Mission

Thank you to Lloyd, from City Mission, who came to talk to all children about the history of Harvest and how the outreach work of City Mission helps many within our community of Brighton and Hove. 'Giving our "firstfruits" demonstrates faith in continued provision. Celebration and joy honor God's character.' Thank you again for your generous food and monetary donations.



Glyndebourne

Last week, our Year 5 and 6 choir had the wonderful opportunity to visit Glyndebourne to see the opera - A Midsummer Night's Dream. The performance was truly spectacular with some of the children visibly gasping as the curtains were raised at the start of the show. They watched the full performance which lasted over 3 hours, and remained really focused throughout - Mr Bondonno was really proud of them. The children noted that they really loved the magic of the fairies on stage, performed by a cast of local children in really wondrous outfits. Their favourite was the fairy king's assistant, Puck, who kept getting things wrong but was really good fun to watch. They said they were also really impressed by the 'trees' who were actors who had to stand very still and became almost invisible before they moved, tree-like, during the scene changes. It was a marvellous experience and one that will be memorable for the children and inspire them in their own music and drama.



Natural Dyes

Year 4 have been exploring natural dyes in Forest School. They used secateurs to cut the dead buddleia flowers off the plant, used fire steels to light the fire and then stewed the flowers in water over the fire. Children then designed their own triangular flags which they dyed with their buddleia mixture. Welcome again to our new Forest School teachers.



Reception disco

Reception children enjoyed their 'welcome to Cottesmore' disco last week. A big thank you to the PTA for organising this event. The children danced whilst adults were able to chat. It was a pleasure to watch the children having such a good time. Well done on a super first half term - we are so proud of you!



Wishing you a lovely half term. A reminder that school is closed tomorrow for staff training. Rachel Breen, Headteacher.

Reception September 2026 – please encourage new families to visit our school

If you 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



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.

Vacancy for Midday Supervisor Assistant

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

This role will require you to:

- 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: Wednesday 5th November 2025

Interview Date: 10th / 11th / 12th November 2025 tbc

Start date: Friday 14th November (or when checks are back)

The application pack is obtainable upon request from the school. *Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

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 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 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.



The Outdoors Project

OFSTED
REGISTERED

CAMPFIRE
COOK

"BEST HOLIDAY
CLUB AROUND"

"IT'S A
LIFESAVER
FOR WORKING
PARENTS"

NERF SHARP
SHOOTER

OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

COTTESMORE ST MARY THE UPPER DRIVE, BN3 6NB

MON 27 OCT WIZARDS OF THE WILD: A HARRY POTTER ADVENTURE

TUE 28 OCT NERF: MISSION SPOOKTACULAR

WED 29 OCT ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN ADVENTURE: TRICKS, TREATS & CAMPFIRE FUN!

THU 30 OCT BUSHCRAFT ADVENTURE: SURVIVAL SKILLS & CAMPFIRE TREATS

FRI 31 OCT WAY OF THE VIKING: VIKING CRAFT, GAMES & CHALLENGES!

BRUNSWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL SOMERHILL ROAD, HOVE, BN3 1RP

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TUE 28 OCT BUSHCRAFT ADVENTURE: SURVIVAL SKILLS & CAMPFIRE TREATS

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THU 30 OCT WIZARDS OF THE WILD: A HARRY POTTER ADVENTURE

FRI 31 OCT NERF: MISSION SPOOKTACULAR

LANCING PREP HOVE THE DROVEWAY, HOVE, BN3 6LU

MON 20 OCT NERF: MISSION SPOOKTACULAR

TUE 21 OCT ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN ADVENTURE: TRICKS, TREATS & CAMPFIRE FUN!

WED 22 OCT BUSHCRAFT ADVENTURE: SURVIVAL SKILLS & CAMPFIRE TREATS

THU 23 OCT WAY OF THE VIKING: VIKING CRAFT, GAMES & CHALLENGES!

FRI 24 OCT WIZARDS OF THE WILD: A HARRY POTTER ADVENTURE

MON 27 OCT BUSHCRAFT ADVENTURE: SURVIVAL SKILLS & CAMPFIRE TREATS

TUE 28 OCT WAY OF THE VIKING: VIKING CRAFT, GAMES & CHALLENGES!

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BOOK FOR 1 DAY OR MULTIPLE DAYS. FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK



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GOOD OLD
FASHIONED GET
DIRTY PLAY!"



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& CHAPTER 34

CHILDREN'S
BOOK CLUB



AUTHOR:
HELEN PETERS



SAT 1ST NOV 10.30AM
ALL TICKETS £5, 1 HOUR (APPROX)



AUTHOR:
THOMAS
TAYLOR

AUTHOR:
KIRSTY
APPLEBAUM



SAT 29TH NOV 10.30AM
ALL TICKETS £6, 2 X 40 MINS (APPROX) PLUS BOOK SIGNING

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 3rd	
TUESDAY 4th	9am -10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 5th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 - Year 3 St Martin Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 6th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
FRIDAY 7th	Year 5 Swimming
MONDAY 10th	- 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 11th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025
WEDNESDAY 12th	9am - 10am School Tours for Reception 2025 Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School am Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 13th	World Kindness Day
FRIDAY 14th	- Year 5 Swimming - Children in Need - non school uniform in exchange for money towards collection
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 donations 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 Maximillian 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
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	Year 6 school trip to Downs Junior Air Raid Shelter TBC
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	
MONDAY 23rd	