



26th September 2025

Dear parents / carers

Fairtrade Fortnight.

In the summer term, our school joined other Catholic schools at Arundel Cathedral to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. Together, children took part in a special liturgy, lead by Bishop Richard, which reminded us that even small acts of kindness can share God's love and light with others. Each school made a school pledge, linked to the Year of Hope. Our pledge was promising to live out hope through our words and actions, by using our voice to support Fairtrade, asking people in power to stand alongside those who have less, and giving a voice to those who need to be heard.

Back at school, children in all years wrote letters to people in power, asking them to support the cause of Fairtrade. The children asked what more leaders could do to ensure that everyone is given a fair price for their work, safe conditions to live and grow in as well as the chance to build a hopeful future. We noted that supporting Fairtrade is not just about buying products, but about justice, dignity and showing God's love in action.



Our Jubilee Pledge at Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary:

We are **Pilgrims of Hope**

We walk in **solidarity** with our brothers and sisters, worldwide, sharing challenges and celebrating joys.

We pledge to **lift up our voices** so that we can be **agents of change**, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally.

We want to make a difference to the world, where every person, and the earth can flourish.

As Pilgrims of Hope, we are on a mission to build a world where:

- ♥ We recognise the **dignity** of every person, loved and created by God.
- ✎ We **lift up our voices** with CAFOD and the Fairtrade Foundation; spreading awareness of the importance of **fair trade** and how it helps people around the world to have better lives. We will work together with them, to be practical signs of hope and put our **faith and love** into action.
- 🌱 We will build a fairer world by choosing **fair trade** and empowering others to also make positive choices.
- 🗣️ Lobbying businesses within our community and world, to act responsibly and make ethical choices linked to **fair trade**.
- ✉️ Writing to and encouraging leaders within our community and country to act responsibly in **fair trade** decision making.

We pray for peace and fairness in our world, challenging the root causes of poverty and injustice. As a school community, we put our **love and faith** into action.

With God's help, we will be **signs of hope** in the world.

This week, assemblies have been held to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight. We looked back proudly at everything our Fairtrade Committee achieved last year and shared all the exciting plans for

the year ahead. Children followed the journey of a teabag, from the tea leaves being grown, picked and dried to finally arriving in our country in tea bags. We thought about how choosing Fairtrade makes a big difference, helping farmers to earn a fair wage for the hard work they do every day. We finished with a prayer, asking God to bless farmers and all the people around the world who work so hard to provide us with the food and drinks we enjoy.

Stone Age Fun in Year 3!

Year 3 enjoyed a visit by the Stone Age man. The children were fascinated as they explored life thousands of years ago, learning how people lived, hunted, and played. Traditional Stone Age games were played and children even tried their hand at throwing spears. It was wonderful to step back in time and see the children's enthusiasm as history came alive right in the classroom.



Amazing Artists

In Year 3, children have been learning about the history of charcoal, exploring different techniques in preparation for their cave art. They have found out about the German artist Albrecht Dürer, who was one of the first known artists to use charcoal in 1521. They looked at his work 'Praying Hands', and created their own imitations using a printing technique. We were inspired by the verse in Lamentations 3:41 – "Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven."



In Year 5, children have been exploring the work of different landscape artists. They found out about Kittie Jones, a contemporary artist from Edinburgh and are currently studying the colourful and creative work of David Hockney.



Have a wonderful weekend. Rachel Breen, Headteacher.

Harvest

Key Stage One

You are invited to year group Harvest liturgies. These will take place in the Forest School area, at 9am, and run for approximately 20 minutes.

Reception - Tuesday 14th October at 9am

Year 1 - Friday 17th October at 9am

Year 2 - Wednesday 15th October at 9am

Please can all children wear full school uniform on these days. Once you have dropped your child off with the class teachers in the infant playground, please head straight to the Forest School area on the field.

Key Stage Two

Year 6 - Children in Year 6 have been invited to a special Harvest Mass at Cardinal Newman School, with other Year 6 classes from across the Deanery, on Tuesday 14th of October. This is an event for children only. If you can volunteer to help with this eg walking children over and back, please email Year 6 teachers directly. Smart school uniform please. No PE kits.

Year 3 and 4 and 5 - Harvest Mass will take place on 16th October at 9am, in the school hall celebrated by Canon David. Parents are welcome to attend. Please enter via Radinden Manor gate only. This will be locked at 8.40am as usual and then reopened from 8.50am - 9am.

Donations

We ask for your support, at Harvest, to help with our annual collection of food or money for our local food bank based at St. George's church - Hangleton and West Blatchington Food Bank as well as for City Mission. Donations of food will be collected across week beginning 9th of October and retiring monetary collections will take place at the end of each event. Please see the list of much needed food to see how your family can help. Any contributions are to be left in the KS2 shelter. Every contribution is gratefully received.

HARVEST NEEDS LIST

Currently we require the following items -

- TINNED MEAT
- TINNED FISH
- INSTANT COFFEE & TEA
- JAMS & SPREADS
- PASTA SAUCES
- RICE & NOODLES
- TINNED TOMATOES
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- SHOWER GEL & SHAMPOO
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- GLUTEN FREE PRODUCTS
- BISCUITS
- CRISPS
- CEREAL

Thank you so much for your amazing support.



PTA AGM – 8th October – All welcome!

We hope the new school year has got off to a great start for you and your family.

We're excited to dive into another year of fundraising, kicking things off with the PTA AGM on Wednesday 8th October at 7pm in the school hall. We hope you can join, everyone's welcome.

Don't forget to follow the PTA on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date with all that's coming up.

www.instagram.com/friendsofcottesmoreprimary?igsh=MWplbTlzbTA5NjZ3YQ%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

www.facebook.com/share/1D32oyGgGL/?mibextid=wwXlfr

Lost Property

Have you misplaced a coat, a hat or even a pair of shoes? We have accumulated a lot of non-uniform lost property which is unlabelled. Please come along to reclaim your lost items this Friday in the KS2 playground.

First Holy Communion

Churches are inviting families to sign up for First Holy Communion preparation. This is a sacrament for Catholic children who are baptised. This is aimed at Catholic children in Years 3 and 4 but some in Years 5 and 6 will also be making their FHC if they didn't do it when in Year 3. We have sent information to families, via Ping, and this has also been in parish newsletters. FHC programmes start in parishes in the autumn term. Please inform the school if you have signed up for this year's FHC preparation and note which parish. This helps with our annual celebration planning. You can email your class teacher or KristyBraswellRalston@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk,



Help with parking

I am writing to request your attention and support regarding an important matter concerning the safety of our children during school drop-off and pick-up times.

As we begin a new academic year, it is crucial that we all work together to ensure a safe environment for children arriving at and leaving school - particularly during the busy periods at the start and end of the school day.

We would like to highlight the following concerns:

- Use of the staff car park off The Upper Drive: This area is being used for drop-offs and pick ups, with vehicles reversing back onto Upper Drive. This practice poses a serious risk to children due to limited visibility in the area and the number of children using the pavement. A reminder to park on The Upper Drive and use the path / gate that runs behind the car park.
- Parking on zigzag lines outside the school gates: Parking on these lines is strictly prohibited, even for blue badge holders. These markings are there to protect our children's safety, and must be respected at all times.
- Nuisance parking across driveways on Radindon Manor: This causes inconvenience for local residents and must be avoided.

The school is actively supporting children's safety through staff supervision at the gates during busy periods.

However, the resources are limited, and we are looking for parents and volunteers who would support the supervision on the roads to deter dangerous parking and support our children to enter the school safely between 8:30am and 08:40am as well as around pick up time at 3.10pm. Interested parents, with time to volunteer, to email Mrs Breen.

We kindly ask that you avoid unsafe behaviours such as using restricted areas for drop-off, parking where it is prohibited. Let's work together to set a positive example and keep our school and community safe.

With best wishes, Dr Thomas Medveczky, Co-Chair of the Governing Body



**FREE
EVENT**

- YEAR 3 -

DISCO

Friday 10th October

TIME: 15:15 - 16:30

VENUE: The School Hall

Adults will need to collect
their child from their
classroom and take them
to the school hall.

Children can wear
their school
uniform or bring
party clothes to
change into
before the end of
the school day.



Please book a FREE ticket by Monday 6th October
so we can confirm final numbers.

BOOK HERE: WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/SOCSEVENTS

Every child must have a nominated adult who
remains at the Disco for the duration.



**FREE
EVENT**

- RECEPTION -

DISCO

Friday 17th October

TIME: 16:30 - 17:45

VENUE: The School Hall

Entrance will be via the
KS2 playground gates
(off the staff car park - the
Upper Drive side) at 4.30pm



Please book your FREE ticket by Monday 13th October
so we can confirm final numbers.

BOOK HERE: WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/SOCSEVENTS

Every child must have a nominated adult who
remains at the Disco for the duration.

FOOTBALL



CAMP

**OCTOBER
HALF TERM**

**CARDINAL
NEWMAN 3G**
BN3 6ND

BOYS & GIRLS 5-12 YEARS OLD
10AM-3PM

**Monday 27th October -
Thursday 30th October**

£20

- 9am Early Drop off - £3
- 10% Sibling Discount
- £15 for RMA Academy Members

BOOK NOW

- info@rmfoundation.co.uk
- russellmartinfoundation.co.uk
- Cardinal Newman School- BN3 6ND



FOOTBALL



CAMP

**OCTOBER
HALF TERM**

**RUDYARD
KIPLING**
BN2 6RH

BOYS & GIRLS 5-12 YEARS OLD
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**Thursday 30th October -
Friday 31st October**

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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) - PTA lost property stall in KS2 playground from 3.10pm - 4.20pm
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 donations 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	