



8th April 2022

Dear parents / carers

Easter liturgies

We enjoyed welcoming you to our Easter liturgies / Stations of the Cross this week. It has been wonderful to reflect upon the Easter story and the gift that God gave us through His son, Jesus.

During assembly, we have also revisited Lenten promises and thought about how they have helped us to prepare for Easter, when Jesus died and rose again. We talked about how excited we are to shout A***** on Easter Sunday as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. During this time of giving, thank you again for all your incredible donations. We have raised money for families affected by what is continuing to take place in Ukraine (£1100), we have collected Easter Eggs for our local Foodbank and we collected money for St Wilfred's Hospice in Chichester (£370). How lucky we are to be part of such a supportive community.



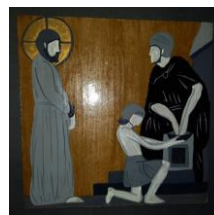
Easter message from Sue Hollow (Chair of Goves)

We are nearly at the end of Lent, and Easter school holidays have arrived. I know that for some of you this will mean juggling childcare with other pressures. This little note comes to wish you a peaceful celebration of the most important feast in the Church's year. We look out of the window to see new life all around us, spring flowers, busy nesting birds and baby lambs in the fields. The Church celebrates the stone having been rolled away from the Christ's tomb and his invitation to all of us to delight in His new life. I hope, while remembering those suffering such terrible loss in Ukraine, and those closer to home, you will experience as much as possible, a sense that the stones that hamper us will be removed and you will experience the rest, peace and renewal that this special season can bring.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are a 14 step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus' last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.

Mr Burns, our Art teacher devoted time to re-imagining the Stations in 6 distinct artistic styles. Inspiration was drawn from printmaker Eric Gill's 1914 Stations of the Cross commissioned by Westminster Cathedral. His incredible work, displayed in the school hall and used during KS2 liturgies, include watercolour illustration, monoprint on vibrant coloured card, monochrome painting, papercutting, poly-tile printing and lino-print. The artwork is wonderful and has inspired the children to create their own.



City Meadow / Our City, Our World

This week, the Eco committee representatives and the Honeypot Party winners had their opportunity to leave a legacy at Cottesmore. They planted the meadow seeds that will form part of a city meadow and pollinators highway we are creating. The children raked and prepared the soil and then scattered the seeds. We will now wait eagerly to see the fruits of their work. Annie, from Year 4, also kindly donated some leftover seeds from home, so there may be a few surprises in the meadow too. The end of term marks the closing date of the logo competition for 'Our City, Our World'. The standard of entries was high across all the schools involved. We await to find out more about the winning logo next term.



Wishing you a lovely Easter and time with family. Thank you, as ever, for your messages of support and continued kindness. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers, but especially Harper and her family. See you all on Monday 25th April. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Hove Girls Rugby

FOR YEAR 5 AND 6
JOIN OUR TEAM AT HOVE RUGBY CLUB,
11-12.30PM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

SUNDAY 10TH APRIL
SUNDAY 8TH MAY
SUNDAY 12TH JUNE
SUNDAY 10TH JULY

FUN AND FREE TO JOIN IN!



HOVE RECREATION GROUND, SHIRLEY DRIVE, HOVE, BN3 6NQ
CONTACT US: GIRLS@HOVERUGBY.CLUB

School Attendance

School attendance is a critical factor in children's successes in school, both academically and emotionally. As a school we are committed to support good and consistent attendance for our pupils. Following the return to schools after the Covid 19 lockdown, we have seen an increase in "persistent absences". A "Persistent absence" is where a child's attendance level is consistently below 90%. 90% attendance may seem impressive but it means missing 19 days of education in a year. Late arrivals to school are recorded as such and do contribute to an overall attendance figure. If you're 15 minutes late every day you lose two weeks of learning by the end of the school year. Attendance is monitored half termly and if your child's attendance falls below this 90%, it is local policy that you will receive a letter outlining this and highlighting the importance of regular school attendance. This is an automatically generated letter. If attendance does not improve over a half term period we are required to invite you in to discuss the reasons why, and what we can do to support you, so that this does improve. Now that we have had a period of settling back into school routines, and bubble closures are not continuing, we will be working to improve attendance across the whole school. Recently, we have seen an increase in requests for families to take children out of school during term time. We are unable to authorise these and are obligated to refer any unauthorised requests to the council to receive a fine, despite appreciating that visiting relatives and family links have been affected by Covid 19. We would like your support and to work together as a school community to improve school attendance and therefore ask that holidays are taken within the 13 weeks of school holiday. Of course, we are here to support families but we are also asked to follow certain regulations. If ever in any doubt, please do contact us.



Free clubs

The Easter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is FREE and runs throughout the school holidays. The programme can be accessed by those in Reception to Year 11, who receive benefits related free school meals. Each day sees lots of different providers offering a range of fantastic activities, with meals also provided. Learn more and book: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/haf

Applying for Free School Meals

Please use the website below to apply for free school meals if your child or children attend schools within Brighton & Hove and you are in receipt of one of the benefits listed below.

Your child might be able to be registered for a range of extra support if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension
- Credit Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - If your household income must be less than £7400 per year.

Families who receive any of the above are eligible to receive free school meals as well as a range of school related support.

Follow the link for more information.

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/apply-online-free-school-meals>

Breakfast Club Entrance

After the Easter holidays, the main school office will not be open until 8.30am. All children attending Breakfast Club, will need to enter via the gate in the corner of the KS2 playground, by the staff car park. Children and parents will need to walk up the path that runs behind the staff car park (The Upper Drive entrance) rather than walk through the staff car park. Parents are also required to park on The Upper Drive, not drive into the staff car park as, even if it looks empty at certain times, all spaces are allocated to specific members of staff and we need to keep them all available for their arrival. Parents will need to accompany children up to the gate where there will be a bell. Parents can then ring the bell and a member of the Breakfast Club team will then leave the hall and come and open the gate / sign the child in. This may take a few minutes, so please do leave enough time, when dropping, so that you are able to wait with your child to ensure that they are let in. Breakfast Club is a drop in from 7.35am and details can be found on the Clubs section of the school website

<http://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/breakfast-club-2018/>



Jubilee – end of summer term date change

As you know, 2nd and 3rd June are the dates for the late May bank holiday and Jubilee bank holiday. As the extra day, given for the Jubilee, falls during the half-term break, the Local Authority have said that school's academic year will now finish, on Thursday 21st July 2022, which is one day earlier.