



21st January 2022

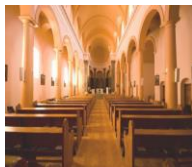
Dear parents / carers

Our Parish Priests



Our current RE topic is focused on the Local Church and Community. During whole school worship, we have been finding out more about the role of the priest and have been lucky enough to enjoyed Zoom sessions with two of our parish priests (Father Tony, from St George's church, will join us next week). Last week, Canon Colin told us how the Sacred Heart church was built in 1881 and how it wasn't opened until 41 years later. Children looked at picture of the inside of this beautiful church and identified how ornate it was – something that is quite rare in a Catholic church. Canon Colin reminded us how a church is people gathered together and not the building. We talked more about the importance of community / family / being altogether. Canon Colin told the children how he unites us all. How he is a person of Christ and that, in his role as priest, he takes on the role of Jesus so that he can unite us all together. We talked about how important it is to talk to our friends, in order to keep friendships strong, and Canon Colin reminded us how, in order to keep our friendship with Jesus strong we must talk to him which we can do through prayer. We are looking forward to taking children in Years 5 and 6 to the Sacred Heart during Lent so they can reflect on the Stations of the Cross that are displayed there. We will also be holding Buddy masses there in the summer term. If you haven't visited the Sacred Heart church, you can enjoy its beauty via a virtual tour that can be found on their website and through the following link <http://www.sacredheartthove.org.uk/>

This week, Father Alexander, from St Peter's church joined us. He too talked about his church and children also looked at photographs. St Peter's has its own unique features such as a tall bell tower so that church bells can be rung out on a Sunday, welcoming all to the church (although sadly they don't have any at present). St Peter's was built in 1915 and is 107 years old. This church only took 1 year to build. Father Alexander showed the children the church's new stain glass window. – beautiful.



A note from the Chair

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

At the start of a new term, we were faced with the knowledge that Mrs Breen had contracted Covid-19. I am sure you, like me, carried some anxiety mixed with hope that she would recover. We had to trust – the medical professionals have wonderful treatment strategies, but only God can do the healing. We had to trust, 'let go, and let God' do His work. There are many ways, in our current situation where we must trust. Trust that transport will run on

time, the roads gritted in advance of freezing conditions, and that we will be told the truth. When you send your child to school you trust that he/she will be taken good care of. First of all, I want to reassure you that we as, governors have an eye to Safeguarding, Safer Recruiting and Child Protection training, and both staff and governors watch over this. Beyond this, I have noted that, against the backdrop of bereavement and sad and difficult personal circumstances, your children's teachers have achieved continued performance monitoring, working to raise standards, providing remote learning. They have also acted heroically by putting themselves at risk by caring for COVID positive children awaiting collection by parents. I am sure you would want me to thank them for this. We face a Diocesan inspection at some stage this term. I have every confidence that the school will demonstrate the special, caring qualities that you have come to trust will always be there for your child. Along side that I have confidence that the RE, EPR and RHSE curriculums as well as Prayer and Worship and Catholic Life of the school will stand up to scrutiny. Thank you too for all you do in supporting the school initiatives by, for example, providing cash for the welfare fund, donating food for the food bank, bringing clothing for refugees and many other ways. I am sure that you will continue to pray for Rachel, her team, and to misquote a little, Minnie Louse Haskins (1875-1957 – who wrote a much longer poem than the opening lines above) that they will go forth "and finding the hand of God," tread gladly into the night. With all good wishes and Prayers. Sue Hollow, Chair of Governors.

Pen and Glue Stick Recycling

At the beginning of the school year, we arranged for each class to have a recycling box dedicated to pens. We discussed with the children about what happens to our waste when it is thrown away as plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose. We have now saved many pens from landfill. There is also now an additional recycling bin in the staffroom for glue sticks and bottles. Thank you to the school Eco Team for all they do to encourage us.



Bikeability

Children in Reception really enjoyed their Bikeability sessions on our balance bikes. The children completed lots of activities to help develop their coordination, balance and control. It was super to see their progression over the week and see how much their confidence had grown.



Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.
Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Food support for our own families

As you know, we have previously operated our own Food Bank for Cottesmore families who are struggling financially. If you are worried about the holidays and feel you would benefit from some support, please contact annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk to discuss how we can help

Free clubs for half term – HAF



The February Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers **FREE** enriching activities during February half-term.

Activities include sports, arts, music, personal development and more.

From holiday camps to youth provision, all activities include a **FREE** nutritious meal.

February HAF is, this time only, for children aged 4 to 12 who are in full-time education and receive benefits-related free school meals. Availability is limited, so please book early!

For more information and to see what's on go to: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/HAF

Brighton & Hove City Council

Local 5G Mast

A petition launched on Brighton and Hove City Council website asks for planning restrictions, known as Article 4 directions, to prevent installation of more 5G masts in the area between Dyke Road and Old Shoreham Road, including Dyke Road Park, BHASVIC and Cardinal Newman School grounds.

Details of the petition are on the city council website here:

<https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=802&RPID=51074110&HPID=51074110>

Wider background about the petition's history is in this article by Brighton and Hove's local democracy reporter Sarah Booker-Lewis who is also a Parent Governor

www.brightonandhovenews.org/2021/12/22/hove-residents-set-up-petition-to-fight-rooftop-5g-mast/

Lateral Flow and PCR Tests

Lateral flow test kits can be collected, free of charge, from most pharmacies. Please visit <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> to check the nearest location you are able to collect tests from. You can also order online or, please do contact the school office who can help you. You can book PCR tests online and visit testing centers or have a home test delivered. Thank you to those who are testing twice a week.

Technology Camp during half term

Brighton Girls School (Brighton, BN1 3AS) are holding a February Technology Camp for children aged 5 - 11 from 14th - 18th February 2022 and would love to invite all children. They have 5 days of exciting activities to feed the minds of children's inquisitive genius based on the following themes:

Bot Builders and Coders – a popular robot programming course
Ingenious Inventors – implement circuitry to make anything from an alarm to a FM Radio!

Virtual Reality – engage with your imagination! Learn about the world of virtual reality including motion sensing and video control skills to bring places and characters to life through your headset.
Expert Engineers – fantastically fun! Discover how to construct and make mechanisms move.

Media Madness – have a creative blast, with movie editing and music production

With the world becoming more digital, this is the perfect camp to develop STEM skills. Spaces are limited, for more information or to enroll, please visit: www.nextthing.education Don't forget to use the code FEB2 for £5 off your booking.

Covid-19 isolation updates

Since Monday 17th January, people can end their self-isolation after 5 full days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6. However, it is crucial that people isolating with COVID-19 wait until they have received 2 negative rapid lateral flow tests on 2 consecutive days to reduce the chance of still being infectious. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day, after 24 full hours. If a child wishes to attend school on day 6, post 2 negative tests on day 5 and 6, they must take their day 5 test 24 hours before the time they would usual leave for school on day 6 as 24 hours is needed in between each test. For example, if you leave for school at 8am, the test on day 5 and day 6 must be taken before that time. You can't take the day 5 test eg at 3pm and then the day 6 test at 8am as not enough time will have passed between the two. If an individual is positive on day 5, then a negative test is required on day 6 and day 7 to release from isolation or, if positive on day 6, then a negative test is required on days 7 and 8, and so on until the end of day 10.

As noted, it is essential that 2 negative rapid lateral flow tests are taken on consecutive days and reported before individuals return to school, if leaving self-isolation earlier than the full 10 day period. All test results should be reported via the following link

https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result?utm_source=18%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=Dfe%20C19

The default self-isolation period continues to be 10 days, and, as noted, one may only leave self-isolation early if they have taken 2 rapid lateral flow tests and do not have a temperature in line with guidance. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Updated information regarding the 5 day change can be found via this link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-those-with-covid-19-can-end-after-five-full-days-following-two-negative-lfd-tests>

7 day testing if a close contact

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. A close contact will be someone who is in their class who becomes positive plus people you have been identified as being in close contact with out of school or someone you live with.