



15th March 2024

Dear parents / carers,

Choral Festival

It was a pleasure to visit the chapel at Newman to watch our Year 4 children take part in a Diocesan Choral Festival this week. Children in Years 3 and 4 have been involved in the Diocesan Schools Singing Programme (SSP) and have been enjoying weekly sessions with Faye Eldret who is the Choral Director for the Diocese. The programme enriches provision that is already in school, offering singing tuition and performance opportunities. It was wonderful to see seven of our local Catholic schools join to gather to singing in unison as well as singing their own songs. Parents also enjoyed watching their children sing. For example, one email received noted,

I just wanted to say the choral concert was stunning, it was so moving and a real reminder of the community we are lucky to be part of. I want to thank you for standing up with the children, you all looked so proud of them. I don't throw words around but it was it was magical. Thank you for supporting my child, and inspiring her to believe she can be part of something like that.



International Women's Day

Children marked International Women's Day in school last week. In Year 3, children learnt about how women's rights have changed over the last hundred years, and how some women and girls are still fighting for equality both at home and around the world. Children talked about their aspirations and the people we look up to. Florence wants to be a gymnast and admires Simone Biles. Lujain wants to own and run her own nursery and Alice dreams of being a doctor. We believe in you and know the sky is the limit.



Throughout history, countless remarkable women have shaped our world in countless ways, yet their stories are often overlooked or minimised. In Year 1, the children have been very excited to learn about the lives, achievements, and contributions of six extraordinary women in their new topic entitled 'Historic Heroines'. From Grace O'Malley - the fearless pirate queen of 16th



century Ireland – to Harriet Tubman – the freed slave who is known for her courageous efforts to free other enslaved people in 19th Century America – we hope the stories teach the children about the importance of courage, resilience, and standing up for what you believe in, regardless of the obstacles in your way.



Dirt Is Good

A while back, in the glorious sunshine, some children began their 'Dirt Is Good' project to grow our own vegetables for the whole school. They filled propagators made from recycled grape containers the pupils have been collecting, then carefully planted five varieties of tomato seeds. These are now being nurtured in a warm classroom with many eager eyes watching for the first signs of life. Watch this space for more news regarding the opportunity to buy small tomato plants in about 8 weeks.



Big Plastic Count

On Wednesday, the Eco Committee played their part in the Big Plastic Count. They eagerly collected litter from three sections of the beach at Grand Avenue. As well as litter, they found interesting natural evidence, such as ray egg purses (mermaid's purse), whelk eggs and cuttlefish bone. They even found a cat shark washed up and many shark egg purses. Once back at school, they discussed how ghost netting and plastic gets washed in to the sea affects marine life. They categorised the rubbish according to material and registered their findings with the Big Plastic Count project, online. This national project is aimed at identifying the most commonly found plastic in our waste and identifying changes we could make.



Have a lovely weekend. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

HAF Holiday Clubs

There are lots of places still available for the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) Easter holiday clubs.

HAF is for children and young people in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals.

The Easter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers FREE activities, plus a meal, throughout the school holidays.

There's something fun for everyone, including sports, drama, music, coding, play schemes, and more.

Visit <https://eequ.org/brightonhovehaf> to see what's on offer and book.

Lent and Easter

As part of our Lenten preparations, we have the following events and services planned for KS1 and KS2 to help prepare the children for Easter. Please note that access to these events will be via the gate on Radinden Manor Road, see gate timings below.

Monday 25th March

- 9:00am **Reception** - Assembly (Gates will open 8:55 - 9:05am).
- 2:00pm **Year 4 and 6** Stations of the Cross with Canon Colin (Gates will open 1:55 - 2:05pm).
- 2:30pm **Year 3 and 5** Stations of the Cross with Canon Colin (Gates will open 2:25 - 2:35pm).

Wednesday 27th March

- 9:00am **Year 2** Assembly (Gates will open 8:55 - 9:05am).

Thursday 28th March

- 9:00 **Year 1** Assembly (Gates will open 8:55 - 9:05am).



Catholic Governors

The Bosco Catholic Education Trust, which exists to serve Catholic schools in Sussex, invites you to consider taking on the wonderful role of being a Governor. You could do this to help your local Catholic school or support the strategic development of the Trust itself. To register your interest, join our 'talent pool' and find out if this could be the role for you, please visit www.boscocet.org.uk/become-a-governor/. You have something unique to offer and they'd love to hear from you.

Equally, we are in need of some Foundation (Catholic) Governors ourselves at Cottesmore. If you attend church and feel that you have some time to give to helping further develop our school, please do get in touch without on Chair of Governors, Suehollow@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

What is Governance?

The Governor's role is to both Support and Challenge the school leadership team. In their latest Governance Handbook, the Department for Education (DfE) is encouraging governors to focus on "three core functions:

- Strategic Direction - ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Critical Friend - holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Ensure Accountability - overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent."

How do I start?

- As part of our school's commitment to Safer Recruiting practices, our Chair would contact you for an interview. This will also be an opportunity to plan specific roles that will suit you as a member of our body.
- You will be given a Diocesan Application Form. This includes a declaration that must be signed by your Parish Priest.
- As you would be working around young people, you would be asked to fill the forms for a standard DBS background check.



Why are Foundation Governors in the majority on the Governing Body of a Catholic School?

Foundation Governors are in the majority in order to ensure that the distinctive Catholic nature of the school is preserved and developed and to ensure compliance with the Trust Deed. Foundation Governors must be baptised, practising Catholics.

I'm not a practising Catholic. Can I still be a governor in a Catholic School?

Yes! Whilst you cannot serve as a Foundation Governor, you may be a Parent Governor, or Local Authority Governor, or could be appointed in the role of Co-opted Governor. All these governors are appointed through the school, not by the Diocese.



What can I expect?

Governors need to be able to commit interest, enthusiasm and time to the tasks that being a governor brings. You will find that the role of a Foundation Governor brings personal reward and satisfaction, although it does mean that you must be prepared to give some time to the work.



Further details may be obtained from the Education Service

E: gill.sajnog@abdiocese.org.uk
T: 01293 651144

Diocesan Education Service
4 Southgate Drive
Crawley
RH10 6RP

www.abdiocese.org.uk

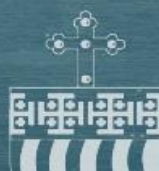
The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a
Registered Charity No. 252878



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON
EDUCATION SERVICE

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED

becoming a Governor in a Catholic School?



Thanks to our kind sponsor Nicholas James

Nicholas
James
SALES LETTINGS AUCTIONS

COTTESMORE ST MARY EASTER EGG HUNT

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

Straight after pick up on the school field
3.05PM - 4.30PM

£3 PER TICKET
SIBLINGS WELCOME

Includes one milk chocolate easter egg
Dairy free options available
Please specify when booking



BUY TICKETS HERE

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/SOCSEVENTS



Nicholas James

SALES LETTINGS AUCTIONS

The PTA would like to thank our very
kind sponsor Nicholas James.

For more information visit

nicholasjamesproperty.co.uk



MONDAY 25th	9am Easter liturgy in hall for parents – Reception 2pm Stations of the Cross with Parents – Years 4 and 6 2.30pm Stations of the Cross with Parents – Years 3 and 5
TUESDAY 26th	
WEDNESDAY 27th	9am Year 2 Easter liturgy in hall for parents - Honeypot Party - Year 5 Cross Country Sussex Finals am - info to those attending - Year 6 Cross Country Sussex Finals pm - info to those attending
THURSDAY 28th	9am Year 1 Easter liturgy in hall for parents - Reception Farm Day - PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 29th	Bank Holiday – school closed
EASTER HOLIDAYS Monday 29th March – Friday 12th April Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field	
APRIL	
MONDAY 15th	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
TUESDAY 16th	
WEDNESDAY 17th	- Year 4 St Lewinna Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 18th	
FRIDAY 19th	Year 5 Swimming
MONDAY 22nd	
TUESDAY 23rd	
WEDNESDAY 24th	- Year 4 St Cuthman Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 25th	
FRIDAY 26th	Year 5 Swimming
APRIL/MAY	MAY – MONTH OF MARY
MONDAY 29th	Bank Holiday – school closed
TUESDAY 30th	
WEDNESDAY 1st	- Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 2nd	
FRIDAY 3rd	Year 5 Swimming
MAY	
MONDAY 6th	Bank Holiday – school closed
TUESDAY 7th	
WEDNESDAY 8th	- Year 3 St Martin Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 9th	
FRIDAY 10th	Year 5 Swimming