



13th February 2025

Dear parents / carers

Safer Internet Day



Safer Internet Day took place this week. SID promotes the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. The theme was, 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. Children had an assembly and lessons based on this theme. They enjoyed taking part in quizzes to see if they could spot pop ups and online scams that were 'too good to be true'. Children discussed what to do if something does look too good to be true eg to ignore and report. The focus was on how to protect ourselves and others, as well as what support is available. UK Safer Internet Centre note that, 'This Safer Internet Day we will assess the real scale of this issue and allow young people to share their experiences and ideas on how to tackle the problem. We'll build on the important work being done to raise awareness of issues such as online financial sextortion and we'll also consider the future of scams, answering questions such as:

- How is changing technology like generative AI going to impact the approach of scammers?
- What role can the government and internet industry take to tackle this threat?
- What changes would young people like to see to help protect themselves moving forward?



Holocaust Memorial Day

Linked to Their WW2 History topic, children in Year 6 marked Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for this year was 'For a Better Future'. Children discussed what they thought the theme meant and what we can all do to help in today's world. Children discussed what genocide means and what we can do to help prevent it. Children discussed how we can speak up, challenge prejudice and encourage others to learn about genocide from the past as well as learn about conflict that is happening today. Children also wrote some reflective prayers, thinking about those who have suffered from genocide around the world.

(Written by a Victor from 6 St Maximillian)

*God our Father, We pray for the dead,
for those people who were killed in the Holocaust because of
their race, disability or religion.*

*Help those around the world who are fighting for equality in
their communities.*

*Grant us hope for a better future for all Your children.
Amen.*



Smartphones

Children in KS2 listened attentively, in a recent assembly, relating to the use of Smartphones and why we, as a school, are doing what we can to further guide families in their decision making regarding what they feel is suitable for their child. We discussed unsafe experiences that children had experienced using, for example, WhatsApp, Tik Tok, Snapchat, Instagram, unfiltered internet access etc. Some of our Year 6 Smartphone Free Ambassadors spoke to the other children about why they are now choosing not to have a phone and why they are no longer asking their parents for one. Out of those speaking, two children explained how they used to have a smartphone but that they no longer do due to unsafe experiences. We were very proud of the confidence and conviction they showed whilst speaking to the whole of KS2. We will continue to help by sharing information so that parents, and children, can further educate themselves about the real and live dangers that professionals and children are telling us are happening via Smartphone use and then make their decisions. A reminder that the age restriction for WhatsApp, Tik Tok, Snapchat and Instagram is currently 'at least 13 years old'.



Pilgrims of Hope

The Church's Year of Jubilee began in January. This event occurs once every 25 years and Offers a special opportunity to renew our relationships with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme for this year is "Pilgrims of Hope," a call to embrace hope in our world. The Catholic Church, across the world, are celebrating the Jubilee with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Holy Doors are being opened in Rome and here, in school, children have been making their own symbolic Holy Doors. Children have been thinking about how they can be pilgrims of hope, especially in our community. Our Minnie Vinnies and Faith in Action group are focusing on ways they can inspire us to live out our faith by supporting those who are struggling with hunger and homelessness. For example, they are collecting empty crisp packets to create recycled insulated blankets for the homeless. We encourage you to talk with your children and consider how your family can contribute and help those in need. Your involvement will help make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and reflect the hope and compassion of the Year of Jubilee



**Have a restful and enjoyable half term. Rachel Breen,
Headteacher**

Governor vacancy – Parent Governor needed

School governors play a vital role in education. By volunteering as a Governor for a school, you can make a difference by shaping the future of children and young people.

We are in need of a Parent Governor at Cottesmore. You do not need to be Catholic for this role. If you feel that you have some time to give to helping further develop our school, please do get in touch with our joint Chairs of Governors, Katie Raymond and Thomas Medveczky by Thursday 27th February.

katieraymond@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

thomasmedveczky@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

If more than one parent is keen to take on this role, short anonymised bios for each candidate will be shared with parents and a vote will take place.

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?

- Our Chairs would contact you for an informal chat to discuss the role, hours taken to fulfil it, how you would be supported etc. Following that, if still interested, as part of our school's commitment to Safer Recruiting practices, our Chairs would contact you for interview. This will also be an opportunity to plan specific roles that will suit you as a member of our body.
- As you would be working around young people, you would be asked to fill the forms for a standard DBS background check. Please do consider offering your time in this very worthwhile voluntary position.

For more information about Governance, you may wish to follow this link. <https://www.nga.org.uk/about/become-a-governor-trustee/>



World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March, we will celebrate World Book Day at Cottesmore. Children can come to school dressed in pyjamas



or comfy clothes as, over the day, they will enjoy some cosy reading time. Please ensure that suitable footwear is still worn. Children can also bring in their favorite book from home. During the day, children will take part in a range of be reading based activities. For example, a story time assembly, a mystery reader visiting class, as well as times of the day when we can 'drop everything and read!' Children will also receive a voucher for a free book, which they can use in participating independent book shops, or a range of retailers such as Tesco, Asda, The Works, WHSmith, Lidl and Waterstones. There will be a selection of books specifically for World Book Day available. We can't wait to celebrate our love of reading at Cottesmore with the children.

Book Swap

We had a super Book Swap after school recently. Children poured over the wonderful range of free books on offer and took many titles that they were excited to read. We will hold this every half term. If you have any, good quality, books that you wish to donate to the school for, either, class libraries or the Book Swap, please bring them into school and leave them with the office or in the KS2 shelter.



A colorful advertisement for Barracudas Activity Day Camps. It features a group of children in a circular frame. Text includes: 'BARRACUDAS ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS', 'HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!', 'AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2025!', 'EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT', 'USE CODE SCHOOL20 FOR AN EXTRA £20 OFF YOUR BOOKING!', '4½ to 14 year olds!', '80+ Activities!', 'Choice each session!', 'Specialist Courses!', 'Flexible bookings!', 'barracudas.co.uk', '01480 467 567', 'QR CODE', 'SCAN ME!', 'CREDIT REGISTERED', and 'Trustalike'. There are also social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok.

HALF TERM Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field	
MONDAY 24 th	Reception have chicks coming into school to visit them
TUESDAY 25 th	Reception balance bike training
WEDNESDAY 26 th	- Year 4 St Lewinna Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm - Reception balance bike training
THURSDAY 27 th	- Parent Consultation calls and face to face and SEN 3.15pm – 6pm - Reception balance bike training
FRIDAY 28 th	- Year 4 Swimming - Phonics Screening Check meeting for Year 1 parents. School hall. 8.50am – 9.30am. Radinden Manor entrance and exit. - Reception balance bike training
MARCH	
MONDAY 3 rd	- Fairtrade Fortnight (until 16th March) - Year 3 Pedestrian Training - Year 3 St Martin Meet the New Teacher 8.55am – 9.20am - Year 5 St Josephine Meet the New Teacher 8.55am – 9.20am
TUESDAY 4 th	- Shrove Tuesday - Reception St Peter Meet the New Teacher 8.55am – 9.20am - Parent Consultation calls and face to face, and SEN 3.15pm – 6pm
WEDNESDAY 5 th	- Ash Wednesday service in School for children only. Lent starts today - Year 4 St Cuthman Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 6 th	World Book Day (dress in pyjamas and comfy clothes)
FRIDAY 7 th	Year 4 Swimming
SATURDAY 8 th	International Womens Day
MONDAY 10 th	- Science Week - Year 3 Pedestrian Training
TUESDAY 11 th	
WEDNESDAY 12 th	- Year 2 St Monica Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 13 th	Y6 Hove Fire Station – Safety in Action
FRIDAY 14 th	Year 4 Swimming
MONDAY 17 th	- St Patrick's Day - Year 3 Pedestrian Training - Year 5 Bikability
TUESDAY 18 th	Year 5 Bikability
WEDNESDAY 19 th	- Year 2 St Patrick Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm - Year 5 Bikability
THURSDAY 20 th	Year 5 Bikability
FRIDAY 21 st	- World Poetry Day - Y4 Lets Dance 2025 at the Brighton Dome - Year 4 Swimming
MONDAY 24 th	- Year 3 Pedestrian Training - Year 5 Bikability
TUESDAY 25 th	Annunciation of the Lord Year 5 Bikability
WEDNESDAY 26 th	- Year 3 St Martin Forest School am - Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School pm - Year 5 Bikability
THURSDAY 27 th	Reception school trip to Drusillas Year 5 Bikability
FRIDAY 28 th	- Year 4 Swimming - PTA Easter Egg Hunt after school
MARCH / APRIL	
MONDAY 31 st	Year 3 Pedestrian Training
TUESDAY 1 st	
WEDNESDAY 2 nd	World Autism Awareness Day Honeypot Party 9am Reception Easter liturgy in hall for parents 2pm Stations of the Cross with Parents – Year 3 2.30pm Stations of the Cross with Parents – Year 6
THURSDAY 3 rd	9am Year 1 Easter liturgy in hall for parents 2pm Stations of the Cross with Parents – Year 4 2.30pm Stations of the Cross with Parents – Year 5 PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 4 th	Year 4 Swimming 9am Year 2 Easter liturgy in hall for parents
EASTER HOLIDAYS Monday 7 th April – Monday 21 st April Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field 20 th April – Easter Sunday	

EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April
Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field
20th April – Easter Sunday

APRIL	
TUESDAY 22nd	
WEDNESDAY 23rd	Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am
THURSDAY 24th	
FRIDAY 25th	Year 4 Swimming
APRIL / MAY	
MONDAY 28th	
TUESDAY 29th	
WEDNESDAY 30th	- Year 4 St Cuthman Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 1st	Grandparents day celebration in Forest School. 1.45pm – 2.45pm. All welcome. Entrance via field gate off The Upper Drive.
FRIDAY 2nd	- Year 4 Swimming - Year 2 Beach School - Reception PTA film show after school
MAY – MONTH OF MARY	
MONDAY 5th	Bank Holiday – school closed
TUESDAY 6th	
WEDNESDAY 7th	- Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 8th	Year 5 school trip to Rampion Wind Farm
FRIDAY 9th	Year 4 Swimming
MONDAY 12th	- Year 6 SATs Monday - Thursday - Mental Health Awareness Week
TUESDAY 13th	
WEDNESDAY 14th	- Year 3 St Martin Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 15th	
FRIDAY 16th	- Year 4 Swimming - Year 1 school trip to Arundel Castle - Mental Health Awareness Day to mark the end of Mental Health Awareness Week
MONDAY 19th	Reception Screening for height, weight, vision and hearing
TUESDAY 20th	Reception Screening for height, weight, vision and hearing
WEDNESDAY 21st	Honeypot Party
THURSDAY 22nd	PGL Marchant Hill TEAMS meeting with parents at 3.45pm
FRIDAY 23rd	11am Mary Mass for all, followed by 12.15 pm family picnic on the field

HALF TERM
Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May
Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field

JUNE	
MONDAY 2nd	
TUESDAY 3rd	
WEDNESDAY 4th	- Year 2 St Patrick Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 5th	- PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2 - Year 3 Beach School
FRIDAY 6th	Year 2 Beach School
MONDAY 9th	Year 1 (and some Year 2) Phonics Screening test week
TUESDAY 10th	6.20pm welcome meeting for new Reception (Sept 2024) parents
WEDNESDAY 11th	- Year 2 St Monica Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm - Black History Workshops for Y2 to Y6
THURSDAY 12th	Black History Workshops for Y2 to Y6
FRIDAY 13th	
Sunday 15th	First Holy Communion at the Sacred Heart 9.30am Mass.
MONDAY 16th	
TUESDAY 17th	
WEDNESDAY 18th	- Year 6 – Residential trip to Marchants Hill (18th – 20th) - Year 5 St Josephine Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 19th	Year 6 – Residential trip to Marchants Hill (18th – 20th)
FRIDAY 20th	- Year 4 Beach School - Year 6 – Residential trip to Marchants Hill (18th – 20th) - Refugee Day - New Reception Starters Teddy Bear’s picnic 10.15am – 11.15am (Entrance via field gate on The Upper Drive)
MONDAY 23rd	
TUESDAY 24th	
WEDNESDAY 25th	Class photos with JP Photographic - Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 26th	Year 5 School Trip to Deers Leap
FRIDAY 27th	- Summer Fair - Year 3 school trip to Cuckmere Haven
JUNE / JULY	
MONDAY 30th	
TUESDAY 1st	
WEDNESDAY 2nd	- New Reception storytime sessions. Group A 10.30am – 11.30am and Group B 1.30pm – 2.20pm (Entrance via KS1 playground gate on The Upper Drive) - Year 6 St Benedict Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 3rd	
FRIDAY 4th	- Year 6 Transition Day - Newman festival
JULY	
MONDAY 7th	Year 6 dress rehearsal to all of school
TUESDAY 8th	Year 6 show to parents. 1.30pm – 3pm (entrance via Radinden Manor) and 6.30pm – 8pm (entrance via gate off staff car park onto KS2 playground)
WEDNESDAY 9th	- Sports Day sessions for KS1 (parents welcome). Entrance via field gate on The Upper Drive 9.15am – 10.15am Reception 10.30am – 11.30am Year 1 1.30pm – 2.30pm Year 2 - Year 4 St Lewinna Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 10th	- Year 2 school trip to Port Lympne Safari Park - First Holy Communion Mass and breakfast for children in Year 3 and 4
FRIDAY 11th	Reserve date for Summer Fair
MONDAY 14th	Staff leavers assembly
TUESDAY 15th	
WEDNESDAY 16th	- Sports Day sessions for KS2 (parents welcome). Entrance via field gate on The Upper Drive 9.15am – 10.45am Year 5 and 6 1.15pm – 2.45pm Year 3 and 4 - Year 6 leaver’s disco 4.45pm until 6.15pm (children only unless parent helpers) - Honey-pot Party
THURSDAY 17th	PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 18th	9.15am Year 6 Leavers Mass and picnic - Last day of term – school closed for summer
MONDAY 21st	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
TUESDAY 22nd	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils