



9th January 2025

Dear parents/carers

Epiphany

This week, we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany where the Magi made the difficult journey to discover the baby Jesus lying in a manger and offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This was a time for us to reflect on our own personal journey of faith and what gifts we bring before the Lord as we begin this new year. Regardless of their size and worth, we have gifts to bring too. Each of us is a blessing to our family, our school and community. Don't forget the difference you make! We also thought about those in our Coptic Orthodox community as they celebrated Christmas on Wednesday and kept them in our prayers.



Snow

Thank you for your support during the adverse weather this week. We were thankful for our new heating system which made sure that the children were warm and toasty all week. Thank you again to some of the staff from Newman who, along with some of our staff, helped prepare the school. This beautiful picture of the school was taken exactly one year ago so let's see what the first week of January brings next year as this now seems to be a trend!



Amnesty International

Before the Christmas holidays, Year 6 took part in Amnesty International's 2025 Write for Rights campaign. Children received a talk from governor Peter Gwillam, during which they were introduced to Amnesty's work and one of the people whose cases Amnesty is featuring. They learned about Ellinor Guttorm Utsi - spokesperson for the Čorgáš reindeer-herding community, fighting against industrial wind farms proposed for Sámi land in Nordkyn, northern Norway. The development of these farms is undermining the community's rights and cultural survival, and government consultation and consent processes on land use have been inadequate. The children wrote postcards with messages of support, which will join thousands of other postcards winging their way to Ellinor to show her that other people care about her and her community.



Message from Bishop Richard

Dear Staff and Students

I am attaching herewith the Press Statement regarding my new appointment as Archbishop of Westminster.



It has been a real privilege for me to serve you all during these last ten years and I shall be sad to leave the Diocese. May I thank you for all the support, patience and understanding you have shown to me over these years as we have journeyed together. I know I can rely on your prayers as I prepare for new responsibilities, and I assure you of my prayers for all that you do in the service of the Church in the Mission that the Lord has entrusted to us all.

With every Blessing,

Bishop Richard, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton

BISHOP RICHARD MOTH APPOINTED NEW ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has today, 19 December, appointed the Right Reverend Richard Moth as Archbishop of Westminster. Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3 July 1982, Archbishop-elect Moth has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015. Prior to that, he was the Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009 to 2015.

Archbishop-elect Moth will become the 12th Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who has served in the role since 2009. Cardinal Nichols will now become Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Westminster until Archbishop-elect Moth is installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 14 February 2026.

On hearing of his appointment, Archbishop-elect Moth said:

"I am moved greatly by the trust that Pope Leo has placed in me, in appointing me to the Diocese of Westminster. As I prepare to move to the Diocese, I am so grateful for the support being given to me by Cardinal Vincent Nichols at this time. He has given dedicated service to the Diocese and will be missed greatly.

"Serving the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton has given me the wonderful opportunity of sharing the Church's mission with lay faithful and clergy, and I give thanks for the many blessings of these last ten years.

"My first task will be to get to know the priests and people of Westminster and I look forward, now, to serving them. With them, and building on the firm foundations that have been laid by so many down the years, I look forward to continuing the great adventure that is the life of the Church and witness to the Gospel."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols said:

"I am delighted at this news. Archbishop-elect Richard will bring to our Diocese many gifts and considerable episcopal experience from his years of ministry in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, and before that as Bishop of the Forces. I look forward very much to his Installation as our new Archbishop on Saturday, 14 February 2026. It is, of course, St Valentine's Day, as well as the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, co-Patrons of Europe.

"I remember being present in Westminster Cathedral on 29 September 2009 for the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Richard as Bishop of the Forces. So today I can say: 'Welcome back, dear Bishop Richard. You are most welcome indeed.'"

It is lovely to have the children back in school. We hope that you all had a lovely holiday. Wishing you, and them, a wonderful and rewarding 2026. Thank you again for the kind Christmas cards and gifts that were so thoughtful and appreciated.

Keeping Bishop Richard in our prayers as he looks toward his new role within the Church. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Eco Working Group



We would like to invite volunteers to join our school's ECO Working Group. As a Gold accredited school, we are incredibly proud of our environmental education strategy, one that we are dedicated to maintaining, strengthening, and building upon. Our aim is to continue developing meaningful and sustainable initiatives that support all pupils in becoming responsible and environmentally conscious citizens. To do this, we would love to further work in partnership with parents and carers who have an interest in the environment, sustainability, or simply a desire to contribute to our ongoing eco efforts. Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday, 28th January, 2pm - 3pm. If you would like to be involved, share ideas, or learn more about our initiatives, we warmly welcome you to join us. Please email Mrs Alemany directly.

GraceAlemany-Lilley@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Christmas Jumpers and Tinsel

Don't forget to donate any outgrown Christmas jumpers to the school. These will be saved and given to families who may need additional support. If we receive lots, we will hold a seconds sale which will help with sustainability.

If you have any unwanted tinsel at home that you no longer need, we would be very grateful for donations as this can be used as part of our table decorations at next year's Christmas dinner. We are hoping to reuse and recycle materials where possible. Any colour or length would be welcome.



Financial support / heating this winter

As ever, we want to work closely with families who may be finding things a challenge. We can signpost to organisations that can help with a range of support, should any family wish to reach out. On occasions, we are also able to access specific grants that may help. We are always able to offer free uniform to families who are facing financial challenges as well as shoes, coats and other items. Please do reach out to the school if needed.

Phonics video

The video version of the phonics workshop is available on the school website, on the Reception Page.

<https://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/rec-learning/> This page is full of information and resources. If you scroll down, you will see the relevant video that says 'Phonics and Reading meeting for Reception'. It also contains all of the slides shared at the meeting.

Club support

We are aware that there are a significant number of families who don't quite meet the criteria for Pupil Premium funding but are also finding things a challenge. We currently offer Pupil Premium children £50 towards a club of their choice, each term, so please get in touch if you have not yet accessed this. We also have access to some free spaces in a range of after school clubs, as well as holiday clubs, which we reserve for other families in certain circumstances. If you do not meet the criteria for Pupil Premium funding but are on a low income and finding it hard to fund such activities, please do get in touch so we can see if we can help. All information will be treated in confidence but we will have to ask some personal questions in order to prioritise who gets what help. Please email:

annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Buddy Masses at Cardinal Newman Catholic School in the chapel.

- Reception and Year 6 – Thursday 22nd January at 9.15am
- Year 1 and Year 5 – Thursday 5th February at 9.15am

Entrance for parents will be via the lower gate at Cardinal Newman School, Upper Drive and registering at the Chapel side door as you round the back of it (follow the other parents if you haven't been there before!). Children will be brought across with their classes for the Mass and then will return to school afterwards. Parents will not have general access to school toilets so please come prepared for this. If you can help walk your child's class over, please contact their teacher asap. There will be a retiring collection for the charities that we support. We look forward to seeing you.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB SPRING TERM 2026

"MY SON HAD SO MUCH FUN. HE WANTS TO GO BACK FOR MORE TOMORROW!"

"MY DAUGHTER WAS FULL OF BEANS AND BURSTING WITH LOVELY STORIES WHEN I COLLECTED HER"

FUN, EXERCISE, FRESH AIR & DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR THIS TERM INCLUDE:

- YETI DINNER PLATES
- CAMPFIRE COOKOUT: MARSHMALLOWS
- CUDDLY TOY CATAPULT ASSAULT
- MINIBEAST MAYHEM: BUG HUNTING
- VIKING RUNESTONES & CODE BREAKING
- BUSHCRAFT: FIRELIGHTING TECHNIQUES
- BUSHCRAFT: HEAD SHELTER MAKING
- FAIRY DOORS & TREE SPIRITS
- & AS USUAL: FUN TIMES & ADVENTURE!

WATCHING CHILDREN'S CONFIDENCE GROW & NEW FRIENDSHIPS FORM AS OUR CLUBS IS ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING THINGS WE DO.

COTTESMORE ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
WEDNESDAYS 3:10 - 4:20PM
YEAR GROUPS 1-6
7TH JANUARY - 25TH MARCH 2026
PRICE: £88 (11 WEEK TERM)

The Outdoors Project

MORE INFO & BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK
HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - SAILING PARENT & TODDLER GROUP
OFSTED REGISTERED & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



THANK YOU TO

Nicholas James

SALES LETTINGS AUCTIONS

Nicholas James will kindly donate to the
PTA 20% of their commission for properties
sold on behalf of Cottesmore families.

