



16th January 2025

Dear parents/carers

SVP Minnie Vinnies

It was a pleasure to welcome Katy Ramsey, the lead for SVP Minnie Vinnies, to our school this week for their special commissioning assembly. Katy said she had only ever once seen a group as big as ours, and she was delighted to see almost 60 children as part of our action group. Our SVP Minnie Vinnies group has been running for many years and is open to all children from Year 2 upwards. Children meet weekly, with Mrs Fairbanks, during a Wednesday lunchtime.

Minnie Vinnies turn concern into action through their mission of 'See, Think, Do'. They focus on a 'Call to Kindness'.

Matthew 25:36-37 - For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

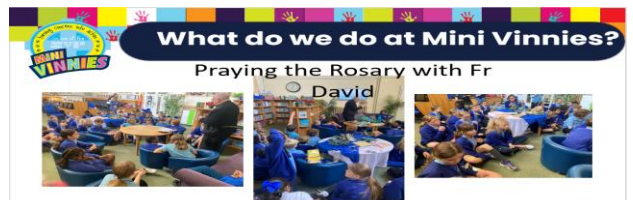
As a member of Mini Vinnies, children promised to make a difference to the world by:

- caring for, respecting and loving themselves
- strengthening their friendship with Jesus by talking to him each day and talking to others about him
- caring for others in the school and community by being a friend to those who are alone, in need or in trouble
- offering their families help and respect as well as showing kindness and consideration
- caring for and enjoying God's world
- treating others the way they would like to be treated.

Minnie Vinnie leads shared examples of the work this group have been doing with the rest of the school. What an amazing group and what a lot they have done already this school year!



If you or someone you know needs help from the SVP, go to info@svp.org.uk



Thank you to all the children who are part of this group, and Mrs Fairbanks, for all they do to make a difference. We keep them all in our prayers, as well as those who require the support of SVP.

We also continue to keep Bishop Richard in our prayers as he looks toward his new role within the Church. Have a lovely weekend. 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

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 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. Email: annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

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.



<https://www.hangletonfoodbank.org/>

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.

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.

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 AT 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)

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

MONDAY 19th	
TUESDAY 20th	
WEDNESDAY 21st	• Year 5 St Josephine Forest School am • Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm • Year 6 school trip to Downs Junior Air Raid Shelter • Year 5 to Brighton Girls School – Space Day
THURSDAY 22nd	• 9.15am Reception and Year 6 Buddy Mass at Cardinal Newman School Chapel – parents welcome
FRIDAY 23rd	• Year 2 school trip to the Sealife Centre
MONDAY 26th	
TUESDAY 27th	• Holocaust Memorial Day
WEDNESDAY 28th	• Year 6 St Benedict Forest School am • Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 29th	
FRIDAY 30th	
FEBRUARY	
MONDAY 2nd	
TUESDAY 3rd	
WEDNESDAY 4th	• Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am • Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm • Year 3 school trip to Brighton Museum
THURSDAY 5th	• 9.15am Year 1 and Year 5 Buddy Mass at Cardinal Newman School Chapel – parents welcome
FRIDAY 6th	•
MONDAY 9th	
TUESDAY 10th	• Safer Internet Day – extra online safety lessons in school • Year 5 school trip to Brighton Pavilion
WEDNESDAY 11th	• International day of women in science
THURSDAY 12th	• Year 4 Viking workshop • PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 13th	• PTA Valentines cake sale after school
HALF TERM Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field Tuesday 17th February - Shrove Tuesday and Chinese New Year Lent - 18th February to Thursday 2nd April Saturday 21st February - International Mother Language Day	

MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY	
TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY	Reception bikeability - children will be provided with a balance bike, or can bring their own, but ideally need to bring a helmet Year 3 Pedestrian Training
WEDNESDAY 25th	- Reception bikeability - children will be provided with a balance bike, or can bring their own, but ideally need to bring a helmet - Year 4 St Lewinna Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 26th	Reception bikeability - children will be provided with a balance bike, or can bring their own, but ideally need to bring a helmet
FRIDAY 27th	- Reception bikeability - children will be provided with a balance bike, or can bring their own, but ideally need to bring a helmet - Year 4 Swimming
MARCH	
MONDAY 2nd	Fairtrade Fortnight (until 15th March)
TUESDAY 3rd	Year 3 Pedestrian Training
WEDNESDAY 4th	- Year 4 St Cuthman Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 5th	World Book Day (dress in pyjamas and comfy clothes)
FRIDAY 6th	- Year 4 Swimming - Year 1 and 2 PTA film show after school
SUNDAY 8th	International Womens Day
MONDAY 9th	Science Week
TUESDAY 10th	Year 3 Pedestrian Training
WEDNESDAY 11th	- Year 2 St Monica Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 12th	Parent Consultation zoom calls and face to face and SEN 3.15pm – 6pm
FRIDAY 13th	Year 4 Swimming
MONDAY 16th	Year 5 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
TUESDAY 17th	Year 5 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet) St Patrick's Day Parent Consultation zoom calls and face to face and SEN 3.15pm – 6pm Year 3 Pedestrian Training
WEDNESDAY 18th	- Year 2 St Patrick Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm - Year 5 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
THURSDAY 19th	Year 5 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
FRIDAY 20th	- Year 4 Swimming - Let's Dance (children in Year 4 who have attended the sessions after school)
SATURDAY 21st	World Poetry Day
MONDAY 23rd	2.30pm Stations of the Cross with Parents – Year 3 and 6 - Year 5 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet)
TUESDAY 24th	9am Year 2 Easter liturgy in hall for parents Year 5 bikeability (children will need to bring – or borrow – a bike and helmet) Year 3 Pedestrian Training
WEDNESDAY 25th	9am Year 1 Easter liturgy in hall for parents 2.30pm Stations of the Cross with Parents – Year 4 and 5 Annunciation of the Lord Year 3 St Martin Forest School am Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School pm
THURSDAY 26th	9am Reception Easter liturgy in hall for parents Reception school trip to Drusillas PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 27th	- Year 4 Swimming - PTA Easter Egg Hunt after school
EASTER HOLIDAYS Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field Thursday 2nd April - World Autism Awareness Day	