



23rd January 2026

Dear parents/carers

Care For Our Common Home

Thank you to Mrs Alemany and children from our Eco Committee for sharing an inspiring assembly, and challenge, with all children this week. She revisited the importance of recycling paper with the children.

- Did you know that making 1 sheet of A4 paper requires approximately 10 litres of water?
- Did you know that the average family in the UK throws away 6 trees worth of paper every year?

Each class has been set a challenge – to reduce the amount of paper they use. The class that prints, photocopies and uses the least amount of paper wins an extra Forest School session. For example, children and adults were encouraged to think about how they could reuse paper in the classroom / school instead of just putting paper in the recycling bin. Children thought about how recycling is essential for preserving our natural resources and about how actually using less in the first place is even better. Can you do the same at home? Stop and think if you really need to use fresh paper and, if it is unavoidable, always recycle.



Baptisms

A number of children were Baptised at St Peter's this weekend. How wonderful to celebrate their first sacrament - marking them permanently as belonging to Christ and being welcomed into the Church. This was also the Enrollment Mass for all children preparing for their First Holy Communion



Special Visitors and RE lessons

I have been lucky enough to watch RE lessons in both Year 1 and Reception classes this week. I have been very impressed with the children's learning and all they could tell me about their RE lessons. During their RE lesson, one activity for the Reception children was to write welcome letters for visitors coming to our school. They did this to remind themselves that Jesus welcomes everyone. They made links to the story of Jesus welcoming the children '**Let the little children come to me.**' **Mark 10:13.** It just so happened that, on the same day, we had a visit from Georgina Clarke-Green who is the Director for Education and Learning within the city. Georgina spent the afternoon at school, enjoying a tour of the grounds and classrooms. Georgina noted that, 'It was a pleasure, I really appreciated the visit; it was lovely seeing the school and meeting the children. Thank you for a really enjoyable afternoon.'



Buddy Mass

It was lovely to attend Reception and Year 6's first Buddy Mass this week. It was yet another wonderful reflective act of worship, held in the chapel at Newman. We were very impressed with how reflective all children were throughout the Mass and how well the Year 6 children took care of their buddies. Thank you to Canon David as well as our super Mass Choir



Have a lovely weekend. Keeping all those who were baptised in our prayers. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Governor vacancy

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 will soon be in need of a Foundation (Catholic) Governor at Cottesmore. If you are Catholic and 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

katieraymond@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

thomasmedveczky@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?

- 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.
- You will be given a Diocesan Application Form. This includes a declaration that must be signed by a Parish Priest.
- 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/>



Buddy Masses at Cardinal Newman Catholic School in the chapel.

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.

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

Attendance

Evidence shows that good school attendance not only helps children develop but helps them in later life. If you are ever unsure as to whether you should keep your child off from school or send them in, please refer to this link.

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery



Spring Termly [1st half] Overviews on Website

The Half Termly Overviews for the 1st half of the Spring Term have been published on the relevant year group pages on our school website.

These overviews give you detailed information about the upcoming topics and, whether it's exciting science topics, creative art projects, or language learning opportunities, there's something for every child to look forward to. We encourage you to find out, and have conversations with your child, about what they will be studying at school. If you have any questions about forthcoming topics, please speak to class teachers.





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.



Valentine's

CAKE SALE



£ CASH ONLY

13TH FEBRUARY 2026

In the KS2 playground 15.10 - 15.30

Please leave all donations in the covered area in the KS2 playground on the morning of the 13th making sure all ingredients are clearly labelled.

NO NUTS PLEASE.



INTERESTED IN TRAINING TO TEACH?

Information event

Friday 30 January

9.30am and 11.30am

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
BN11 4BD

[Click here to book your slot](#)

☎ 01243 558220

🌐 www.boscocet.org.uk



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