



27th February 2026

Dear parents / carers



Lent

During half term, we marked the start of Lent. Many families will have marked Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes. Some will have also attended an Ash Wednesday service and reflected on what Lent means and ways in which we can make changes so that we can be more like Jesus. We reflected on this with the children and reminded them of the previous times we have been together to mark this special day. We reminded the children how we usually roll up the word 'Alleluia' together as a reminder that we don't say this word again until Easter Sunday as we proclaim that Christ has Risen. Children also thought about their Lenten promises. On Seesaw, you will have access to a virtual Lent prayer space as well as receive weekly, Lent based, challenges to take up doing this period. Over the weeks, we will talk to the children about things they can do to be closer to God, exploring how they can use prayer as well as how they can give to others and go without.



International Day of Women in Science

We marked International Day of Women in Science with a special assembly. The day celebrated the incredible contributions women have made and continue to make in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Children learnt about inspirational women scientists from around the world, past and present, whose discoveries have changed lives and shaped our understanding of the world. Children explored why representation in science matters and how curiosity, resilience and creativity are qualities that belong to everyone.

Katherine Johnson - A mathematician who worked for NASA. She calculated the flight paths that helped send astronauts safely to space and back. Her maths helped land people on the Moon.

Rosalind Franklin – The DNA Detective
Rosalind Franklin took an important photograph of DNA that helped scientists understand its structure. However, for many years, she didn't get the credit she deserved. Today, scientists make sure her contribution is recognised.



Space Day

Thank you to Brighton Girls School who invited children in Year 5 to take part in a Space Day. The children had an action packed morning, including space buggy coding, a fascinating planetarium show and science experiments. The trip linked with their new science topic Earth and Space and it has been super to see children making links in science lessons because of their learning from the trip.



Brighton Pavilion

Before half term, Year 5 had a fantastic experience at Brighton Pavilion as part of their 'Local History' unit. Children were transported back to Georgian times in a workshop with the mysterious 'Lady Busby' who needed the children's help learning the rules of Georgian society ahead of an important dinner with King George IV. Children had the opportunity to explore the Pavilion and do some sketching of the lavish decor in the music room. Staff at the Pavilion fed back to teachers about the wonderful behaviour and manners.



Year 5 Food Waste Rescue

In their recent Forest School session, 5 St Oscar made a tasty soup from broccoli stems (from the school kitchen) that were destined for the bin. The children started off by weighing the broccoli stems, using a giant balancing scale, to see how much there was. They discussed the importance of not wasting food when so many people around the world are starving, and then got busy. Some children lit a fire and another group chopped the stems, some potatoes and garlic. Everyone then had a good explore in the FS area while it cooked. All of the children had a try and most of them said how delicious it was. You may wish to pledge to make some food waste dishes this Lent. How about making your own food waste soup or putting over ripe fruit in smoothies or pies?



Wishing you a restful weekend. Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Parent / carer survey

Parent and carer feedback plays a vital role in our ongoing monitoring and school development. Your views help to inform future initiatives, highlight what is working well and identify areas for further development.

To view our previous Parent/Carer Survey results (June 2024), please visit our website:

<https://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/parentview/>

Information has been sent, via Ping, with links for this year's new survey. Each class has its own survey link. If you have more than one child at the school, you are welcome to complete just one survey, or you may complete a separate survey for each child if you wish.

Parents and carers regularly share positive feedback with staff or via email. We kindly ask that any such comments are also included in the questionnaire, as this allows us to keep an official record and also helps us see areas of strength. The questionnaire consists of 33 questions, with space provided after each for additional comments should you wish to share them. The survey has two parts :

Section 1: RE, Catholic Life and Worship (15 questions)

Section 2: Learning and Wellbeing (18 questions)

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey by Friday 6th March 2026. Thank you for your time and continued support.

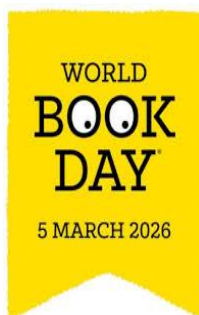


Club support

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 may have to ask some questions. Email: annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, we will celebrate World Book Day. 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 bring in their favorite book from home to share with their class.



Road safety concerns | police patrols

In response to road safety concerns, Sussex Police will be supporting schools by conducting patrols during school drop off and pick up times, across Primary and Secondary Schools in Brighton & Hove. Officers will initially offer words of advice to educate drivers on appropriate parking locations and areas where stopping is not permitted. Following this period of engagement officers may move to enforcement of any traffic related offences, which can result in fines and/or points on driving licenses.

The main traffic offences identified are:

- Wilful Obstruction of a Highway with a Motor Vehicle
- Motor Vehicle Fail to Comply with Zig Zag Road Markings in the Vicinity of a School.
- Fail to Stop for a Person at a School Crossing
- Use a Vehicle/Cycle in a Road and Contravene a Local Traffic Order - (where there is clear signage advising roads are closed during specific times).

They would like to emphasise that officers will not proceed directly to enforcement. The primary aim is to promote education and support road users in understanding the importance of road safety practices. The action is not intended to penalise drivers but to improve safety for all road users, particularly pedestrians and school children. We welcome this initiative.

For more information about the work of Sussex Police and useful advice on crime prevention, please see their website www.sussex.police.uk.

Try Spanish Club for FREE

Is your child interested in learning a new language through games, movement, and music? Mariposa Languages is delighted to offer a limited number of FREE Taster Passes for our upcoming Spanish Club sessions! This half-term, we have an action-packed curriculum :

- Sports & Games: Learning action verbs through physical play.
- World Book Day: Celebrating the magic of Spanish stories.
- Nature & Spring: Welcoming the flowers and the new season.
- Easter Traditions: Discovering how Semana Santa is celebrated with color and music in Spanish-speaking countries.
- The Grand Finale: A "Fiesta Craft" session to end the term with creativity!

Why choose a Spanish Club?

- Confidence Boost: A stress-free environment to practice speaking.
- Cognitive Growth: Enhances memory and problem-solving skills.
- Cultural Awareness: Building empathy by exploring global traditions.
- Pure Joy: Led by native speakers who make every lesson feel like a celebration.

To claim your free pass:

KS2Tuesdays:

<https://mariposalanguages.classforkids.io/info/461>

KS1Thursdays:

<https://mariposalanguages.classforkids.io/info/473>

Brighton & Hove - Spring Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme 2026

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provides FULLY-FUNDED enriching activities, meals, and support for school-aged children in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM).

Spring HAF bookings are live now, for activities during the school Easter holidays.

Visit <https://eequ.org/brightonhovehaf> to see what's on and request places for your child.

All booking requests are eligibility checked and then reviewed by the activity provider before being approved.

Dates available:

•**Week 1:** Monday 30 March - Thursday 2 April

•**Week 2:** Tuesday 7 - Friday 10 April

Booking rules:

•Each eligible child can book up to **4 sessions** across all providers.

•Only **one session per day** is allowed.

•If your child can't attend a session, please cancel in good time to let others benefit and allow yourself to book an alternative session.

•You can manage bookings by logging into Eequ and checking your Schedule.

Support for children with SEND

All HAF providers are expected to be inclusive. Please message providers directly to discuss your child's needs.

Additional funding is available for children with an EHCP through the city's [Childcare Inclusion Fund](#), where additional staff or resources are required to make HAF provision more accessible.

Providers offering higher staff ratios (1:4) - Select a "SEND HAF ticket" when booking:

•Activ8 for Kids (sports, dance, games, and crafts)

@ [Bevendean Primary School](#) and [Mile Oak Primary School](#)

•[Artpod](#) (arts and crafts) @ St. Margarets School, Rottingdean

•[Brighton Table Tennis Club](#) (carousel of sports) @ Moulsecoomb Primary School

•[Stay and Play](#) (arts and crafts, sensory play, sports, cooking/baking) @ Aldrington CoFE Primary School

•[Brighton Swimming School](#) are offering 1:1 SEND lessons @ Brighton Swimming Centre, BN2 5JJ

Need help or have questions?

•Learn more: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/HAF>

•Email haf@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Teaching Assistant (Level B)
Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School

Position: Teaching Assistant (Level B)
Part time: Monday to Friday 08.45-1pm Term time only
Contract Type: Permanent
Grade: LGA 2019 Scale 4a Spinal 9-10
Salary: TA Grade SC4A (Role B) £ 27,254 - £27,694
Start: February 2026

Cottesmore St Mary is a thriving, friendly and supportive school. The Governors wish to appoint an enthusiastic Teaching Assistant to join our wonderful team.

We are looking for someone who is committed to the Catholic vision of our school and has high expectations and aspirations for our children.

The successful applicant will:

- have recent experience or working with children in the relevant age range (Primary 4-11)
- work under the direction of the class teacher and INCo as well as being required to use their own initiative

Cottesmore St Mary is a nurturing and supportive school that values every member of the school family. We provide a personalised range of training and opportunities to ensure that all members of staff are able to learn and develop through our culture of growth.

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing Date: Monday 8th March 2026 at 9am

Interview Date: Thursday 18th March 2026

Please contact Anna Mullans on Annamullans@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk to express interest.

Learning Mentor
Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School

Position: Learning Mentor Grade C
Part time: Monday-Friday 08.45am-3pm Term time only or Wednesday-Friday 08.45am-3pm
Contract Type: Fixed term 1 Year
Grade: 5 Role C
Salary: TA Grade 5 (Role C) £29,064 - £31,022
Actual salary 5day = £ 19,674 - £21,000 or 3 days £11,804-£12,600
Start: September 2026

The Governors at Cottesmore St Mary are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, patient and dedicated Learning Mentor. The successful candidate will be expected to provide individualised and group support to vulnerable pupils across the school.

About the role

Candidates will be able to provide evidence of:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Being attachment aware and have strong knowledge of trauma and its impact on pupils
- Good knowledge of a range of effective SEMH strategies
- A commitment to raising standards in all areas of school life
- Good understanding of child development and of how children learn
- An ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and able to use their own initiative within the classroom, playground and the wider school community
- Ability to communicate effectively with parents/carers
- Good organisational and time management skills

We are looking for someone who is committed to the Catholic vision of our school and has high expectations and aspirations for our children. Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing Date: Monday 9th March 2026 at 9am

Interview Date: Thursday 18th March 2026

The application pack is obtainable from the school website www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk or upon request from the school. Please contact Anna Mullans on 01273 555811. Informal visits are warmly welcomed.

DYSON GYMNASTICS CLUB

Friendly family-run classes from pre-school to late teenage

Classes for ALL ages

Tasters from £12

Call or email for spaces

About the Club

Dyson's is a friendly family-run gymnastics club offering classes from pre-school through to late teenage. We offer recreational sessions focused on being active, having fun, and learning the floor skills needed to do gymnastics along side apparatus such as vault & trampette.

We have squad groups for those wanting more of a challenge doing Festivals, TeamGym & Tumble, or Floor & Vault. For those wanting to learn flighted skills without taking part in a competitive squad, we offer 2-hour recreational groups aimed at anyone in school year 4 or above.



Taster sessions

£12.00 for 1 hour

£22.00 for 2 hours

Call or email to find out about spaces

Find us

Rear unit,
101 Conway Street,
Hove,
BN3 3LA

Contact

07760669393

contact@dysongymnastics.com

Dyson Gymnastics Club | Recreational • TeamGym • Tumble • Floor & Vault

PAVILION & AVENUE TENNIS CLUB

19 The Droveaway, Hove BN3 6LF
pavavecoaching@gmail.com

MONDAY 30TH MARCH - THURSDAY 2ND APRIL

For ages

3 to teen

Equipment
can be provided!

Beginners
welcome!

easter tennis camp!

BOOK INDIVIDUAL DAYS OR
FOR THE WHOLE WEEK!

[https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/
PavAveCoaching/Coaching/
Camps](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PavAveCoaching/Coaching/Camps)



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 phone calls and face to face 3.15pm – 6pm
FRIDAY 13th	Year 4 Swimming
MONDAY 16th	- Parent Consultation phone calls and face to face and SEN 3.15pm – 6pm - 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 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 Reception 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 Year 1 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	