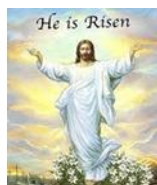




19th April 2024

Dear parents / carers



He is Risen!

I hope you all had a restful break and a super Easter. You no doubt celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, on Easter Sunday and the fact that Easter celebrates the hope of our eternal life Heaven. We, and the Church, are still celebrating this great event. The focus of this half term will be the role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives and how we can reveal Jesus to others through the choices we make. Thank you for your generous donations after all Easter liturgies. The collection total was £239.96 and will go towards helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Reception places for September

As you know, there are more school places than children across the city and many schools are struggling to fill. This impacts these schools greatly as it means that full budgets are not received. We are thrilled to say that our Reception places, for September 2024, have been offered and we are full, with a waiting list. We were also delighted to hear that 79 families put us as their first choice - the second highest subscribed school across the city. Thank you for all your support and help promoting the school. How lucky we all are to be part of our school family. We look forward to welcoming new families soon.

Governor vacancy – we need you!

We are in need of a Foundation (Catholic) Governor at Cottesmore. If you attend church and feel that you have some time to give to helping further develop our school, please do get in touch with our Chair of Governors,

Suehollow@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?

- As part of our school's commitment to Safer Recruiting practices, our Chair would contact you for an 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 your 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.



Autism in Schools Project

We are pleased to be launching the **Autism In Schools Project** in Cottesmore St Mary Primary School. This is a project funded by the NHS, which aims to:

- support schools to further understand autistic pupil's needs
- incorporate autistic pupils' voices and experiences into school provision
- support autistic pupils to further understand their own sensory and emotional needs
- develop a parent/carer forum for all parents/carers of children with SEND to strengthen connections and communication between parents, carers and schools.

This is a joint project with BHISS (Brighton and Hove Inclusion Support Service) and PACC (Parent Carers' Council). Specialist teachers and parent representatives will be collecting pupil and parent voice, as well as delivering staff workshops, parent carer workshops, neurodivergence workshops for pupils, and autism identity workshops for pupils. Please complete this short survey to contribute your views.

<https://forms.office.com/e/5dPvcQBQc2>



Fundraising

Well done to one family who, over the holidays, raised £150 for the Marymount Hospital and Hospice in memory of their grandparent. What a lovely thoughtful act and great inspiration to us all as we start a new term.



Welcome back to all. Here's to another super term. Thank you, as ever, for all you do to support the school and our community.
Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Mary Mass – 24th May

Our annual whole school, outdoor Mary Mass will be held on Friday 24th May. May is the month that we celebrate Mary, our school patron. You are invited to join us.

Mass Time: 11.00 am- 11.55am

Picnic Time: 12.10pm - 1.10 pm

- Only Radinden Manor Road gate will open so please don't arrive at any other entrance. This gate will open at 10.45am - 11.05am. This will then be closed. The gate will reopen 11.55am - 12.15pm. It will then be closed during lunch and reopened 1.15pm - 1.30pm.
- We ask that all children bring in some flowers on the day of the Mass. These will be used to decorate the altar and crown Mary.
- Children will need to wear smart school uniform (NO PE KITS ON THIS DAY) but can wear sun hats and have sun cream applied in the morning.
- Please can all bring in named water bottles. Please can all children bring a packed lunch as the whole school will enjoy a picnic on the field after the mass. Children in receipt of free school meals who would like school to provide a packed lunch can do so, but we ask that you inform the office by Monday 20th May. There will be no hot school dinners provided on this day.
- There will be a retiring collection for families affected by what is taking place due to conflict around the world. We look forward to celebrating with you.
- If you wish to take your child at 1.15pm, you will need to email the teacher a week, or more, in advance. These children will return to class after the picnic and then be brought back out to you, at 1.15pm with their belongings. Please do not ask to take your child before 1.15pm as this won't be possible.



Summer Term (1st half) overviews on website

The Half Termly Overviews for the 1st half of the Summer 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: perhaps you would like to investigate further, provide background reading or extra practice/support at home. If you have any questions about forthcoming topics, please speak to class teachers.



Choir and Orchestra for Key Stage 2 - Message from Mr Bondonno (new music teacher)

I am delighted to announce that choir will be re-starting. Mondays 8am-8.40am and that orchestra will be restarting Tuesdays 8am – 8.40am.

Both will take place in the Music Room before school. In choir, we will sing a wide range of music and choir members will work towards becoming our school singing leaders. In orchestra, we will work at a variety of music which will be performed at school events.

If your child is interested in joining, please reply via email, by 9am Wednesday 17th April with your child's name and class (if you have missed this date, try now in case we have any places left). alexbondonno@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Groups will hopefully start Monday 22nd April (choir) and Tuesday 23rd April (orchestra). Further details will be sent once I have a full list of who would like to attend.

Places are limited so please apply via email as soon as you can. If we are oversubscribed then children in higher year groups will be given priority.

Entrance will be via the gate off the path that is behind the staff car park onto the KS2 playground. Children are to use the path, not the car park. Children need to arrive promptly at 8am as we are unable to facilitate latecomers.

If you have any further questions, please email me.



It has been a pleasure to welcome Mr Bondonno to our school family this week. Children in KS1 enjoyed Songs of Worship with Mr Bondonno this week as did those in Reception, Year 4 and Year 6 who all had specialist music lessons with him. Mr Bondonno has taught music in schools for many years as well as leading work in local authorities, supporting teachers further develop their music curriculums and what is offered, musically, to children. He is a keen musician, playing a range of instrument including the saxophone.

Health and Safety

The path to school office, is now open (the one that runs from the main school car park gate). You are, once again, able to access the main front door / office via this path. A reminder that if visiting the office, or dropping children to early morning sessions, that you should always park on The Upper Drive and walk in. The staff care park is for school staff only, even if you are only dropping off briefly. Many thanks.

MONDAY 22nd	
TUESDAY 23rd	
WEDNESDAY 24th	- Year 4 St Cuthman Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 25th	
FRIDAY 26th	Year 5 Swimming
APRIL/MAY	MAY – MONTH OF MARY
MONDAY 29th	
TUESDAY 30th	
WEDNESDAY 1st	- Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 2nd	
FRIDAY 3rd	Year 5 Swimming
MAY	
MONDAY 6th	Bank Holiday – school closed
TUESDAY 7th	
WEDNESDAY 8th	- Year 3 St Martin Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 9th	
FRIDAY 10th	Year 5 Swimming
MONDAY 13th	- Year 6 SATS Monday – Thursday - Mental Health Awareness Week
TUESDAY 14th	
WEDNESDAY 15th	- PGL Marchant Hill TEAMS meeting with parents at 3.45 pm - Year 2 St Patrick Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm
THURSDAY 16th	Year 2 Beach School Session
FRIDAY 17th	Year 5 Swimming
MONDAY 20th	- KS1 SATS Assessments during the week - Year 3 trip to Cuckmere Haven
TUESDAY 21st	
WEDNESDAY 22nd	- Honeypot Party - Year 1 school trip to Arundel Castle
THURSDAY 23rd	PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 24th	- Year 5 Swimming 11am Mary Mass for all, followed by 12.10pm family picnic on the field
HALF TERM Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field	
JUNE	
MONDAY 3rd	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
TUESDAY 4th	
WEDNESDAY 5th	- Year 2 St Monica Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 6th	
FRIDAY 7th	Year 5 Swimming