



Dear parents and carers

Month of Mary

May is the month when we focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. May is often seen as the beginning of new life and the start of summer - a good time for the celebrations of Mary, who brought life into the world. As you know, the month of May and Mary are particularly important to us as we are Cottesmore St Mary and Mary is our patron saint. As a school, we will celebrate later in the month by holding our whole school Mass where we celebrate together as well as crown Mary – a tradition that can be found all over the world. <https://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/marymass/> Many of you will be saying the Rosary with your child during this special month and talking to them about why this, and the Hail Mary, is so important to Catholics. Further information and ideas can be found on the Catholic Life section of our school website. We will offer lunchtime Rosary prayer groups in our outdoor prayer garden. We have launched our May Challenge where children can build their own Mary garden, whether inside or outside, at home and send in pictures for the newsletter. We look forward to seeing all creative ideas.

Cottesmore St Mary's

May Mary Challenge

Build your own **Mary Garden** *either* inside or outside!



- 1) Find a space in your garden or a plant pot that you already have. Or find a jar that you can use to create a mini garden.
- 2) Add some flowers- Flowers are often a symbol of Mary. We use them in our Mary Mass!
- 3) Add a statue or cut out of Mary (you can draw your own picture too)
- 4) Take a photo and send to Mrs Fairbanks by **Rth May** rolettetafairbanks@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk



We will make a 'virtual rosary slideshow' with the images

St Carlo Acutis

As you will recall, all classes took part in the Big Lent Walk and children in KS2 went on a pilgrimage to St Peter's Church in Hove. One highlight of this journey was visiting the shrine of Saint Carlo Acutis. The children received a blessing from Canon David and were amazed to see a lock of Saint Carlo's hair. If you haven't visited this already, you may wish to make the journey and go and visit the shrine.



Playground updates

The children are still enthusiastically exploring and using the new equipment and games in our playground areas. These have been organised to create a child-centred environment that is adult supported, encouraging pupils to take ownership of their play. From leading their own games to engaging in creative construction activities, children are embracing the new opportunities with much enjoyment.



Planting, compost and visiting schools

We were delighted to host a Forest School session for Eco leads and pupils from local Catholic primary schools (our Newman Family of Schools). Children learnt about composting and got hands-on experience using our new composting tumbler. They took part in fire lighting and made elderflower cordial. It was wonderful to see everyone engaging with nature, working collaboratively and exchanging ideas on how to make our curriculum more environmentally focussed.

Additionally, children in Years 1 and 2 have recently planted wheat in their Forest School sessions. They helped dig out our new wheat bed and sow and water the wheat seeds. This project will involve all children as we wait and watch the wheat seeds grow. In September, we will harvest and process the wheat so that we can make our own bread. Our nurture group have been collecting the kitchen waste from school dinner prep, chopping it up and mixing it with sawdust before putting it in to the tumbler. In three weeks, the mixture will be ready to go into our resting bays and in six months, and with a little help from minibeasts, we will be able to use our home made, food waste free compost to grow our own vegetables and fruit.



Wishing you a restful weekend and keeping Year 6 in our prayers (please see overleaf) – what stars they are! Rachel Breen, Headteacher

Wonderful Year 6

Next week, Monday - Thursday, Year 6 will be sitting their SATs tests in school. We are extremely proud of all the work that the children have put in and how responsible they have been for their learning in order to progress to the best of their abilities. We have reminded the children that this week will not define them as young people - it is who they are individuals that is again the most important thing. This cohort are a delight and it is that which makes us so proud of them, not what they achieve in a test. That said, as with any challenge, it is important that they go into it with the best chance possible and we know that, together, all have worked to do this. We have been incredibly impressed by each child's determination to improve and grow and we hope that they are proud of all that they have achieved. We certainly are.



Altar Servers

If you and your child attend Mass regularly and your child could commit to becoming a regular altar server at any Sunday or Saturday Mass, there will be a session to explore this further on at St Peter's Church in Hove on Thursday 21st May, 5.30pm - 6.30pm / 7pm. Children need to have made their FHC, or be in the process of making it, to do this. As a school, we encourage children to become an altar server in whichever church they attend as we benefit from altar servers for our school Masses. Please let your class teacher, or Mrs Fairbanks know, if this is something your child does already as we have some Masses coming up and would enjoy welcoming them to this role.

Parent Service

Canon David (from St Peter's Church in Hove) would really appreciate adult parishioners to take on some valued roles within the church / Mass (Saturday or Sunday services). Training would be offered for these roles. Each weekly Mass benefits from parishioners taking on roles such as - welcomer, reader, taking up the offertory, collection baskets, Eucharistic Ministers etc as well as people offering to visit the sick and help with other church maintenance aspects. If you could commit to becoming a helper, at whichever Mass you attend, Canon David would relish exploring this with you further so please email him or see him after Mass. If you are unsure about some of these roles, you could start with a job such as welcomer. This is a lovely way to be more involved in the church and the church relies on help. Thank you in advance for any help.

Mary Mass – Friday 22nd May

Our annual, whole school, outdoor Mary Mass will be held on Friday 22nd 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 children 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 the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage.

We look forward to celebrating with you.



THURSDAY 14th MAY

IN THE KS2 PLAYGROUND 15.10 – 15.30

Please leave any donations in the covered area in the KS2 playground on the morning of the 12th May.



All clothes should be in good condition. Cottesmore uniform only please.



1st May 2026

Dear Newman Families,

Groundbreaking news today as all ten secondary schools across the City announced collectively that from September 2026 we will all be smartphone-free for our new Year 7 students. This means that from the next academic year, Year 7s will only be allowed to bring non-smart, 'brick' phones into any city secondary school (medical exemptions apply). In the case of Newman they will also then follow our Yondr pouching policy.

The Brighton & Hove secondary headteachers do not often write jointly but, when we do, it is because we believe something matters enough to speak with one voice. The decision has not been taken lightly but all of us, after engagement with each other and the wider community, are confident that this is the right step. Our reasons are grounded in evidence and shared values: safeguarding and online safety, focus and learning, mental health and wellbeing and relationships and social development. This decision is timely as it coincides with yesterday's Royal Assent for the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, legislation rooted in the belief that every child should be safe, supported and able to succeed.

8th May 2026

Dear Newman Families,

We shared news last week regarding the decision taken by all of the City's secondary schools to ban smartphones for students in year 7. We have had such a positive response to the news. One family wrote "This is incredible news - we are thrilled! Our daughter was so worried she would be the only one without a phone and this is the greatest relief to see this decision!" and another "This is fantastic news, which we fully support. Thank you so much for taking on this important issue."

It is timely that this week the local authority asked us to share the results of the [Smartphone Free Childhood's](#) survey that they shared across the City earlier this year. You can read their report [HERE](#) with the executive summary on page 3 of the report. The community group has also shared a helpful response to concerns about smartphone free policies [HERE](#).

Level 1 & Level 2

CYCLE

TRAINING



at Preston Park and Hove Park

Level 1 is where you will learn to control your bike.
Level 2 is where you start with real traffic, but sticking to quiet roads.

Level 1 – Riders must be able to ride independently with confidence and without stabilisers.
Progression to Level 2 training is dependent on meeting all level 1 modules to National Standards Level.
To book your place visit: <https://cycling.envelope.host/courses/> or contact Emily Tester on 01273 293647 or email east.central@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May

Course 1 - 10am – 12.30pm each day

Course 2 – 13.15 – 15.45 each day

Ages 9 – 15

Levels 1 & 2 together is £50 per person.

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.





Holiday cycle training courses

Cycle training is held at Hove and Preston Park during the May half term.
Level 1 & 2 – Ages 9 to 15 Cost £50 per person, concessions available



Tuesday 26 to Friday 29 May
Course 1 – 10.00 – 12.30 each day
Course 2 – 13.15 – 15.45 each day
Children must have completed all level 1 activities before progressing to Level 2

Places are limited and on a first-come first served basis.

To book your place please visit: <https://cycling.envelope.host/courses/>
or email east.central@brighton-hove.gov.uk

RMA PRE ACADEMY

WE ARE OFFERING ALL YEAR 1 AND 2 CHILDREN A
FREE TWO WEEK TASTER SESSION!

MONDAY- HOVE PARK 17:00-18:30
BACA 17:00-18:30

TUESDAY- BURGESS HILL ACADEMY 17:15-18:45

FRIDAY- SHOREHAM ACADEMY 17:30-19:00

CONTACT US:

info@rmfoundation.co.uk

www.russellmartinfoundation.co.uk



SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

HOVE PARK 3G

RECEPTION - YEAR 2
9:00 - 10:00

YEAR 3 - YEAR 6
10:15 - 11:30



RMA
RUSSELL
MARTIN
FOUNDATION



russellmartinfoundation.co.uk/courses
info@rmfoundation.co.uk
01273 591364



MAY HOLIDAY CAMP

Longhill Sports Centre



26th 27th 28th & 29th May

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE...

- Dodgeball
- Archery
- Fencing
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Tri Golf
- Badminton & more...

£27/day, £100 for the week
£20/day, £72 for the week (4 y/o)

SCAN HERE



[\[dan.m@sportscool.org\]](mailto:dan.m@sportscool.org)

[\[07845673895\]](tel:07845673895)

	MAY – MONTH OF MARY
MONDAY 11 th	KS2 SATS Assessments during the week (Monday – Thursday) Mental Health Awareness Week
TUESDAY 12 th	
WEDNESDAY 13 th	- Year 5 St Josephine trip to Rampton Wind Farm Visitors Centre - Year 5 St Oscar Forest School am - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 14 th	Year 5 St Oscar trip to Rampton Wind Farm Visitors Centre
FRIDAY 15 th	- Year 4 Swimming - Mental Health Awareness Day to mark the end of Mental Health Awareness Week
	MAY – MONTH OF MARY
MONDAY 18 th	
TUESDAY 19 th	
WEDNESDAY 20 th	- Year 4 St Cuthman Forest School am - Year 1 St George Forest School pm - PGL Marchant Hill TEAMS meeting with parents at 3.45 pm
THURSDAY 21 st	PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2 Year 6 safety in action at Hove Fire Station
FRIDAY 22 nd	11am Mary Mass for all, followed by 12.15pm family picnic on the field
HALF TERM Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May Outdoors Project Holiday Club on school field	
JUNE	
MONDAY 1 st	
TUESDAY 2 nd	
WEDNESDAY 3 rd	- Year 4 St Lewinna Forest School - Year 1 St Teresa Forest School - Years 2 - 6 Workshops ahead of Refugee Week - Year 3 trip to cricket ground
THURSDAY 4 th	Years 2 - 6 Workshops ahead of Refugee Week
FRIDAY 5 th	
MONDAY 8 th	Year 1 (and some Year 2) Phonics Screening Test week
TUESDAY 9 th	School nurse drop in
WEDNESDAY 10 th	6.20pm welcome meeting for new Reception (Sept 2026) parents - Year 3 St Martin Forest School - Year 1 St George Forest School
THURSDAY 11 th	
FRIDAY 12 th	
MONDAY 15 th	- Refugee Fortnight - Year 6 – Residential trip to Marchants Hill (15th – 17th)
TUESDAY 16 th	Year 6 – Residential trip to Marchants Hill (15th – 17th)
WEDNESDAY 17 th	Year 6 – Residential trip to Marchants Hill (15 th – 17 th) Year 3 St Cecilia Forest School am Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm
THURSDAY 18 th	Good Shepherd celebration for some members of RE Council TBC
FRIDAY 19 th	- PTA Summer Fair - New Reception Starters Teddy Bear’s picnic 10.15am – 11.15am
MONDAY 22 nd	Year 2 Beach School
TUESDAY 23 rd	Class photos with JP Photographic
WEDNESDAY 24 th	Year 1 St George Forest School am Year 1 St Teresa Forest School pm Year 4 Beach School
THURSDAY 25 th	Year 5 School Trip to Deers Leap
FRIDAY 26 th	
JUNE / JULY	
MONDAY 29 th	Year 6 Sussex Police Visit
TUESDAY 30 th	New Reception storytime sessions. Group A 10.15am – 11.15am and Group B 1.20pm – 2.20pm
WEDNESDAY 1 st	Sports Day sessions for KS1 (parents welcome) 9.15am – 10.15am Reception 10.30am – 11.30am Year 1 1.30pm – 2.30pm Year 2
THURSDAY 2 nd	First Holy Communion Mass and breakfast for children in Year 2, Year 3 and 4
FRIDAY 3 rd	- Reserve date for Summer Fair - Year 6 Transition Day - Newman festival
MONDAY 6 th	
TUESDAY 7 th	
WEDNESDAY 8 th	Sports Day sessions for KS2 (parents welcome) 9.15am – 10.45am Year 3 and 4 1.15pm – 2.45pm Year 5 and 6
THURSDAY 9 th	Year 3 Beach School PTA uniform sale after school – items between £1 and £2
FRIDAY 10 th	Year 5 Beach School Year 6 leaver’s disco 3.15pm – 4.30pm (children only unless parent helpers) – TBC
SATURDAY 11 th	Faith In Action awards for Year 6’s in FIA. Arundel Cathedral. 3p – 4.30pm
MONDAY 13 th	Year 6 dress rehearsal to school
TUESDAY 14 th	Year 6 show to parents. 1.30pm – 3pm and 5pm – 6.30pm. Please sign up via the office.
WEDNESDAY 15 th	Year 6 St Maximilian Forest School am Year 6 St Benedict Forest School pm Year 6 leaver’s disco 3.15pm – 4.30pm (children only unless parent helpers) – TBC
THURSDAY 16 th	
FRIDAY 17 th	9.15am Year 6 Leavers Mass and picnic Last day of term – school closed for summer
MONDAY 20 th	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
TUESDAY 21 st	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils