



Year 6 Information 2026-27



Welcome to Year 6! We have had a good start to the new school year, getting to know your children. We hope that this information leaflet helps you and your children settle into Year 6 quickly.

The Year 6 Team

Ms Szeless katalinszeless@cottesmorestmary.org

Miss O'Halloran robynohalloran@cottesmorestmary.org

Mrs Georgiou, Mr Mottram, Mrs Sarker

End of Day Collection

The gates open at 3.08pm and we respectfully request that parents are off site by 3.20pm at the latest. Collection time is 3.10pm.

At the end of the day, please wait in the Key Stage Two Playground by the Cloister door and the children will be dismissed individually at 3.10pm. At 3.15pm any uncollected pupils are taken to the Office by their teacher, where a phone call is made whilst the children wait. Late pick up is recorded.

Walking home alone Y6 - If you wish your child to walk home unsupervised, please complete and return the Walking Home Form, found on the Y6 pages on the website, under Curriculum and Information.

School Uniform / PE kits / Forest School clothes

Please ensure you support the school uniform policy as found on the school website. Please note that children should wear: grey smart bottoms (not jogger material) and **grey socks** (white socks may be worn with summer dresses). PE bottoms must be plain navy-blue e.g. plain navy-blue shorts or plain navy-blue tracksuit bottoms. PE t-shirts must be worn. These are pale blue and non-branded.

Shoes or trainers should be black in their entirety e.g. no white logos or soles. Fashion shoes or boots are not permitted. Any trainers can be worn on PE days. Plimsolls can be worn inside for dance and gymnastics or children can have bare feet. Please make sure all clothing items are named.

Second-hand uniform can be bought very reasonably through the PTA Seconds Shop and this will usually run the last week of every half term. We expect all children to have the full uniform and children representing the school will need to be dressed as noted above.

Where a child is not wearing the correct school uniform, parents will be contacted to see how we can support. Please contact us if you feel you need financial support to provide correct uniform for your child.

Please ensure that all items are labelled. Any named items that are left around the school will be returned to the child's class; any un-named items will be given to the PTA Seconds Shop – this includes shoes and coats.

Bags

In Year 6, we ask that the children bring a bag to school only if necessary. This should be a Cottesmore rucksack.

PE Days

Children should come to school dressed in PE Kit on these days

Year 6 Indoor PE - Friday

Year 6 Outdoor PE - Thursday

Years 2 – 6 Forest School Sessions are Termly

Children should wear PE kits for all Forest School sessions. Wellies and waterproofs will be needed if the weather is wet and coats, hats and gloves if it is cold. Please check the weather forecast on Forest School Days.

Trips and Events

Autumn events:

- 6 St Benedict Forest School – Wednesday 16th September
- 6 St Maximilian Forest School – Wednesday 23rd September
- Bikeability – Monday 22nd Sept – Friday 9th Oct 2026
- Year 6 Harvest Mass at Newman – Tuesday 20th October 2026
- KS2 Panto – Wednesday 25th Nov 2026
- Y6 Christmas Nativity – Monday 14th Dec 2026
- KS2 Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 16th December 2026

Spring events

- Downs Take Shelter visit – Thursday 28th January 2027
- 6 St Benedict Forest School – Wednesday 22nd April 2027
- 6 St Maximilian Forest School – Wednesday 28th April 2027
- Cyber Safety Workshop (date TBC)
- Hove Fire Station – Safety in Action – (date TBC)

Summer events

- Black History Workshops – (date TBC)
- Marchants Hill – Monday 14th - Wednesday 16th June 2027
- Sussex Police Youth Team visit – (date TBC)
- Year 6 Production – (date TBC)
- Leavers' Disco – (date TBC)

Snacks / Water

A fruit snack is provided for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, at first break. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are invited to bring in their own healthy snack. A reminder that the school is nut free and no snacks (or lunch items) should contain nuts as some children, within the school, have severe allergies to nuts. Please be mindful that some snacks may have Nutella or similar in them which isn't permitted. Whilst sesame products aren't prohibited at school, we also ask that, where possible, families reconsider sending in items with sesame for break and lunch as some children have allergies to sesame.

Children should bring a water bottle to school each day, containing water only.

At our school, we believe it's important to approach food and nutrition in a positive and balanced way. We understand that developing a healthy relationship with food is just as important as making nutritious choices, and we fully support the idea that no food is inherently "bad." Instead, it's about moderation, balance, and making choices that support wellbeing. With that in mind, we encourage snacks that help fuel your child's body and mind for learning. For example, foods like a slice of malt loaf, banana, carrot sticks, oat bars or something that can offer slow-release energy and help children stay focused and engaged. In contrast, snacks such as chocolate or crisps, while suggested to be fine as

occasional snacks may lead to a quick spike in blood sugar or leave children still feeling hungry and offer less fuel, making it harder to settle into lessons afterwards. Therefore, any breaktime snacks such as these will be asked to be put back into book bags and eaten at home. Children can bring ONE snack for morning play (KS2) and one snack for afternoon play (KS1). Children in KS1 have a school provided fruit snack for morning play.

Packed lunches

For ideas for healthier packed lunches and snacks, please see guidance from the NHS who, for example, suggest that crisps in packed lunches are reduced and swapped for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead. Whilst crisps can be a feature in packed lunches at Cottesmore, we encourage alternative options. However, we will leave that to parents' discretion. The NHS also suggests that families swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned, in juice not syrup) but we will also leave that to parents' discretion as part of packed lunches. However, items such as doughnuts, sweets and pure chocolate bars are not able to be part of lunchboxes. <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

All of the puddings provided by Caterlink have no more than 4g of sugar per portion and all meet the school food guidelines for a healthy meal. Within their cakes and cookies, they include wholemeal flour to add fibre to the children's diet and have a number of puddings that include fruit and vegetables as well as offering daily yoghurt and fruit instead.

Phones

Only children walking to and from school by themselves are able to bring a phone into school (to aid with safety when walking home). Any child bringing a phone into school, can only bring a non-smartphone. The Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) website shares a range of non-smartphones /smartphone alternatives starting at £19.99.

Phones that are brought into school are collected, in a class box, at the start of the school day. This box is left in the teacher's drawer or a locked classroom cupboard. If placed in the drawer, it is not locked but children do not go into teachers' desks. Children are reminded to place phones gently into the box but that's not to say that they may not. Sometimes, some could go in with some force, if for example, a child is rushing. We are unable to guarantee that damage will not occur, although this rarely happens. Phones are left at your own risk and are then given out at the end of the day.

For those bringing phones into school, you may wish to ensure that your child's phone has a screen protector and has a case to help reduce potential breakage. You may also choose to insure your child's phone as an individual item or ensure that it is included as part of your home insurance. You may also prefer your child to use a cheaper phone rather than an expensive item. Obviously the choice is yours but we just wanted to be transparent.

School does not have insurance that can support any breaks or losses that occur at school so any items brought into school will be at the owner's risk.

A reminder that our school is smartphone free. We ask that parents support this and don't use their phones whilst on the school site. Therefore, can all phone calls, texting and browsing take place outside the school gates and phones remain out of sight whilst dropping off or picking up children.

Homework

All homework is set on Seesaw, every Friday.

Weekly homework comprises of core tasks and optional tasks. All children are required to complete core tasks. Core tasks for Y6 include spellings, times tables and daily reading.

Optional tasks do not need to be completed and are only there for those families who request more (some do!). These include a half termly menu of writing activities, My Maths online activities and half termly further Maths recall facts. If children would like further challenges, they can complete the Headteacher's Challenge,

which is signposted on the Year Group pages on the school's website and parents / carers can also contact class teachers for reading comprehension activities.

Year group pages on the school website also offer a range of activities that you can complete as well as list of additional spellings, books that can be read etc.

If your child is off track in any area, then we will talk to you about and extra homework can be set if requested.

Daily home reading will start on Monday 14th September. Reading Journals are checked every Monday morning and new books issued fortnightly for KS2.

Weekly homework will sent out on Friday 4th September and our first spelling test will be on the following Friday, 11th September. Homework will be checked weekly by teachers.

Reading

We would expect that all children read daily at home. All educational research highlights the huge importance of daily reading in terms of reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and background knowledge development. See below the expectations for reading for each year group.

Year Group	Daily Reading Expectations (minimum)
Year 6	10 minutes of reading aloud, text discussion or comprehension questions with an adult and 20 minutes of further independent reading.

It is also strongly encouraged that time is spent daily reading to your child so that correct intonation and pace can be modelled.

Each pupil is provided with a Reading Folder which they are expected to take home and bring into school daily.

KS2 - For children in KS2, this Reading Folder will consist of a Reading Journal, a reading book for pleasure. If the pupil is working towards the age-expected standard in reading, a level-appropriate book will be sent home.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead! We are looking forward to helping your child flourish.

Please remember to keep us informed of any updates with regards to family circumstances, medical needs or otherwise. Our door is always open and we can't wait to get to know you and the children more.

Many thanks

The Year 6 Team