



OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN  
ROTTINGDEAN  
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA

[www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk)



Friday September 10th 2021

Re: Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I really hope that the start of term has been kind and that the obstacles around getting the children (and wider family) back into those school routines hasn't been too painful. Many thanks to you for your patience as we get used to not only being back, but resuming some procedures that we haven't seen for nearly two years. I'm delighted not to be running bubbles and staggered starts any longer, but I do know that the queue in the morning is longer and slower than I would like, hopefully it will quicken in time and everyone understands the importance of sanitising hands as we enter the site.

Within school, the priorities have been based around establishing those new routines and expectations in lessons and I can honestly say that it's gone extremely well. Children arrive keen to learn, wanting to do well and have settled back into things with real confidence and kindness. It makes a huge difference to them arriving on time and getting into their learning by 8.50am, so thank you all for your concerted efforts in enabling that.

We've also had a change in Year 1 and 2 this year in that, prior to the summer, our application for improvements in this area of the school to the Diocese was successful. Due to us being a voluntary aided school, the Diocese fund 90% of capitation works (such as building) as long as we have the funds to fill the other 10%. Parental contributions to the Governors' Fund allowed this to happen and without it, we simply would not have the facilities that we enjoy. Year 1 and Year 2 have already made good use of the space and are thrilled not to be having their phonics sessions on the landing any longer! The intervention space that we have now is yet to be fitted with its whiteboard and new furniture, but when it is, I shall be showering you all with pictures galore. For those that wish to contribute to the Governor's Fund and help ensure further works in the future to improve our site, we'll be in touch with how this works. Whilst we're talking of phonics, I did want to share my congratulations to you all for the support you have given to Reception and Year 1 in their phonics learning. In their final assessments of the summer, 93% of Year 1 students secured their age-related expectations, with 83% of children in Reception also securing that level. When we consider the truncated year that we had, this is a monumental achievement by the parents, carers, staff and the children themselves. Not only that, but the foundation that this provides for future learning is considerable. In other year groups we saw really pleasing achievements across reading, writing and maths and I'm due to meet with all teachers on Monday to look at the plans we have for ensuring children remain motivated and learning well. As last year, I'll keep you regularly updated with their progress

Elsewhere in the school we've some projects to work on; I'm keen to get student leadership back up and running – especially in Years 5 and 6 and our links with the parish are something I'd like to develop further too; all of those things we had to stop doing we now have the opportunity to rekindle and start again. Children have told me that they wish to become more involved in charity work and helping others, so we'll be considering how we can do that within our assembly times. All of our plans can be found in our School Development Plan which, when finalised by Governors will be available on our website for you to see.

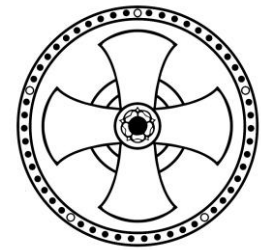
Lastly, the celebration assemblies can now return. These will be from 2.40p.m. on a Friday afternoon when the whole school will join together to reflect on the week and consider their achievements.

Tel (01273) 306980 Fax (01273) 308809 Email [admin@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr Paul Barber



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Parents will be invited via PING to come and join us and see their children collect their certificates – I can't wait to see you there.

If you haven't already, please do follow us on Twitter in order to see regular updates and posts about what your children are up to in school, you can find us at @CatholicLourdes and there's usually something every day to look at there.

As always, many thanks for your support and commitment to our school, I wish you a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Headteacher

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