



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN
ROTTINGDEAN
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA

www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk



Thursday 23rd June 2022

Re: General Updates and Thanks

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you're well, with little over three weeks left of the school year, I thought I'd update you on exactly what we're up to!

First, thanks for completing the on-line questionnaire and commenting so fully – especially regarding uniform. These responses are crucial in ensuring the Governors can undertake their duties in ensuring our uniform continues to fit our ethos and views of parents and carers. It's also important that we make our uniform accessible to everyone; especially with the cost of living rising all the time. The wider questionnaire allows me and my leadership team to understand your views on the quality of what we do and although we were really pleased with the results and your overwhelming positivity, please do remember that if there ever is anything we can do to help or make things better for your child, if there's something you need to talk to us about, please do make contact. We're always keen to make time for these important discussions.

Within school, it's been really busy. We're preparing for our first proper Sports Day since 2019 and that's meant children heading up to Hilder's Field to make sure they're ready. Excitement is building and we can't wait for the day – July 5th, which incidentally is the same day we get the SATS results for KS2 – of course we'll let you know how the Year 6 got on with that, and if you're a parent of a Year 6 child, you'll receive their grades in their end of Year report. Those reports will be a little different this year in that, because we've been releasing data to you far more frequently, there'll be no teacher comment. There will be a comment from me, however and I'm looking forward to writing them all and reflecting on the journey that each child has made at school this year.

July 7th is an important date for the school this year, because it's when our new Site Manager begins work. Bob Hill comes with years of experience in caring for buildings both across the NHS and Social Care. He's very quickly going to become a legend to the children and staff – this is clear already. As you'd imagine, he's going to be busy, but he's very much looking forward to meeting you all after he starts in a couple of weeks' time.

Another aspect of our work has been welcoming visiting Head Teachers from other schools to help with our evaluations and plans for the future. Yesterday Heads from Hassocks Infants and Stanford Infants came to work with us and were awestruck at the behaviour of the children. It was wonderful to hear of how they thought the children were 'incredible' and 'fantastic', which of course we knew already, but it was great to hear it from someone outside our community. The children were also very articulate in sharing their work with the visitors and the atmosphere around the place was calm, purposeful – just as we like it. Thank you for supporting us in such a manner with the behaviour of the children, it makes the world of difference.

Another element of pride came last Friday when our school led aspects of local authority training around SEND at a conference for Head Teachers and SEND Co-ordinators held at the University of Sussex. Alongside a prestigious line up of Key Note Speakers, Miss. Garbarz led a seminar group of local colleagues explaining the provision and approach that she oversees at our school. We were all very proud of her and I know you are too – it was fantastic to be able to share some of the ideas and approaches that are so fundamental to life at Our Lady's.

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

Head Teacher: Mr Paul Barber



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I'm hoping to be in a position early next week to confirm the staffing for September. As you'd imagine, there's not been too much movement, but I have some final interviews to run tomorrow before I'll know the full picture. Next Friday, July 1st, children will move up to their next classes in the afternoon. The majority of Year 6 will be at Newman, but those not going, please send them into school as normal.

Next week also sees the new Reception intake continuing their induction to school. Different groups of children will be coming in for 'play dates' in the early afternoon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Parents of these children were also in on Tuesday evening for a chance to meet each other, buy uniform and listen to a quick presentation from me; it was great to see everyone really eager to start.

Last, I'm sure you'll join with me in wishing Miss. Anscombe a speedy recovery from Covid. The class is being expertly looked after by Mrs. Penfold and Miss. Hall, in partnership with our fantastic Reception adults Mrs. Gathy and Miss Rennie-Carter. Miss Anscombe is set to return next week, we'll be delighted to see her well again.

Enjoy the remainder of the week and I'll be in touch in a few days' time.

Best regards,

Paul

Headteacher)

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