



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN
ROTTINGDEAN
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA

www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk



Wednesday July 20th 2022

Re: End of Term Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you're well. I'm writing to you today in partnership with Mel Fane, our Chair of Governors at the end of what has been an academic year to remember for lots of reasons.

One of the things that is tangible about our school is the strength of the partnerships between staff, parents, governors, children and the parish. Throughout the year this has been seen countless times, particularly in continuing to deal with the disruption of Covid, which, believe it or not, hasn't disappeared quite as much as the coverage in the media would have us think. In fact, I'm not sure I've had my whole team at my disposal for more than about a quarter of the year. Yet, in spite of this, we've still achieved highly. SATs results were remarkable, but perhaps more importantly, we've seen a return of many of the aspects that make our school so special. Brighton Parade was incredible, sports fixtures and sporting success has been impressive and plentiful, (Mrs. Golawska has sent you all a report so you can see just how much we've done...but take a look at our trophy shelf..)

PTFA events have resumed and allowed us all to come back together to enjoy our community and raise money and that money has made such a difference. A huge thank to Kate and her team for all the efforts with the PTFA this year.

I know that those children involved in trips and residential this year will remember them for such a long time. I've already arranged that the payment for these trips should begin in the autumn for those children in Year 5 and 6 to allow adults to spread the cost in a more sustainable manner. This came from feedback from the Parent Council, which has also resumed and allows us to work together in another way; continuing to look at how we can be the very best we can be. More meetings are scheduled for next year already. Forest School is also back; giving each child in the school an opportunity to get out doors, get active and develop wider skills, they love it, as you can imagine, and this will continue as we go into the autumn.



You'll remember that November saw our Catholic School Inspection visit which saw us deemed 'outstanding' for our provision across Catholic Life. Inspectors cited how every child was known and loved, with our pastoral care coming in for some serious praise. This is perhaps the biggest testament to our partnership and we couldn't have achieved such comments without your help. Thankyou.

An aspect you may not be so familiar with has been the strengthening of our partnership work across our Deanery of schools. Every catholic school in Brighton and Hove is part of this and we've worked hard to draw these schools further together for the benefit of the whole community. Tying ourselves closer to Newman also brings the benefits for those children continuing their education with them in Year 7 of course and also allows me the chance to see them all when I visit, which I do, regularly – much to their surprise!

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

Head Teacher: Mr Paul Barber



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Today, we say a final farewell to Year 6 and some of the parents. I'd just like to take a moment to say a huge thank you to all of the Year 6 community for everything they have brought to the school over their time here. The place will never be quite the same again and it's important that we both acknowledge this and celebrate. I have no doubt there'll be a few tears from every one; but those things we have done together tie us to each other – not with cord or rope, but with love that stretches and moves as we grow. The things we've learnt stay with us forever and there's always a way back here should anyone ever need it. Plus, of course, we have the centrality of our faith and are bound by God and his love for each of us. Last, before I hand over to Mel, I'd like to thank the Governors for their dynamism, their guidance, their humour and affection. Sitting in a Head Teacher's chair can be daunting and sometimes lonely, but they provide me with such counsel and any success we celebrate is also down to their considerable contribution. Over to you, Mel!

Each of us on the governing board feel privileged to be able to support this great school and be part of its successes and in the next academic year we wish to be more visible and get to know the parents and carers better. From September, you will see us at parent evenings and other school events, so please say hello or get in touch if there is anything you would like to speak to us about. We will also work together through the Parent Council to develop strong relationships with our parents and the wider school community. I also want to take this opportunity to welcome two new governors to the board this year, Laura Gibbons and Jeremy Sice, who we look forward to working with. If being part of the governing team is of interest to you we have three vacancies for foundation governors (to qualify as a foundation governor you have to be a practising Catholic) so if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to drop me an email at melfane@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk

*You also may remember recently we asked you for your thoughts around school uniform and affordability, we will be feeding back on this shortly, however, we are delighted to announce that Our Lady's are now working in partnership with Smarter Uniforms, "**Brighton & Hove's innovative school-uniform reuse project. Together, we save parents money, protect our planet's precious resources for our children's future, and fundraise for schools**". This will be officially up and running in September so watch this space for more information in the Autumn term but in the meantime, you can check them out at <https://smarteruniforms.org>*

On behalf of the governing board, thank you for your support of the school in what has been another challenging, yet successful year and we hope you have a happy and fun summer break and look forward to the year ahead!

Term restarts at 8.40am on Monday September 5th and Our Lady's enters its fifty fourth academic year. I promise we'll do this with the relentless energy, commitment and love that has governed all of them. But first, a chance to rest! Have a wonderful holiday, whatever you happen to be doing and I'll see you 'on the gate' in the autumn.

Best regards,

Paul

Mel

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

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