

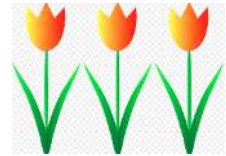


SPARK

Newsletter February 2025

Michelle Ricetti – Family Liaison Officer/Cover Supervisor

Springing into Spring



Welcome to Spark #3. We are officially half way through the academic year! How did that happen?! As always, it's been non-stop here at OLOL. The application deadline, for children

wanting to join our school in September of this year, has now passed. Thanks to everyone who handed out flyers and put up posters; it meant that our Open Events were full and we've had a huge amount of interest, which is great news. Mrs Philbrook has been officially appointed as Head Teacher by the Bishop at a lovely induction mass (see below for photos). Thank you to everyone who attended and supported her.

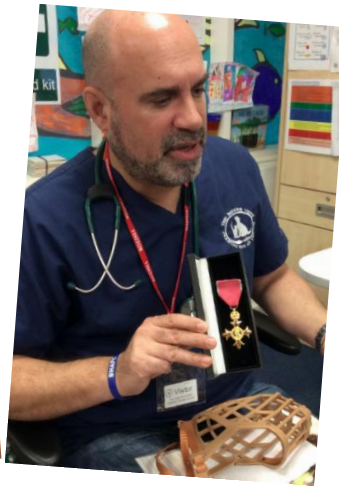
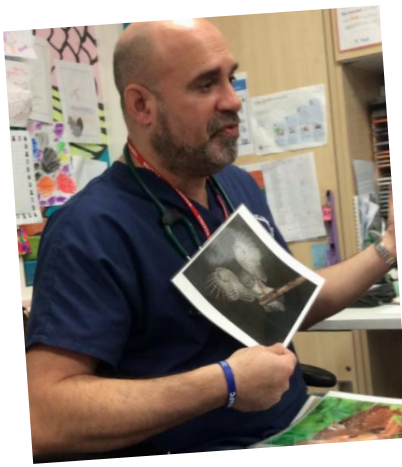
Read on to see just a snippet of what your children have been getting up to. I hope you all have a restful half term and we'll see you on the 25th February for the run up to Easter (and hopefully some warmer weather!).

Reception

WHO'S BEEN EATING MY PORRIDGE?

What a start to the Spring Term...someone had been sleeping in our classroom! We found lots of clues: a sleeping bag, a bowl of porridge, toast and honey, a ribbon and some long golden hair. We think it might have been Goldilocks!





In Science, we are learning about animals and Marc the vet came to talk to us about his job and how to take care of animals. He was blown away not only by the children's behaviour but their vast knowledge about animals. He is so impressed he has invited us to visit his vet practice. I will be arranging this with him in the near future. Marc has also been awarded an OBE for his care of animals and brought it in to show us.

We have been learning about the Lunar New Year. We listened to the Chinese Zodiac story and learnt how the years got their names. We have practised using chopsticks and writing Chinese numbers, we even had some rice noodles to taste as well!

Miss Anscombe



Year 1 **The Queen's Hat**

Year 1 have been enjoying their DT project making bunting flags. We used the book *The Queen's Hat* to help us with our designs.

Children worked independently to sew their flags and cut and stick their design pictures on to the front. All our bunting flags are hanging in the school hall for everyone to enjoy so don't forget to have a look for them the next time you are in the hall! They are very proud of their work and so they should be!

Miss Cordell





Year 1 *Reptiles*

In Science, Y1 have been learning about the different groups of animals - mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians and the characteristics of these groups. Skyla's auntie brought her pet reptiles to school for us to see. We were very brave and touched the chameleon and lots of different snakes! We had a great afternoon!





Year 2 **SAY CHEESE!**

Year 2 have had great fun exploring photography as part of their ICT curriculum under the topic, 'creating media'. Here are a few examples from our lesson on capturing different photographs from different angles. The action shots are particularly brilliant!

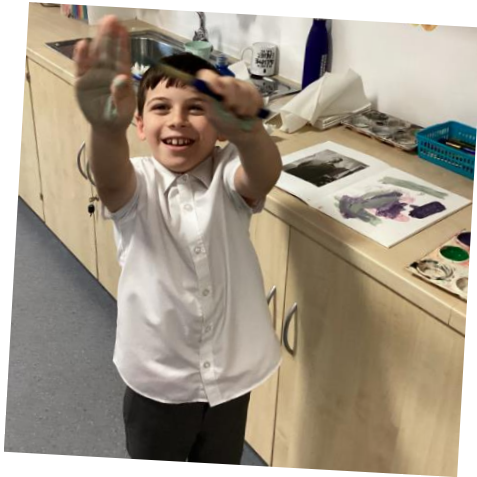
Miss Hamilton



Year 3 **POP ART!**

In year 3 we have been having a great time over this half term learning about pop art and Andy Warhol! Year 3 have been diving into bright colours, bold designs, and even making their own pieces of art inspired by his famous style. It has been lovely to see their creativity shine as they try out new techniques and create their own pop art masterpieces!

Miss Turner



Year 4 **Exploring Self-**

Portraits and Mask Art

This term, Year 4 have been refining their self-portrait skills, experimenting with different artistic mediums such as charcoal and graphite pencil. As part of their learning, they have been studying renowned artists like David Hockney and exploring iconic artworks such as *Noir et Blanche*. In addition to portraiture, the children have been delving into the fascinating world of masks, examining different styles and their cultural significance.



Their art journey will culminate in an exciting final piece—a striking contrast between a death mask and a self-portrait, showcasing their creativity and newfound skills. Stay tuned for their incredible artwork!

Mrs Kirkwood

Year 5

ALGORITHMS IN COMPUTING



In year 5, we have been completing a computing unit on algorithms inspired by the game 'Just Dance'. We looked at algorithms in detail, what they are, how they work and spent time troubleshooting any problems that we came across. We then used 'Scratch' to create our own dance sequences. Our resident Scratch expert, Daniel, was on hand to help the children with their algorithms and overcome difficulties they were facing.



Linked to our computing unit, the children had lots of fun dancing along to 'Waka Waka'...there were some very interesting attempts! **Mrs Golawska**



Year 5

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN....

In our RE unit for this half term, we spent time looking at the Our Father Prayer. The children were asked to illustrate (using pastels) the line of the prayer that meant the most to them. I was so impressed with the work the children produced in this lesson, they really thought about their image and took time to illustrate it beautifully.

Mrs Golawska



Year 6 **WW2**

Year 6 have been exploring WW2 this half-term, learning about why war broke out, who the Allies and Axis powers are and explored why The Battle of Britain was a key turning point in British History. Last week, we had an amazing trip to the air raid shelter at Downs Junior School, where we got to understand how it would have been to be a child during the war.



We were also lucky enough to meet volunteers, who shared their memories of life as a child in WW2. We ended the trip with an epic 3.5 mile walk around Brighton, following a photo trail and learning about life in Brighton during WW2. We ended our day by recreating a picture of Brighton people celebrating outside English's restaurant on VE Day in 1945!

Mrs Nicholson



Adventure Trail

Thank you to the parent volunteers who worked hard to clear an area of the adventure trail ready for some exciting improvements coming soon.

More volunteers always welcome!

Mr Hill



Writing Shed

Thank you to our amazing PTFA who have bought the children this wonderful writing shed. It's been put up by Mr Hill in the Year 1 playground and the children are over the moon.



Mrs Philbrook's Induction Mass

On 2nd February, an Induction Mass was held at Our Lady of Lourdes church to officially appoint Mrs Philbrook as Head Teacher of the school. Years 3 and 5 sang beautifully in the choir and were praised for their impeccable behaviour throughout the mass.

The Bishop was there and the congregation enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

It was a lovely celebration.



NSPCC Number Day





SPRING TERM (FIRST HALF) SPORTS UPDATE

KS2 BASKETBALL FESTIVAL

We've had another very eventful start to the spring term in regards to sporting events. We started in early January with the KS2 basketball festival at Longhill. This was run by a member of staff from Longhill and their sports leaders and was an event that gained a lot of interest with many signing up to take part. The coaches organised lots of mini games and skills stations for the children to participate in and I know that many who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Mrs Kirkwood gave some lovely feedback, but I wanted to pass on her special mention to Cosimo in Year 6, who was praised for helping the younger children in his group understand the game rules and work together. Well done to all involved.



NETBALL

The focus for this half term has been netball, with all KS2 year groups being given the opportunity to participate in competition events. First up was **YEAR 6** and although we had fewer sign up than I'd hoped, those who attended gave their absolute all and worked brilliantly as a team – we were all very impressed by their teamwork and effort! They were crowned winners of their event! Next were **YEAR 5** who again, worked incredibly well as a team, supporting and encouraging each other and were too, crowned winners of their event, winning 5 and drawing 1 of all their games. Finally, **YEAR 3 AND 4** were given the opportunity to show what they're made of. They did fantastically, coming in second place! They all showed excellent sportsmanship and represented our school brilliantly.

A shout out has to be given to the year 4 girls who each took turns when subbing out of our team to support and help a team in another school who was one person down.



This term, we also had the City indoor athletics event, where our year 5 and 6 children competed against many other schools from the City. They took part in many different events, from long jump to relays and put their all into each event. OLOL came 2nd in this event and represented our school in the most amazing way – well done to all who were involved in this event.

We have many more events still to come, so please do keep an eye on Ping for more information. Please also check the website for the most up-to-date afterschool club information. Booking links and posters also come out via ping for some activities.

Thank you all,

Mrs Golawska



If you have any comments about the newsletter or any ideas for the next one, please email us at michellericetti@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk