



# SPARK

**Newsletter April 2025**

Michelle Ricetti – Family Liaison Officer/Cover Supervisor

## EASTER IS COMING...



Wow, what an incredible half term we've had here at Our Lady of Lourdes. The highlight must have been winning the BBC micro:bit competition, meaning that the mighty Gladiators, Phantom and Dynamite, made a surprise visit to the school! See below for some pictures. World book day was great fun and the

children wore some fantastic costumes and masks to mark the event. We even made our way into the Argus newspaper!

Our Easter discos were a great success, with face paints, glow sticks and the best tunes! Big thanks to the PTFA for organising these.

We held our Easter 'Eggstravaganza' fayre where Year 2 took home the Golden Egg, raising the most money on their crazy carrot stall.

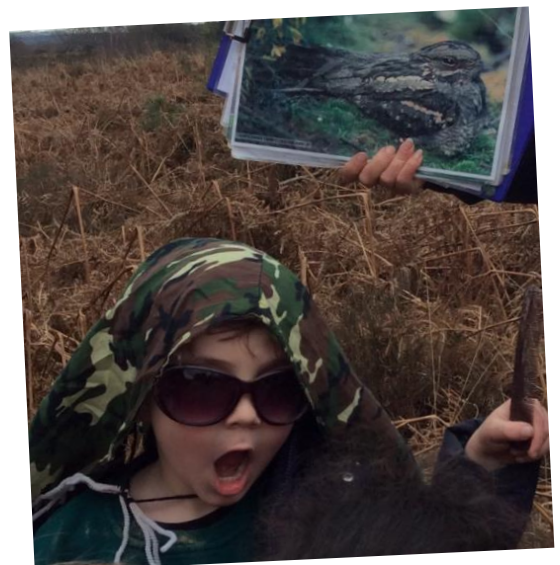
We have been joining other schools around the country in the fight against poverty around the world, raising money and joining CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. The walks took place yesterday and today and we were blessed with the most beautiful sunshine.

Read on for lots more.....

### Reception **A walk in the woods**

Reception class went on a trip to Ashdown Forest. We met our ranger Paula and she took us on an adventure in the forest to learn about animals and their habitats. It was an incredibly busy day, we had cold weather, a little rain and lots of hail to add to our experience.

We learnt about a bird called a night jar that has whiskers to catch bugs and combs on the wings to comb the bugs out of the whiskers to eat them.





We also found out that a woodpecker has an enormous tongue that wraps around the head!

We found evidence of badgers and even a badger's latrine!



We played a blindfold badger trail game and a bat and moth game exploring the amazing sense these animals have.

We had so much fun and Reception showed everybody how amazing they are with their vast knowledge and exemplary behaviour. Thank you to all the helpers that ensured we were safe at all times.

**Miss Anscombe**





## Year 1 **POP UP PRAYER SPACES**

On 3rd March, City Mission came in to school and set up some prayer spaces for us in the library. They used lots of drapes, cushions and fairy lights to make the space prayerful and inviting. There were 6 activities for the children to complete.

1. 'Jenga blocks' where the children got to think of others, pray for them and realise their prayers are connected with one another.
2. 'Jump for joy' - a very active station where children got to identify and jump for those things which give them joy.



3. 'Flag prayers' which encouraged the children to think about people in different countries and pray for them, as well as drawing a flag.
4. 'Bubble prayers' which allowed the children to watch the bubbles and pray for the things they worry about.
5. 'Sorry stones' - a chance to think about and say sorry for the things we've done wrong.
6. 'Be still' - a chance to lie still and just be.

Throughout the week the children were timetabled to visit the spaces and we had some incredible feedback. Here are some of the photos and quotes from the children. We're looking forward to doing this again next year.

**Miss Cordell**





## Year 1 NO ORDINARY ZOO....

On 6th February, Year 1 went to visit Drusillas Park as part of their learning in Science. We got to see lots of animals, ride the train and meet some animals up close such as a snake, cockroaches, a chinchilla and blue tongued skink. The children were incredibly well behaved and had a fantastic time! **Miss Cordell**





## Years 1 & 2 *I just can't wait to be King*

On 21st of March 34 children from Years 1 & 2 danced at The Dome as part of the annual school's celebration 'Let's Dance'. Dressed as lions, they were dancing to 'I Just Can't Wait To Be King' from The Lion King. They looked incredible, danced brilliantly and had loads of fun! We were very proud of them. Big thank you to Miss Turner for helping us with choreography and we also need to say thank you to the parents for arranging costumes, sorting hair do's and helping us on the day with face paints etc. It was a 'roaring' success!

**Miss Hamilton**



## Year 2 **MICRO HABITATS**



Year 2 have had great fun designing and building their own microhabitats! We started off by learning all about the different microhabitats that can be found and then moved on to designing our own and finally, we enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoon in the School in the Wood building them. The children even managed to find some guests to stay in their own microhabitats. It was really lovely to see how engaged and enthusiastic the children were during this topic.

**Miss Hamilton**







## Year 3 *The Mass*

Our RE topic this term has been 'Listening and Sharing'. In particular, we have been thinking about the different parts of Mass and why we do these when we go to Church. One lovely sunny afternoon we put together all of our learning and knowledge and went outside to act out all of the different parts of a church service, including the procession, the introductory Rite, singing of the Alleluia and more! Year 3 really impressed me not only with their knowledge and ability to remember everything we do at Mass, but also their thoughtful ideas about the significance of why we do all of these things. Well done year 3!

**Miss Turner**

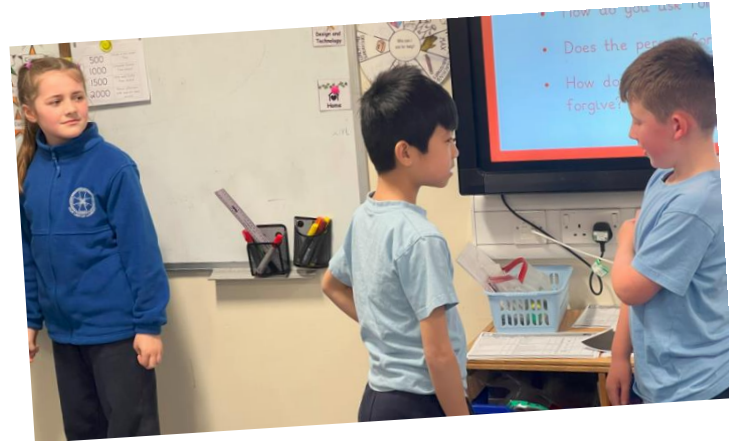
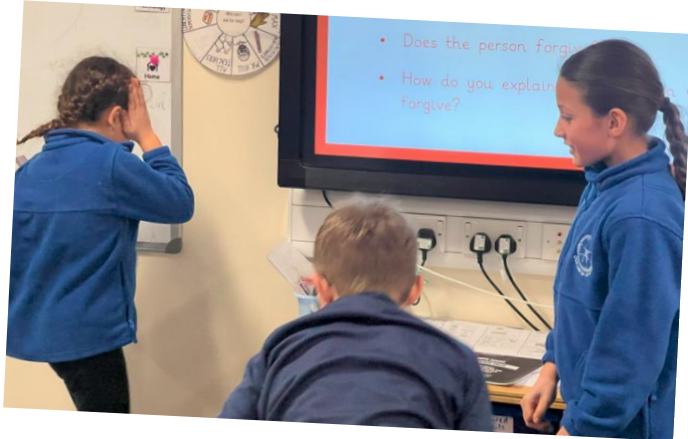




## Year 4 forgiveness

In R.E, year 4 have been learning all about Giving and Receiving. In one of their lessons, they were learning about the Penitential Act and what it means to ask for forgiveness. They acted out scenarios where one person made a bad choice, one person refused to forgive, and the other convinced them to forgive in the end. They were all such good actors and they really understood God's message of loving your enemy, even when it feels hard to.

**Mrs Kirkwood**



## Years 5 & 6 ECO COUNCIL

On Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> March I had the pleasure of taking the year 5 and 6 eco council to Roedean to plant some saplings as part of their community garden. The children were exemplary ambassadors and represented Our Lady of Lourdes brilliantly. It will be lovely to see their trees grow over the coming years!

We were also very lucky that it was Science week during our visit, so whilst we were there, we were able to listen in on a talk by Dr Suzie Imber, all about science, planets and space - and what it takes to become an astronaut!

**Miss Turner**





# Gladiators, are you ready? OLOL, are you ready? 3, 2, 1.....



On 20<sup>th</sup> March, which started out as just another Thursday, something special happened here.....We got a visit from gladiators Phantom and Dynamite and were filmed for the BBC!!! They revealed that OLOL had won a BBC National competition, beating hundreds of primary schools across the UK, in a contest to design a fitness gadget for the gladiators using a micro:bit. Senen, Eli, Emmanuel, William, Tom and Arthur designed the gadget in their coding club with Mr Hill and we're very proud of them all.

**Miss Ricetti**









# Easter Fayre & The Golden Egg

Success once again and fun had by all!  
Congratulations to year 2, they've done it again!






# Disco

The KS1 and KS2 discos were both a huge hit! The kids had an absolute blast.....and so did many of the adult supervisors!



## SAVE ROTTINGDEAN LIBRARY!

Some of you may have already heard that Brighton and Hove Council are looking to close Rottingdean Library, which is in The Grange. It's such an important part of the village with so many families and elderly people relying on it. Three things to do to help keep it open are:

- Sign the petition by following the link to the right. 
- Go to the library as they monitor footfall.
- Register with the library so that the number of members increases.



[https://www.change.org/p/prevent-closure-of-the-beloved-rottingdean-library?recruited\\_by\\_id=73aaf620-06fa-11f0-957a-d76e2200782b&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_campaign=psf\\_combo\\_share\\_initial&utm\\_medium=native](https://www.change.org/p/prevent-closure-of-the-beloved-rottingdean-library?recruited_by_id=73aaf620-06fa-11f0-957a-d76e2200782b&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_medium=native)

# THE BIG LENT WALK

Please sponsor by using the QR code below. All funds raised will go to support global poverty.





# World Book Day

World book day took place on 6<sup>th</sup> March. The children came dressed as their favourite characters and decorated masks. They all looked wonderful!!







## SPRING TERM (SECOND HALF) SPORTS UPDATE

### RUGBY SUCCESS

It has been an exciting time for rugby at OLOL, with our students demonstrating fantastic skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship across multiple events.

At the KS2 Rugby Festival, 25 children took part, showcasing their enthusiasm and love for the game. The event was a great opportunity for our young players to develop their skills and enjoy competitive rugby in a fun and supportive environment.



The biggest success came in the Year 3-4 Tag Rugby Competition, where our students overcame challenges to claim 1st place! Children from Years 3 & 4 represented OLOL with pride, splitting into two teams of six. A rule required two girls to be on the pitch at all times, but with only three girls available, one of our teams played with a player down in every match. Despite this, the children showed incredible determination, with fantastic teamwork ensuring everyone had the chance to contribute.



Our Year 5 team put on a brilliant performance in their competition, battling hard against tough opponents and securing an impressive 2nd place finish. Their dedication and teamwork were clear to see, and they should be very proud of their achievement.



The girls played every game with unwavering spirit, and the whole team's resilience and sportsmanship were inspiring. Their hard work paid off, and OLOL proudly brought home another trophy!

A huge well done to all our rugby players – you have made the school proud!



## INDOOR ATHLETICS SUCCESS!

OLOL's athletes put on a fantastic display of speed, strength, and skill at the recent Indoor Athletics Competition. Many children took part in a variety of events, including running, jumping, and throwing, showcasing their determination and teamwork throughout the competition.

The competition was fierce, with every point counting towards the final standings. Our athletes gave it their all, pushing themselves to their limits and supporting one another every step of the way. Their hard work and dedication saw OLOL achieve an impressive 2nd place finish, narrowly missing out on 1st place!

A huge well done to all the children who took part – your effort, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship were outstanding. We are incredibly proud of you all!

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## GIRLS' CRICKET TEAM SHINE IN COMPETITION!

Our Girls' Cricket Team put on a fantastic display of skill and determination in their recent tournament. With just six players, they faced tough competition but rose to the challenge, playing brilliantly to win the tournament and secure their place in the County Finals!

In the County Finals, the girls gave it their all, showing great teamwork and resilience against strong opponents. Despite their best efforts, they were unfortunately unsuccessful in progressing further, but their achievement in reaching this stage is something to be incredibly proud of.

Well done to our amazing cricketers!

**Mrs Golawska**

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## STINGER NETBALL TRIUMPH – CITY FINALS, HERE WE COME!

Our netballers braved the elements in the recent Stinger Netball Competition, battling through cold weather and even hail to deliver an outstanding performance! Over the course of eight games, the team showed incredible skill, determination, and teamwork, winning seven matches and drawing one – an incredible achievement!

Their hard work and resilience paid off, securing OLOL a well-deserved place in the City Finals. Despite the challenging conditions, the team stayed focused, played brilliantly, and supported each other throughout. A huge congratulations to our netball stars – we can't wait to see you shine in the next round!



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](mailto:michellericetti@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk)