



SPARK

Newsletter July 2025

Michelle Ricetti – Family Liaison Officer

School's out for summer!



And just like that, another year has passed us by, here at OLOL.

There have been tears - as we wave goodbye to our Year 6's (happy ones too as we know they are well prepared for the next part of their educational journey).

There has been lots of learning - with exciting new topics both inside and outside of the classroom. We've welcomed some incredible guest speakers for our Career Ax!s, including Norman Cook and Will Bailey, so pupils can think about how their futures will look.

More than anything else, there has been a whole lot of fun and laughter with discos, bake sales, fireworks, a mini marathon completed, new friendships made, and let's not forget, a very special visit from the Gladiators!

I wish everyone a restful summer break and we are looking forward to welcoming you all back to school (and our new Reception class too) in September.

Reception **Ahoy!**



What a fun day we had with Captain Dan Tastic. We learnt a lot about the golden age of piracy and got to see and touch many artefacts including a 4kg canon ball, a grenado, a sexton, a helm, a tricorner hat to name but a few. We heard about some of the most famous pirates, learnt about the different jobs on board a pirate ship and also the different ships pirates would use for different reasons.

Miss Anscombe





Reception CREEPY CRAWLIES

In Science, Reception are learning about insects and invertebrates. Armed with magnifying glasses, and bug checklists, we went into the School in the Wood to look for insects.

Miss Anscombe



Reception *Fire!!*

We have been learning about firefighters and how to keep safe from a fire. Here are some of our future firefighters!





Reception were very lucky to have Blue Watch from Roedean Fire Station come to visit us. The children were given a target to hit with the water hose to show they had a good aim.

They were allowed to go into the fire truck and look around and then were shown the different equipment on the truck that the firefighters use on different jobs. The children were also able to ask questions about the role of a firefighter.

Miss Anscombe



Year 1 Ocean Day

Year 1 enjoyed making a recycled octopus as part of work on World Ocean Day in June.

Miss Cordell



Year 1 Moving Pictures

In Year 1, we have been learning how to make moving pictures using sliders, wheels and levers. Once we had practised making pictures move using these skills, we designed and made our own moving pictures. It was lots of fun!

Miss Cordell



Year 2 Flutter by, butterfly....



Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful (but hot) day out at Ditchling Butterfly Gardens where they got to explore the exotic butterflies in the specially designed butterfly tunnel and were introduced to some interesting insects that many of them had a go at holding! The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school showing respectful and safe behaviour the whole day, we were very proud of them! It was also a great way to end our wonderful year together.

Miss Hamilton



Year 2 Celebration of the word

Year 2 have really been enjoying their in-class 'Celebration of the Word' assemblies which are planned and led by the children. Now that the nicer weather is here, we have decided to take them outside which was a lovely experience - it's always great to have an opportunity to get outside into the fresh air. The children even took their prayer table outside! It is by far, one of our favourite times of the week.

Miss Hamilton



Year 3 ROMAN EMPIRE

On a very sunny Wednesday, year 3 became historians for the day when we visited Brighton Museum to find out more about the Romans! The children were given the chance to become Ancient Roman investigators, to play Roman games, handle real Roman artefacts and even to recreate the famous tortoise formation with shields - one of the many tactics that made the Roman army so successful!

Miss Turner



It was a fantastic day, and we were even able to enjoy the sunshine as we ate lunch in the Pavilion gardens, and then went to the beach to do some sketching of our coastline to finish our topic of coastal towns. Year 3 have blown me away with their passion for our new history topic of Ancient Rome, coming to me every day with even more facts they have found out from their own reading and research! Well done year 3!

Year 4

Year 4 have been working their socks off this summer term. We have begun our book 'The Great Kapok Tree' and the children have been very inspired by the story, writing beautiful setting descriptions. They have also been learning about the Benin Bronzes in history, and have had thoughtful discussions about whether or not historical artefacts should be returned to their original countries.

Lilly stood quietly with water dripping down a her cheek. She took one ~~by~~ last gazing look ~~like~~ all her ~~that~~ was her treasure chest and the memories were the treasure.

Lilly confidently wandered through the Amazon like it was her own world. Her feet squashed the spongy, moist, spongy moss, her legs brushed ~~through~~ through plant ~~its~~ plants that ~~did~~ itched and she lifted her ~~spines~~ arms out to touch the jagged, uneven bark on the trees.

The misty breeze scented against her body, and the sun ~~is~~ weaved through the leaves and sparkled like it was a message saying "carry on"

I have been particularly impressed with their hard work during swimming lessons and their Brazilian inspired group artwork by Beatriz Milhazes. Please enjoy reading some writing by James and Ruby.

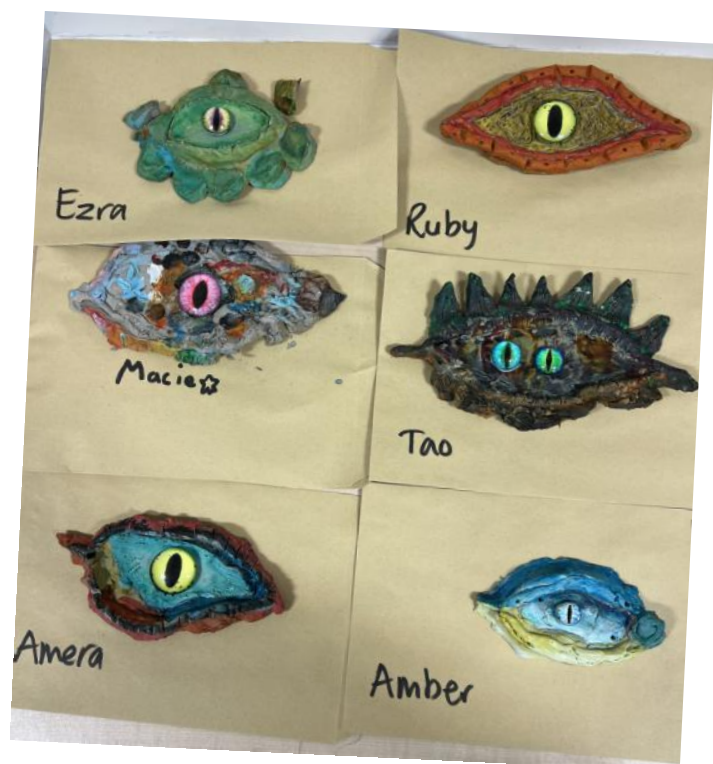
Mrs Kirkwood

The screeching, talkative monkey's ~~shattered~~ chattered while the dazzling sun shone on the her and the cascading river. that She felt the smooth pebbles under her feet and saw trees swaying calmly. The river was like as warm as a hot warm bath, you needed after a tiring day. As As Lilly looked up she saw orchids bright and bold. She could see frogs peaking out of the bromeliad plant, and could see humming birds flying from flower to flower, like a message a ~~explorer~~ journalist writing down information about the ~~flat~~ flowers he went to. ~~in the~~ Then ~~become~~ among the trees, she could hear speckled bears purring and ~~relaxing~~ the to bromeliad trees saw them climbing the bromeliad to

Year 4

Year 4 created stunning dragon eyes inspired by How to Train Your Dragon. They used clay to mould and scribe detailed designs, painted them in bold colours, and finished with shimmering glass eyes for a magical touch!

Mrs Kirkwood



Year 5 Good Shepherd

On Wednesday 25th June, Mrs Philbrook and I took four children from Y5 to the annual diocesan Good Shepherd celebration which was held at Arundel Cathedral this year. Sussex Catholic schools, who are part of the Schools Singing Programme were also asked to sing a blessing at the end of the service which our children did beautifully. Thank you Luca, Alfie, Tilda and Sophia for representing our school so well.

Miss Cordell



Year 6

After getting through the SATs, the hard work hasn't ended for our Year 6s! 21 brave Year 6s (and 3 brave teachers!) took the ferry over to Calais in France, where pupils had 3 days of French immersion at the beautiful Moulin Aux Draps. They spoke *beaucoup de français*, visited a chocolate factory, bought food at the local market, milked goats, tasted their cheese and even ate snails for dinner! What an amazing trip we had, bringing back so many fantastic memories of our time away.



They then threw themselves into rehearsing and rehearsing and rehearsing some more, finally putting on a fantastic performance of their leavers' show, The School-o-vision song contest. Well done Year 6 for a great final half-term here at school.

Mrs Nicholson

Goodbye Year 6

We say goodbye now to our wonderful Year 6s as they move onto their new secondary schools after (for most) seven years together! We want to take a moment to celebrate all that you have achieved during your time with us; it's been a joy to watch you grow, learn, and become the fantastic individuals you are today. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you and know that you will go on to do amazing things in secondary school and beyond. Wishing you all the very best on this exciting next chapter from all of us at Our Lady of Lourdes!

Mrs Nicholson



Windrush

Children from Key Stage 2 took part in a truly special performance at the Windrush Festival event, held at Brighton Pavilion. Mrs Kirkwood also attended, and was proud to support them as they danced to Emeli Sandé's powerful anthem 'Shine' they moved the audience with their heartfelt dance (choreographed by Miss Turner) and beautiful energy. The performance was nothing short of amazing-members of the public were visibly touched, as the children honoured the legacy of the Windrush generation with pride and unity.

Mrs Kirkwood



CHILDREN'S PARADE

On Saturday 3rd May we participated in the Brighton Festival Children's Parade; the parade is always the official opening of the Brighton Festival. Our theme was chuck away your bedtime worries. We had monsters under the bed, monsters scaring the public and children in p.j's holding thought bubbles with bedtime worries on. The weather was kind and the children were amazing at entertaining the crowds. Thank you to all who participated in the parade or supported us in the crowds with smiles and cheers.



Special thanks go to Victoria, Louise and Jo for helping give up their time to make the boy in the bed big make; it truly is a labour of love! Thank you to David, the man in the van for helping deliver the big make to us on the day. Thank you to all who carried the bed, the banner, or the flag - not an easy task. Finally, thanks to Joelle for her amazing face painting and all the other parents that helped her. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me but be sure I am very thankful to each and every person that helped.

A big thank you to Mia's parents for donating a large sum of money to help pay for monster headbands and ribbons for the bed.

Miss Anscombe

The Tree Man

On Thursday 1st May the whole school was fortunate to hear an assembly from Mr Sweeney who taught us all about trees! We found out lots about different types of trees, record breaking trees, local trees and more. We also found out about the Tree Festival which took place in June.

A big thank you to Mr Sweeney for giving his time, all of the children were very inspired to find out more about trees!

To join CPRE and help to protect our beautiful landscapes and increase green space in our villages, town and cities you can follow this link: cpresussex.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member

or for more information contact:
info@cpresussex.org.uk

Miss Turner



CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

Thank you to all our families who helped us raise £460 for CAFOD through our Big Lent walk. Thank you for your generous donations and for walking with us on the day!

Miss Cordell



CAFOD

A better world needs all of us

Thank you to

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic Primary
School**

For raising

£460

Your fundraising will help children like Rakhi in Bangladesh to live their lives to the full and flourish

VE DAY

The whole school walked across to the green to lay flowers, say a prayer and remember VE day.



Renewable Energy Workshop

Matthew from Brighton Energy came in and gave the Year 5's a workshop about renewable energy technology.

They had to think about how they could reduce their own carbon footprint and that of their school. They worked together to identify some immediate actions that they could take. They also worked in teams to build and test a model solar powered car which was great fun.

See the link below for work they have done in other schools.

<https://www.brightonenergy.org.uk/2024/07/empowering-energy-education-becs-work-in-local-schools/>

Devesons

A huge thankyou to Devesons grocers on the high street for donating the beautiful flowering plants to brighten up our school entrance.

Mr Hill



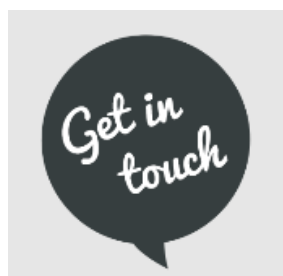
SCHOOL IN THE WOOD

As the weather has been getting warmer, we have been getting up to lots of outdoor learning at Our Lady of Lourdes! From year 4 growing vegetable crops, year 3 growing sunflowers, Year 1 wild flower spotting, Reception going on a bug hunt and more - it has been lots of fun learning in our outdoor space!

Miss Turner

Thanks to www.lamps2udirect.com/ for kindly providing last minute replacement bulbs for our stage lights.

Mr Hill



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



LOLO SUMMER TERM PE

What an amazing year it's been! Team OLOL has delivered another action-packed, wildly successful year in PE, full of memorable achievements, incredible resilience, and teamwork that continues to make us all proud. The dedication, enthusiasm and spirit shown by our children throughout the year has been nothing short of inspiring.

ACE PARTNERSHIP

We kicked off the summer term with a vibrant handball festival and competition that welcomed participation from our KS2 pupils. The festival was a joyful celebration of teamwork, energy, and sporting values, while the competition provided a brilliant platform for our children to showcase their skills and competitive edge. Their determination and resilience—particularly in the face of challenges—left us in awe. Huge congratulations to our phenomenal Year 3/4 team who were crowned champions of their event! 🏆



We also launched our first-ever KS1 festival this year, and it was a resounding success. Our youngest pupils engaged enthusiastically in a variety of activities, demonstrating adaptability and growing confidence across multiple sports and skill sets. The excitement generated by this event has us eagerly planning even more KS1 festivals next year!

As summer term two wrapped up, our children took part in a thrilling sequence of festival events known as **Longball Chaos**. True to its name, the activities were bursting with energy, laughter, and opportunities to shine. Whether competing or encouraging their peers, every child gave their best, reinforcing just how much they've grown as individuals and as teammates.



SPORTS DAY TRIUMPH

Sports Day 2025—our best yet! This year's event featured an inclusive and diverse range of stations, ensuring every child had the opportunity to participate and enjoy the day. Competitive races added excitement, but it was the spirit of inclusion, energy and celebration that truly defined the occasion. A heartfelt thank you to the Longhill leaders who



supported us—you helped make the day spectacular.

We've also been overwhelmed by the kind messages from parents, carers and friends about Sports Day. Your encouragement means so much—thank you for being part of the magic.

WITHDEAN ATHLETICS GLORY

This summer, we proudly returned to Withdean Athletics and once again proved that Team OLOL's momentum is unstoppable. For the third consecutive year, we were announced as **Red Division Winners**—a testament to the strength, preparation and passion our students bring to every event.



SCHOOL GAMES MARK: PLATINUM ACHIEVEMENT!

We're thrilled to share that OLOL has been awarded the **School Games Platinum Mark** this year—the highest accolade possible! This recognition celebrates many years of sustained excellence, beginning with our first award all the way back in 2013. After achieving Gold status for five consecutive years, we submitted a case study detailing how we've embedded positive experiences of competition and its impact on participation. This was a vital part of the assessment and played a significant role in us securing the Platinum award.

Launched in 2012 and facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust, the School Games Mark acknowledges schools that keep young people active and engaged through sport. At OLOL, we're proud to use sport and physical activity to reach every pupil—whether as participants, leaders, volunteers or officials. Our aim is that every child has a positive experience in sport, building confidence that lasts far beyond their time at school.



THANK YOU, TEAM OLOL!

To every single child who has stepped forward to take part in a sporting event this year—thank you! You represent everything we stand for, and your passion makes you the best ambassadors our school could hope for.

To our brilliant staff, thank you for your ongoing support at events. Your encouragement helps our pupils to flourish and makes each sporting experience even more special.

And last but by no means least—a massive, heartfelt thank you to Mr Hoad. Without him, none of this would be possible. Mr Hoad teaches PE to every single child in the school and has played a central role in building a culture of achievement, enjoyment and opportunity. He dedicates countless hours of his own time to running and organising events, and taking children to represent OLOL. The continued successes of our pupils speak volumes about how much they gain and learn from him. He's amazing—and we're so lucky to have him! Have the most amazing summer all,

Mrs G x

Wild Wednesdays & Nature Makers

10am-12noon

5-12 years (with accompanying adult)

Holiday fun for families on Ashdown Forest learning about nature.

Wild Wednesdays - seasonal nature activities, games and exploring

Nature Makers (Thursdays) – craft inspired by nature and outdoor exploring



Wednesday July 30 and Aug 6, 13, 20, 27
Thursday July 31 and Aug 7, 14, 21, 28

ASHDOWN FOREST CENTRE

Wych Cross, RH18 5JP

BOOKING ESSENTIAL please book a place for each child

£10 per child

ashdownforest.org



MONDAY 4TH AUGUST - FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST 2025

Register Now



ULTIMATE FRISBEE SUMMER SKILLS CLUB

Introduction to Outdoor Ultimate Frisbee!

Join us for an exciting **new** outdoor Ultimate Frisbee summer skills club!

Learn to play Ultimate, have fun, and make friends while improving coordination and athleticism.

Age Groups:

- ✓ 5-8 years
- ✓ 9-14 years
- ✓ 15-17 years



Discounts available for
multi-day & siblings bookings!

Time: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

(Drop-off available from 9 AM, pick-up available until 4 PM)

Cost: £29 per day

Location: Brighton Football Club, BN1 8YR

To book your place, scan the QR code or visit
www.brightonyouthultimate.uk/summer-skills



Level 1 & Level 2 CYCLE



TRAINING

at Preston Park
and Hove Park



Monday 28 – Thursday 31 July
Monday 4 – Thursday 7 August
Monday 11 – Thursday 14 August
Monday 18 – Thursday 21 August
Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 August

10.00 – 12.30 each day

Ages 9 –15

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.

Level 1 is where you will learn to control your bike.

Level 2 is where you start with real traffic, but sticking to quiet roads.

Level 1 – Riders must be able to ride independently with confidence and without stabilisers.

Progression to Level 2 training is depended on meeting all level 1 modules to National Standards Level.

Levels 1 & 2 together is £47 per person. Concessions available

To book your place visit:

<https://cycling.envelope.host/courses/>

or contact Emily Tester on 01273 293847
or email: east.central@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Brighton & Hove
City Council