



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN
ROTTINGDEAN
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA
www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk



Wednesday 16th July 2025

End of Year Newsletter - July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another wonderful academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the incredible achievements and highlights from our school community. It has been a year filled with growth, celebration, and remarkable success across all areas of school life.

Academic Achievements

I am delighted to share our Key Stage 2 SATs results with you:

- **Reading:** 67%
- **Writing:** 63%
- **Mathematics:** 53%

Additionally, our Year 1 phonics results show **80%** of pupils achieving the expected standard - a testament to our continued focus on ensuring every child learns to read fluently.

- **Winners of Brighton and Hove Multiplication Challenge**
- **Winners of Gladiators National Coding Competition (thank you Mr Hill)**

Celebrating Our Sporting Excellence

This year has been particularly outstanding for sport at Our Lady of Lourdes. I am incredibly proud to announce that we have achieved **The School Games Platinum Mark**, which is the highest level of recognition in the School Games Mark scheme. This prestigious award recognises schools that demonstrate consistent dedication to sports and physical activity over five consecutive years.

My heartfelt thanks go to Ms Golawska and Mr Hoad for their tireless commitment to organising sporting events and opportunities for our pupils. Their dedication has contributed to some remarkable achievements, including multiple ACE Partnership events wins and ...

- **Winners of Withdean Athletics Red Division** for the third year running

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Enriching Experiences and Opportunities

Our pupils have enjoyed a wealth of exciting opportunities this year. Special thanks to Mrs Nicholson for organising such a successful French residential trip with Year 6 - an experience that will undoubtedly stay with them for years to come.

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support our parent volunteers have shown in transforming our **School in the Woods** area. I would particularly like to extend my deepest appreciation to **Joelle**, whose exceptional commitment and leadership have made this vision a reality through planting saplings, building planters, constructing mud kitchens, and general landscaping.

Our pupils are already making excellent use of these new facilities across different year groups and subjects, and it brings me great joy to see how this outdoor learning space is supporting their development and perfectly complementing our broad curriculum.

We were also delighted to host our inaugural **Careers AxIs event**, where our pupils were inspired by incredible speakers including:

- **Cherise:** BBC Glow Up presenter (TV media)
- **Lyndsey:** Brighton Foundation (Sport)
- **Juliet Sargeant:** Award-winning landscape gardener
- **Will:** Paralympian (Sport)
- **Norman Cook:** International Musician
- **JP:** Dance Studio entrepreneur and dance
- **Kirsten:** Medicine and Aid
- **Marc:** Vet, Author and Animal Welfare Campaigner

My sincere thanks to **Jeremy**, our marketing guru parent governor, who developed the idea, organised this event and persuaded these wonderful speakers to give up their time to inspire our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

A group of our wonderful children also wowed with their **Windrush Dance performance at the Royal Pavilion** - both a celebration and a tribute—honouring the resilience, culture, and contributions of the Windrush generation through movement and rhythm. Many of these children are also part of our Empowered Voices group.

Faith and Community

Our Catholic identity continues to flourish. Our choir of Year 3 and Year 5 pupils, who have been working with the Diocesan Schools Singing Programme, sang beautifully at church last Sunday. This is something we hope to do more frequently in the next academic year. I have been particularly pleased to see how well our children are joining in with responses and prayers during Mass - their exemplary behaviour in church has been commented on by parishioners.

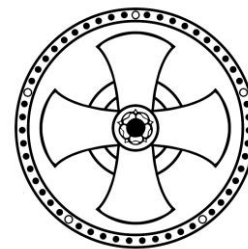
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We now have a new RE board showcasing our children's RE work in the church hall, currently displaying Reception work. Next time you are in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, please pop in and have a look.

Community Spirit and Fundraising

The generosity and commitment of our school community continues to amaze me. Our **Marathon Mums** raised an incredible **£1,075** for our pupils by pushing themselves to their physical limits - thank you for your dedication.

Special mention goes to Jo and Aoife, who visited Gambia last November and worked tirelessly to operate on children with broken bones. This provided a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to fundraise for care packages to put smiles on Gambian children's faces after their operations - a perfect example of Catholic Social Teaching in action.

Our **PTFA** has been absolutely outstanding, organising school discos, bake sales, school fairs, and firework nights that have raised vital funds while strengthening our school community bonds. What strikes me most is the incredible time our volunteers have given so freely, reflecting the selfless dedication that truly characterises our school family. Their work has directly supported our pupils' learning experiences and enhanced our resources. To every single person who has volunteered, baked, helped, or attended our events - thank you; your support means the world to our school community and directly benefits every pupil in our care.

Attendance Improvements

I want to acknowledge the steady improvement in attendance this year. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children are in school regularly - this makes such a difference to their learning and progress.

Leadership Changes

I must extend my heartfelt thanks to Miss Anscombe for being such a wonderful support and role model over the past 18 months in her role as Interim Assistant Head. I truly couldn't have done it without her! From September, Ms Golawska will take up the post as Assistant Headteacher - she certainly has big shoes to fill!

I am also delighted that my announcement of her stepping down was premature as Mel Fane has kindly agreed to stay on as Chair of Governors for one more year, with Giulia de Rosa continuing as Vice Chair. Thank you both for your ongoing commitment to our school.

A new school dog!

I am delighted to share some exciting news that will bring joy to our school community - from September, we will be joined by Winnie, a lovely Cavapoo who will be our new school dog! Many of your children have already had the wonderful opportunity to meet Winnie during her recent visits, and the response has been

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absolutely heartwarming. Winnie will be spending time across various areas of our school, including classrooms and The Nest provision, supporting pupils with their learning, providing comfort, and helping with emotional regulation. Research shows that school dogs can reduce anxiety and stress, improve confidence and self-esteem, and encourage reading and communication skills. Please be assured that we have carefully considered all aspects of having Winnie join us - she is well-trained, gentle, and has been specifically chosen for her calm temperament and hypoallergenic coat, with all necessary risk assessments completed and robust safety procedures in place. If your child has any concerns regarding dogs, please contact the school office immediately so we can discuss appropriate arrangements. Winnie perfectly embodies our mission of "Live, Love, Learn" and will help us continue to be the warm, caring school community that celebrates difference and supports one another - I know she will quickly become a beloved member of our school family and bring even more joy and comfort to our already happy school environment.

A Special Message to Year 6

To our wonderful Year 6 pupils, we are incredibly proud of all you have achieved and, even more so, of the kind, curious, and resilient young people you have become.

Go forward with confidence, knowing you carry our love and support with you always. As you prepare to embark on your secondary school journey, I want you to know how incredibly proud we are of each and every one of you; you are well-prepared for the next steps in your education, equipped not only with strong academic foundations but also with the character and values that will help you thrive in any environment. While we will miss our Year 6 pupils tremendously, I want to emphasise something very important: you will always be part of the Our Lady of Lourdes family - the bonds formed here, the memories created, and the values shared don't end when you walk through our doors for the last time as a pupil, and we would love to hear about your achievements and adventures in the years to come. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our Year 6 parents and carers for your invaluable support, encouragement, and partnership with us, which has been instrumental in helping your children achieve so well, and please know that we are here to support both you and your children in any way we can as you prepare for this exciting transition.

Looking Forward

As we move into the summer holidays, I want to wish you all a blessed and restful break. Thank you for your ongoing support throughout this academic year - it truly makes all the difference to our school community.

We look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year of "Live, Love, Learn" at Our Lady of Lourdes.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Anita

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