



OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN  
ROTTINGDEAN  
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA  
[www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk)



Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well-rested and excited for the new academic year ahead. It feels wonderful to welcome everyone back to our warm and caring school community after what I hope has been a lovely summer holiday filled with precious family memories.

### **A Warm Welcome Back**

As we begin this new chapter together, I am filled with anticipation for all the exciting learning opportunities that await our pupils. Our dedicated staff team has been busy preparing engaging lessons and activities that will continue to build upon the strong foundations we have established in our "Live, Love, Learn" mission.

I am particularly delighted to extend a special welcome to our new Reception families who are joining our school family for the first time. We know that starting school is a significant milestone, and we are committed to ensuring that both you and your children feel supported and valued as you become part of our diverse and caring community.

### **Winnie, Our School Nurture Dog**

I am thrilled to share that Winnie, our school nurture dog, will be in school most days this term. Her training has been going very well over the summer, and she is ready to provide comfort and support to our pupils. Winnie plays a special role in helping children feel calm and confident, particularly those who may need extra emotional support as they settle back into school routines.

### **The Importance of Excellent Attendance**

As we start the new term, I want to emphasise how crucial regular attendance is for your child's learning and development. Every day at school matters, and consistent attendance helps pupils:

- Build strong friendships and feel part of our school community
- Develop confidence and maintain the rhythm of learning
- Access our broad and ambitious curriculum without gaps
- Achieve their full potential across all subjects

We have robust systems in place to support families with attendance, and our team is always here to help if you face any challenges. Please do speak with us early if you have any concerns – we are here to work together as partners in your child's education.

### **Looking Smart in Our School Uniform**

It has been lovely to see how smart and proud our pupils look in their school uniform. Our uniform helps create a sense of belonging and equality within our school community, reflecting our values of celebrating difference while maintaining our shared identity.

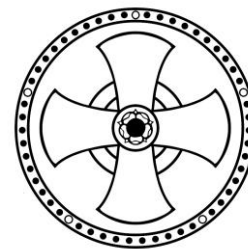
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Headteacher: Anita Philbrook



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I do need to remind families that patterned cuts or designs in hair are not permitted as part of our uniform policy. I noticed this was beginning to creep in towards the end of last term, so please ensure that haircuts remain simple and appropriate for our school environment. This helps maintain our professional learning atmosphere while ensuring all pupils feel comfortable and included.

### Parent Workshops - Supporting Learning at Home

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting parent workshops this term to share how we teach key subjects at Our Lady of Lourdes. These sessions will provide you with practical strategies to support your child's learning at home and help you understand our teaching approaches. Please look out for upcoming dates in September and early October for:

- **Maths Workshops**  
Understanding our calculation methods and how to support mathematical thinking at home
- **English Workshops**  
Exploring our approach to reading, writing, and vocabulary development
- **Read Write Inc Workshops for Reception and Year 1 Parents**  
Learning about our systematic synthetic phonics programme and how to support early reading at home

These workshops are designed to strengthen the partnership between home and school, giving you the tools and confidence to support your child's learning journey effectively.

### Looking Ahead

This year, we continue to focus on our key priorities: supporting our disadvantaged pupils to achieve excellent outcomes, developing our curriculum in art, history, and geography, and working together to improve attendance across the school. Your support in all these areas makes such a difference to what we can achieve together.

Our pupils consistently demonstrate excellent attitudes to learning, and I know that with your continued partnership, this will be another successful year where every child can thrive and achieve their very best.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in our school. If you have any questions or concerns as we begin this new term, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

With warm wishes for a successful term ahead,

*A Philbrook*

Anita

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