



SPARK

Newsletter December 2025

Michelle Ricetti – Family Liaison Officer



WINTER WONDERLAND



Welcome to the Spark Christmas Newsletter. The second half of this term has been busy to say the least. We've had Christmas crafting in Reception,

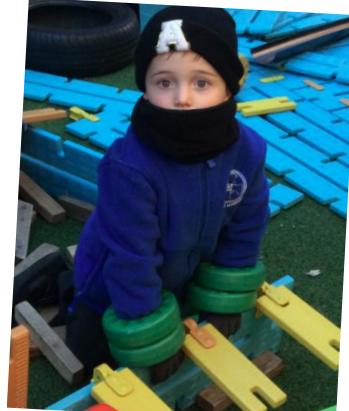
the Year 1's had a lovely outing to the Royal Pavilion, our wonderful choir sang and switched the lights on at the Grand Hotel, performed at the One Voice concert at the Dome and also sang at the Gate Cottage care home. We have had our Elf of the 12th celebrations, our delicious Christmas lunch, our Christmas snow discos and the most wonderful nativity performances from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Phew!

I wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas and hope you enjoy reading about what your children have been up to. See you in 2026!

Reception CONSTRUCTION

Reception have lots of new and amazing large construction toys that have been generously been bought by the PTFA. The creativity in the children's play has really been enhanced by the new equipment and I would like to publicly thank the PTFA for their generosity. We also had some indoor equipment to support literacy, maths and science too. Thank you to all involved in the PTFA for all your hard work raising the money to be able to support the children in their learning.

It's been a busy time in Reception, learning songs for the Nativity, remembering their lines and when to enter and exit the stage. The children have been working so hard and they shone like the stars they are during their performances.





Reception held their annual Christmas craft morning on 9th December. The classroom was jam packed with parents and carers helping the children to make and decorate a clay star, a Christmas card, Christmas wrapping paper, a Christmas crown, a robin calendar and a photo frame. Huge thanks goes to all the helpers for coming and being part of the festive fun.

The glitter and glue will be making another appearance very soon as the Reception children will also be meeting up with their year 6 buddies to make more Christmas crafts after Mass on Thursday 11th.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Miss Anscombe

Year 1 SAY A LITTLE PRAYER

On Monday 1st December, each class set up a Prayer Station in their room and the whole school journeyed around all the classrooms to complete the reflective activities and say a prayer. It was a lovely, peaceful start to the week. Here are some photos of Year 1 completing the activities at some of the prayer stations.

Miss Cordell



Artist in the making

In Y1 we have a very talented artist! Here are some of Kunkun's recent works of art. **Miss Cordell**



Year 2 NATIVITY - LIGHTS, CAMEL, ACTION

This term there has only been one word on our mind and that's Nativity! Year 1 and 2 have joined forces and worked their socks off to produce the most wonderful show. We have seen the children grow in confidence as the practices have gone on, whether that is learning lines, stage directions or new dance moves. They should all be immensely proud of themselves.

Miss Hamilton



The photo of some of our wonderful year 2s got front page of the Argus!!



Year 3 Living in the stone age

The Year 3 class have enjoyed learning all about the Stone Age this term. They explored the book *Stig of the Dump* and used their own research and design ideas to create fantastic Stone Age tools. The class had a wonderful time bringing their creations to life, and we were delighted to welcome Year 3 parents, who came in to help with the making session. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved!

Mrs Kirkwood



Year 4 *Smuggling*

Year 4 kicked off this half term with an exciting scavenger hunt around Rottingdean! After learning all about the history of smuggling in our History lessons, we set off to explore key locations in our village — including places we walk past every day — and uncovered the fascinating stories behind them and their role during the Regency era.



The children were brilliant ambassadors for our school throughout the trip and showed great curiosity and enthusiasm. They came away with a deeper understanding of our rich local history.

Well done, Year 4!

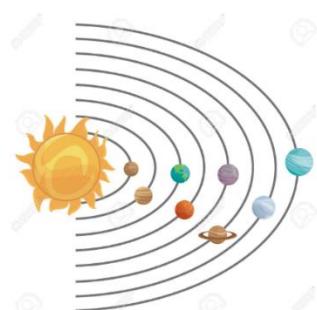
Miss Turner



Year 5 *Space...*

The Year 5 classroom has turned into a model of the solar system this half-term, with the planets hanging up everywhere, but orbiting the sun, as we've learned about the heliocentric model. We've been learning about the names of the planets, some of their features and even took a very long walk outside to measure the (surprisingly huge) distance between each of them. We also proved that Earth is definitely rotating and orbiting the sun and not the other way around through measuring our shadows across the day. We were glad we managed to get a sunny day to prove it!

Mrs Nicholson



Year 6 Crafting

In the penultimate week of term, our Reception and Year 6 buddies came together for a magical afternoon of Christmas crafts. Reception children delighted in helping Year 6 decorate their crowns, ready to sparkle on Christmas dinner day. It was heart-warming to see our youngest and oldest pupils sharing laughter and creativity, truly capturing the spirit of the season.



We also visited the church - Reception's very first time - and they were absolutely fantastic! Year 6 have shown such love, care, and support, embracing their buddy role beautifully. How lucky we are to have such wonderful role models in Year 6!

Mrs Golawska

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On 11th November, years 2 - 6 gathered quietly around the remembrance memorial, students and staff standing side by side in respectful silence. Wreaths of poppies rested at its base as heads bowed and thoughts turned to those who had been lost. In that shared moment of reflection, the community honoured their memory together, united by gratitude, remembrance, and the promise not to forget.

Miss Ricetti



Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, our Christmas jumpers and hats were worn and we had a delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings!

Miss Ricetti



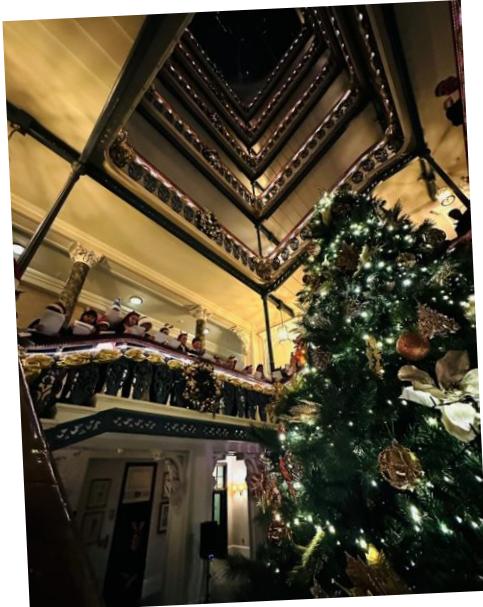


We've had an incredible term in Music! Our choir visited The Grand to perform Christmas songs for a huge audience, helping raise money for The Rockinghorse Appeal. They also took part in One Voice at The Dome, singing to a packed auditorium. We even welcomed our wonderful new band teachers this term. The children have done brilliantly throughout!

We also look forward to welcoming Demelza in the New Year who will be offering 1:1 drum lessons. Contact the school office for more information.

Mrs Wilks

The Grand – Turning on the lights



One Voice – The Dome





TAG RUGBY

We kicked off the autumn term with an exciting Tag Rugby Festival, which saw a fantastic turnout from KS2 pupils. It was brilliant to see so many children eager to take part, learning new skills, mixing with friends, and most importantly, having fun!

Following the festival, we moved into the Tag Rugby Competitions, starting with Year 6. Both our boys' and girls' teams were outstanding, showing excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout. Their efforts paid off as we were announced overall winners for the Year 6 competition. Year 5 also competed and did brilliantly well, also finishing in 1st place, demonstrating great resilience and enthusiasm.



CROSS COUNTRY

After the October half-term, we hosted our annual Cross Country Event, one of the most challenging events of the year. Around 30 children took part, and every single one of them was incredible - just finishing the course is an achievement in itself! A special mention goes to Rory and Jack in Year 5, who placed 1st and 2nd in the Year 5 boys' race. This is an outstanding accomplishment, and we are so proud of them!

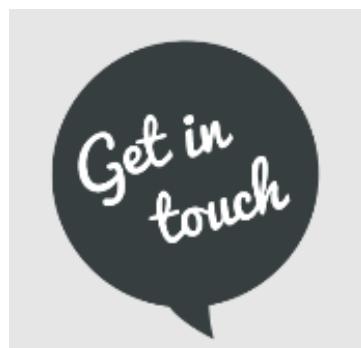
ACE PARTNERSHIP

To round off the term, we participated in a series of Indoor Athletics events under the ACE partnership. Our teams were phenomenal:

- Year 6 won their event, showcasing incredible speed, strength, stamina and super teamwork
- Our Year 5 boys' team placed 2nd, despite competing with only half a team due to the One Voice choir—a fantastic effort!
- Last but not least, was the turn of year 4 and, once again, demonstrating fantastic teamwork skills, perseverance and a healthy dose of competitiveness, they also walked away as winners of their competition...what a brilliant half term we've had.

This term has been packed with positive sporting experiences, and it's wonderful to see so many children representing our school with pride. We look forward to even more exciting events next term!

Mrs Golawska



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

GYMNASTICS

Fun day!

Monday 22nd December

09.00 - 12.00

£13.00 per child
booking is essential!



BOOK NOW longhillsportscentrestaff@longhill.org.uk or 01273 391 683



Let's talk about kids and smartphones

Come along to an open, non-judgemental conversation about the impacts of smartphones on childhood

When

Thursday 29th
January 2026
18:30-20:30
Doors open 18:00
for a prompt start.

Where

Brighton Aldridge
Community College,
Lewes Road,
Brighton,
BN2 4PN

Reserve your seat by scanning the QR code or visiting luma.com/xvsepglm.
Tickets are free but spaces are limited.



Our guest speakers include:



Mandy Marshall-Taylor - Panel Host

As a Naked Truth Project associate Mandy works to educate and raise awareness of the harmful effects of pornography on children and young people.



Dr. Eleanor Mason

A West Sussex GP for 12 years, Eleanor brings unique insights into the impact of smartphones on children's mental health.



DCI Luke Kyriakides-Yeldham & DI Cyntac Beling

As senior members of the Online Child Abuse Team, they will discuss the dangers of indecent image sharing, sexting, sextortion and online grooming.



Drew Dower - Head of School

Drew has led the way on becoming one of the first Smartphone free primary schools in the city. He will talk to us about the process and the response to the school's new policy.

Jack Davies - Principal

BACA Principal Jack Davies will be joined by year 11 students who will share their experiences of smartphones and the online world.

Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement bringing families together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods.

WEBSITE: WWW.SFCBRIGHTON.CO.UK

SOCIALS: @SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD

Gymnastics

for ALL primary school ages

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

TERM TIME ONLY

Led by our **fully qualified** coaches

£8.00 taster session available

AWARDS SCHEME, badges and certificates earned



For more information please contact us...



LONGHILL
SPORTS CENTRE

TEL: 01273 391 683

longhillsportscentrestaff@longhill.org.uk

www.longhillsportscentre.co.uk

On the grounds of Longhill High School

Rottingdean, BN2 7FR

Badminton

for kids aged 7 - 9yrs

Tuesdays 16.00-17.00 term time only

Led by our **fully qualified** coaches



For more information please contact us...



LONGHILL
SPORTS CENTRE

TEL: 01273 391 683

longhillsportscentrestaff@longhill.org.uk

www.longhillsportscentre.co.uk

On the grounds of Longhill High School

Rottingdean, BN2 7FR