



SPARK

Newsletter March 2026

Michelle Ricetti – Family Liaison Officer/Cover Supervisor

Spring is on its way



Welcome to the 3rd Spark newsletter. January has finally come to an end, we're waiting for the rain to subside and sunnier days to return. With the arrival of spring, OLOL comes to life once again. Longer days and warmer temperatures invite more outdoor learning in our School in the Wood area. Our school pond has been cleared, meaning this area will also be used for investigation and discovery. Since coming back in 2026 we've been busy here at OLOL. From an unknown person sleeping in the Reception classroom, to a Year 6 visit to a World War 2 bunker. Read on to see just a snippet of what your children have been doing.

Reception

WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED?

Goodness, we have been busy in Reception. The children came back from Christmas holidays, renewed and refreshed and ready to learn and they have been working so hard.



We have had a visitor sleeping in the classroom! We found some clues and we think it might be one of the 3 bears or Goldilocks! The children then had an idea to design a trap to catch the visitor, there were some very creative traps! We have heard many different variations of the traditional story and even learnt a 3 Bears Rap!



In maths, we have been investigating different ways to make 6,7 and 8. We used Numicon to help us explore.

In science, we are learning about animals. We made bird feeders for the hungry birds in winter.

Miss Anscombe



Year 1

The Queen's Hat



Year 1 loved our recent DT project. We made bunting flags using the book 'The Queens Hat' for inspiration. The children designed their flags, cut out the shapes needed and sewed their bunting flags with a needle and thread! Well done Year 1!

Miss Cordell

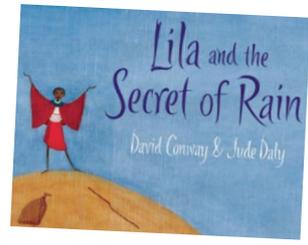


Year 2 THE SECRET OF RAIN

Year 2 have been immersing themselves into their art topic this term, which focuses on the artist Martin Bulinya. We have explored his artwork and the wonderful connection it makes to our key text, Lila and the Secret of Rain.

The children had a go at printmaking based upon the patterns Martin explores in his work that depicts the Massai people. They were amazing at really examining the different patterns and mirroring this when designing their own patterns to print. They are building towards creating their own pieces combining all the key skills that Martin displays which I know are going to FAB!

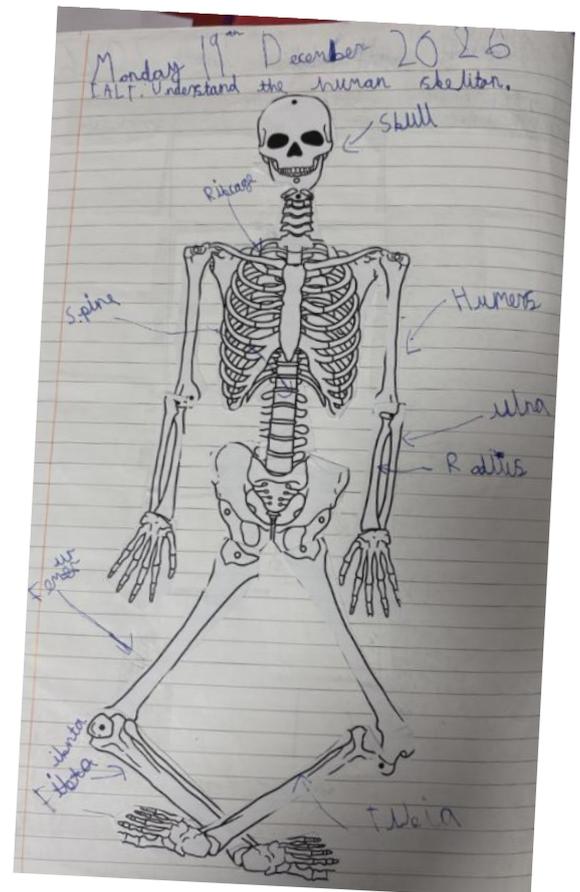
Miss Hamilton



Year 3 *Skeletons & Muscles*

Year 3 have been investigating the three different types of skeletons in the animal world, before focusing on our human bodies! We have been identifying the important bones in our skeleton and discussing their function. We have also identified the function of muscles in our body and how they work together with our bones to create movement. We have put all of this knowledge into practice during our PE lessons!

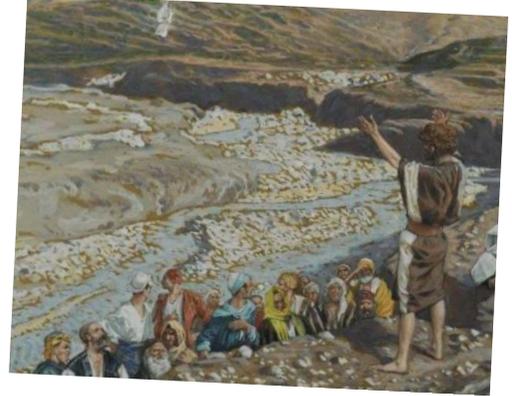
Mr Brown



Year 4 Healing

This half term in year 4 we have been learning all about the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, and different accounts of his healings. In our RE lessons we have explored the different reactions people may have had to Jesus, taking into account the historical context of the bible stories that we are reading, and we explored Jesus' question to Peter, 'Who do you say I am?'. We had lots of fun in our lessons acting out different works of art and thinking about what the characters may have been thinking and feeling at the time of watching Jesus heal people. Well done year 4 for your thoughtful wondering questions and deep understanding during this topic!

Miss Turner



Year 5 RUSSIA



Year 5 have been learning all about Russia through our book, The Wolf Wilder. In our Geography lessons we have learned all about the different climate zones in Russia, their neighbouring countries and their key geographical features. We were also lucky to have our resident Russian, Mrs Macateer, come into class answer all of our questions about Russia for us. She even brought in amazing Russian objects, let us taste Russian treats and we got to try on a sable jacket too!

Mrs Nicholson



Year 6 **WW2**

Year 6 have been fully immersed in their World War 2 class text, 'Letter from the Lighthouse.' As part of their learning, we visited a WW2 bunker at Downs Junior School, where the children experienced what it might have been like for school children to take shelter during an air raid in Brighton.



They were also fortunate enough to meet locals who lived in Brighton during the war; their powerful stories were both moving and incredibly informative, bringing this important period of history to life. Back in class, we have been creating model Anderson Shelters, exploring how they were constructed, camouflaged and maintained, which has further deepened the children's understanding of the Home Front.

Mrs Wilks



Pond life

Thanks to the continuing efforts of parents improving and maintaining the adventure trail (look out for info on a big spring tidy up). We've now started to revive the school pond with hopes that some frogs might move in among other wildlife and plants. The aim is to improve our ability to access it safely as part of our learning, possibly by creating a platform over part of the pond.

Mr Hill



2026 – The year of reading

Department for Education initiative.

In 2026, a national spotlight is being put on reading and on the simplest way to help children enjoy it: connecting it to what they already love. From dinosaurs to dancing, from comics to cooking, passions make stories feel natural and fun.

Click below for the Authorfy newsletter:

 [BOOKDROP-age-5-11-JanFeb-2026-High-Res.pdf](#)

For families, the National Year of Reading also means more support, more ideas and more opportunities to weave reading into busy routines, whatever age your child is.

Parents can find out more here: <https://goallin.org.uk/get-involved/families/>

Mrs Nicholson



EGYPTIAN DAY IN YEAR 4

Year 4 have been diving into the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt this term, exploring the powerful pharaohs and the many intriguing gods and goddesses that shaped Egyptian beliefs. The children have loved learning about Ra, Anubis, Isis and Osiris, discovering how these deities influenced daily life along the River Nile. As part of their studies, the classroom was transformed into a scene from ancient times, with pupils proudly dressing up as Egyptian queens and kings. From magnificent crowns to detailed collars and royal robes, the costumes brought history to life and helped the children truly immerse themselves in this exciting topic.



Get in touch

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

TRY A FULL CLASS FOR FREE

Well, THAT WAS FUN!

We loved introducing your child to the confidence building world of Perform today. And guess what, it's just the beginning...



Play is a POWERFUL THING

Perform classes help boost children's **confidence, concentration, coordination** and **communication** skills, as well as being lots of fun.

Our expertly designed drama, dance and singing sessions for 4-7s and 7-12s are run by experienced teachers, hand-picked for their warmth and approachability.

They'll be with your child every step of the way – inspiring and encouraging them to develop vital life skills as they discover the joy of performing.

“ We couldn't be happier with William's Perform experience. We signed up to boost his confidence and it's making a wonderful difference.” - Samantha Nye

What does Perform offer?

- Performing arts-based games and exercises
- Focus on a different social skill each week
- Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- Specially created scripts, videos and apps
- End of term presentation for family and friends

Try a FREE CLASS at your nearest venue

Perform Rottingdean

Thursdays at 4pm (4-7s), 5.05pm (7-12s). Rottingdean Public Hall, Park Road, BN2 7HL

Perform Hove

Fridays at 4pm (4-7s), 5.05pm (7-12s), Saturdays at 9.30am (4-7s), 11.15am (7-12s). Cornerstone Community Centre, Church Road, BN3 2FL

Perform Hove

Fridays at 4pm (4-7s), 5.05pm (7-12s), Saturdays at 9.30am (4-7s), 11.15am (7-12s). Cornerstone Community Centre, Church Road, BN3 2FL

Until 4 Mar, new joiners can use OLOD040326 for a £40 introductory discount.

Ready to try for free?

Your child's first class is free, so why not give it a go? Classes take place all over, have a look online or call us:

perform.org.uk/try
020 7255 9120



BRIGHTON AND HOVE READING NEWSLETTER



EDITION 1

World Book Day Events

From **Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March**, Scholastic Book Club Live is hosting **17 exciting virtual events** designed to spark a love of reading in every child. Children can enjoy a brilliant mix of activities, including live draw-alongs, Q&As with authors, sneak peeks at new books, and even behind-the-scenes looks at how books are created.

Here are just a few highlights on offer:



Become a Wild Apprentice with conservation expert Sarah Roberts (7+)
Wednesday 4th March 10am

The Velveteen Rabbit with David Litchfield
Storytime and draw-along (2+)
Friday 6th March 11am



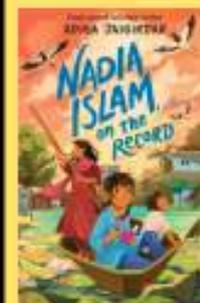
How Books are Made: How your favourite stories reach your shelves
(8+)
Thursday 5th March 12pm

New Releases



**Meanwhile
Back on Earth**
Oliver Jeffers
Age 3+

**The Lost
Dragon of Roar**
Jenny McLachlan
Age 8+



**Nadia Islam, On
the Record**
Abida Jaigirdar
Age 9-14

authorfy.



For the National Year
of Reading 2026

Have you signed up for free access to Authorfy yet?

This fantastic online platform brings thousands of videos, book extracts, writing challenges and ready-made schemes of work from some of the UK's best-loved children's authors. To celebrate the National Year of Reading 2026, Authorfy is offering schools completely free access to its full range of resources. Click [here](#) to explore the free resources and get your school involved.





FEBRUARY

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CAMPS

Longhill Sports Centre, BN2 7FR

16TH - 20TH February, 8:30 - 15:30

Sibling & block discounts available
£27/Day



Action Packed Activities

- Glow in the Dark Dodgeball
- Archery
- Inflatables
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Football / Basketball
- Gymnastics / Dance



SCAN HERE



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WWFEC

U11 WILDCATS

LOOKING FOR DEDICATED GIRLS
TO COME JOIN OUR WILDCATS TEAM!
OUR GIRLS ARE FUN FRIENDLY
AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND LOVE
TO LAUGH IF YOU THINK YOU FIT
THE BILL PLEASE CONTACT US
TO COME AND TRIAL XX

COACH SELINA 07958 526978

#UP THE SCAMPS

WWW.WOODINGDEANWANDERERSFC.COM

HAVE FUN. MAKE FRIENDS. PLAY FOOTBALL

