



SPARK

Newsletter March 2026

Michelle Ricetti – Family Liaison Officer/Cover Superv

New season, fresh energy



What a fantastic half term we've had here at Our Lady of Lourdes. It was World Book Day on 5th March and we did things a bit differently here; travelling around the world through books. Each class explored a story from a different country around the world, including places such as Ghana, Colombia, India, Japan and more. We held our Easter 'Eggstravaganza' fayre where Year 3 took home the Golden Egg, raising the most money on their wheel of destiny & name the Jellycat stall.

We have been proud to join schools across the country in supporting the fight against global poverty by taking part in

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. Through our fundraising efforts and participation, the children have shown great compassion and a strong sense of community.

Our older pupils enjoyed a walk to the marina yesterday, followed by our younger children today. It was wonderful to see everyone taking part with such enthusiasm—each group had a fantastic time while contributing to a meaningful cause.

This term has been an exciting and successful one in terms of sport. Despite being a small school, we have competed in a wide range of sporting competitions and achieved outstanding results.

As well as medals in cricket, dodgeball, handball and swimming (see the sports section below) a major highlight this term has been dance. Some of our Year 1 and Year 2 students had an incredible opportunity to perform in the *Let's Dance* show at the Dome, showcasing their enthusiasm, creativity, and growing confidence on stage. Following this, they went on to compete in the Street Funk Schools Best Dance Club competition, where they represented the school with energy and pride and placed second!!

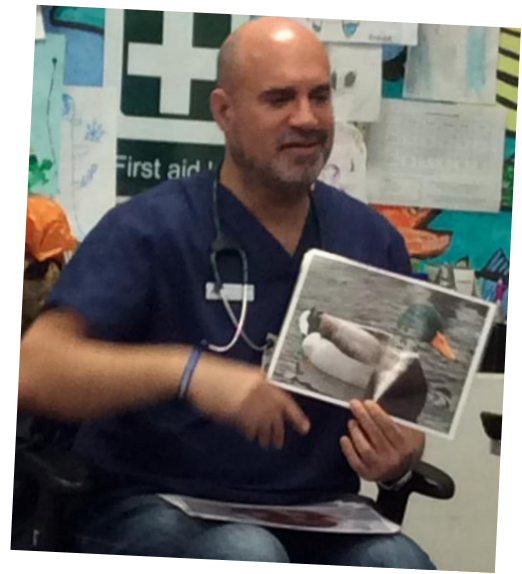
I wish you all a wonderful Easter break. We look forward to seeing the children on the 13th April ready for the final term.

Reception

VETS, WOODLAND AND CHINESE NEW YEAR!

We have been busy celebrating the Chinese and Lunar New Year. The children made lanterns and dragons and practised writing Chinese numbers in the sand. They used chopsticks and also ate noodles!

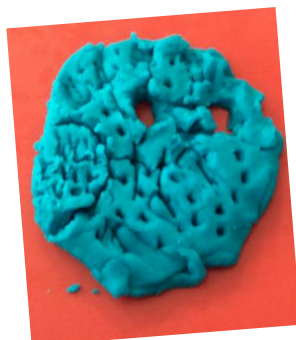
Reception were very excited to have Marc the Mewes vet visit our classroom. He played a guess the animal game using photos of young animals and the children had to guess what animal it would grow up to be. Marc spoke about his job and showed us some interesting objects that he uses in his practice. One child called a stethoscope a spaghettiscope and Marc thought this was actually a better name for it!



Our role play area has changed to a woodland, with a little tent in it for woodland rangers to observe animals. The children have been using their role play to practise writing a simple sentence 'I can see a...'.



We have been studying the book Owl Babies and the children were very creative making owls and nests! **Miss Ancombe**



Year 1 Japan

Year 1 enjoyed learning about Japan for our World Book Day celebrations. We listened to the story of Momotaro – Peach Boy, found out some facts about Japan, made Japanese flags and did some lovely cherry blossom craft.

Miss Cordell



Year 1 & 2

Let's Dance

On March 16th, 40 children from Years 1 & 2 performed at The Dome in the annual Let's Dance event. This year we have been so lucky to work with JP Omari, one of our Year 1 parents. JP choreographed the dance and has been giving up his own time to come in and practise it. The children have been fantastic and full of smiles and energy. A very, very big thank you to JP for being such a superstar! We've all loved working with you! Thank you for choreographing such a great dance for us!

Miss Cordell & Miss Hamilton



Year 4 Ancient Egypt

On Tuesday 17th March Year 4 had a fantastic visit to Brighton museum, where we took part in an exciting Ancient Egyptian mummification workshop and even had the opportunity to handle real artefacts. Year 4's knowledge and enthusiasm about Ancient Egypt shone throughout our trip, and their excellent behaviour made us incredibly proud, two members of Brighton Museum even said how fantastic they were - well done Year 4!

Miss Turner





Year 5 **KENSUKE'S KINGDOM**

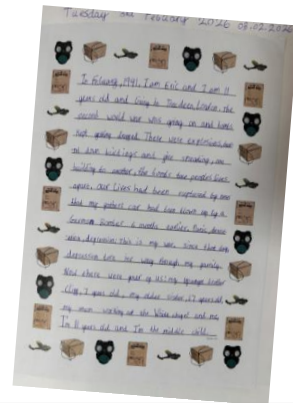
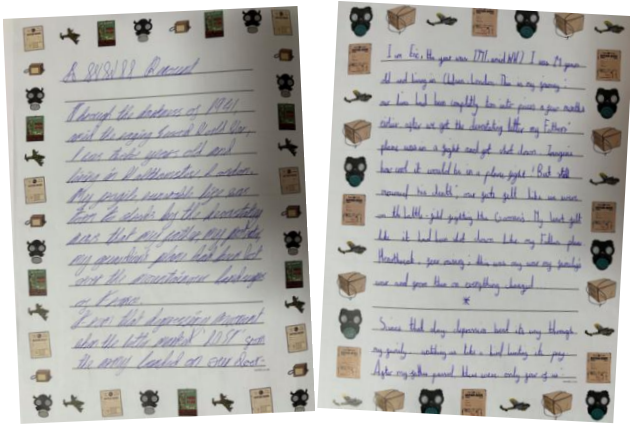
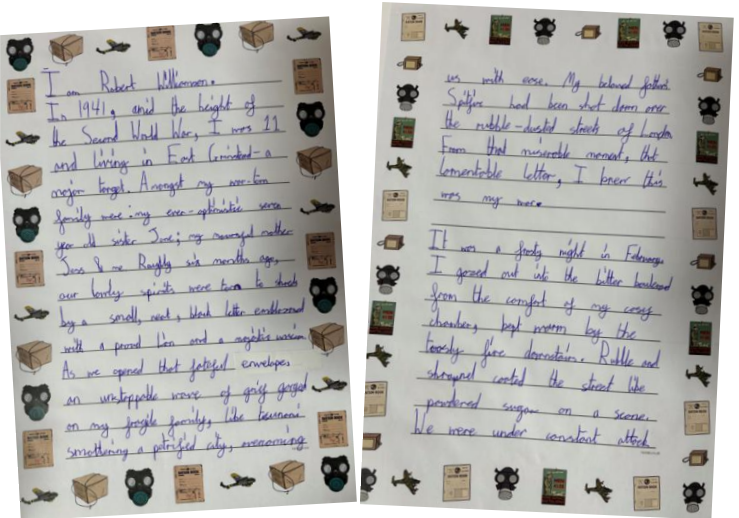
This half-term has truly flown by! Year 5 have been fully immersed in *Kensuke's Kingdom*, using it as inspiration to write some amazing adventure stories of their own. We linked our English learning to geography and science, exploring earthquakes and tsunamis, including an in-depth look at the 2011 Honshu earthquake in Japan. The children showed fantastic curiosity and creativity, making connections across subjects and really bringing their learning to life. Well done, Year 5!

Mrs Nicholson

Year 6 **Narrative writing**

This half term, Year 6 have concluded their unit on Narrative Writing with some impressive results. Throughout the unit, pupils focused on writing effectively for their audience, using rich literary language, developing characterisation, and structuring their narratives carefully. They also worked hard on manipulating grammar to create a confident and assured authorial tone. Well done to our budding authors!

Mrs Wilks



WORLD BOOK DAY

For World Book Day, the whole school rocked up in their holiday clothes for our Tour around the World, exploring seven fantastic books set in different countries. As they journeyed through India, China, Japan, Kenya, Ghana, Sweden, and Colombia, the children stamped their passports at each stop and learned about new cultures along the way. Each class produced a piece of work focused on their country, and it was truly inspiring to hear stories from around the world and see the wonderful creativity on display. What a memorable and enriching day for everyone! **Mrs Nicholson**

GamMed Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the class competition fundraiser for Gam Med. We met on the junior playground on the 12th March to line up the £1 coins. Congratulations to Year 1 for raising the most money, £89! As a school, we raised a superb £330 for the charity.

Miss Anscombe



EASTER FAYRE

Thank you to Hannah and all of the PTFA for organising another wonderful fayre. The Children had so much fun and we raised essential funds for the school.

Year 3 raised the most money with their superb 'wheel of destiny' and 'name the Jellycat' stall. They will take home the coveted Golden Egg and have a class muffin day next term.

Street Funk Class

JP and some of his street funk students came in to show us some of their moves!

We watched them break, pop and even do the moonwalk!

There is a new street dance class starting next term so hopefully this motivated the children to get involved!





SINGING

This half term has been full of exciting musical opportunities. Due to the popularity of the drum lessons provided by Sussex Music School, we will be introducing singing lessons after the Easter break. Keep an eye on the Ping for more details.

CHOIR CLUB

We have also launched our very popular Choir Club, and the children are already sounding beautiful. Watch this space for news about when they will be performing next term!



ROCKSTEADY

We were also treated to the fantastic Rocksteady performance. The children have worked incredibly hard, so it was wonderful to see so many grown-ups at the show cheering them on.

Mrs Wilks



CRICKET

Earlier this Spring term, in January, our ACE Festival and competitions focused on Indoor Cricket. The festival brought together children from all the Partnership schools, with pupils placed into mixed teams, giving them a great opportunity to make new friends. Sixteen of our children were fortunate to take part, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Across the competitions, we saw excellent teamwork, enthusiasm, and determination. Our pupils showcased impressive batting, bowling, and fielding skills, representing the school



brilliantly. The Year 6 team performed exceptionally well, earning silver medals and a well-deserved second place against strong opposition. Meanwhile, our Year 3/4 team made us incredibly proud by winning the trophy and taking home gold medals after a fantastic series of performances. Unfortunately, we were unable to enter a Year 5 team on this occasion due to a clash of dates. Nonetheless, it was a highly successful event, and we are very proud of all the children who took part.



HANDBALL

In the second competition of the Spring Term, both our Year 6 and Year 5 teams achieved fantastic success, each winning their respective handball events and proudly bringing home gold medals and trophies. As always, they demonstrated excellent teamwork and showed how effectively they could apply the skills they have been developing in lessons to a competitive setting.

It was particularly encouraging to see some new faces stepping forward to take part, embracing the opportunity with enthusiasm and confidence. Handball is a fast-paced and exciting sport, and our pupils certainly rose to the occasion, making the most of every moment.

We are also looking forward to our Year 3/4 pupils having their opportunity to participate at the end of March.

As I write, some of our girls are preparing to take part in a fun “have-a-go” football session alongside other ACE Partnership schools at Longhill, led by their Year 9 girls’ football team. We are also looking forward to further football activities taking place on Wednesday 25th March. Both events are part of Brighton and Hove’s “Made for This Game” Day, supporting the FA’s campaign to celebrate and promote girls’ football.

In addition, we have entered the Brighton and Hove City Netball competition, with the first round taking place this week. We wish all of our participants the very best of luck!



DODGEBALL

At the beginning of March, we entered a team into the National Dodgeball event—an incredibly exciting opportunity and the first time a regional round has been held in our local area. Eight of our pupils took part, competing against teams from Cottesmore, Elm Grove, Peacehaven Heights, Rudyard, and Woodingdean, making for a strong field of seven opposing teams. Our Year 6 team performed brilliantly throughout the competition, showing great skill and determination. They threw with accuracy, dodged with agility, and made some



outstanding catches. The atmosphere inside Longhill Sports Hall was electric, with around 80 children taking part, all supported by enthusiastic Sports Leaders.

In a closely contested competition, our team finished in an excellent second place, proudly earning silver medals and missing out on first place by just three points. We congratulate Cottesmore, who will go on to represent the Brighton area in the next round, and we are extremely proud of our team's fantastic achievement.



SWIMMING

Many of our children recently had the wonderful opportunity to represent our school at the Brighton and Hove Schools Swimming Championships, held at the Prince Regent Swimming Pool.

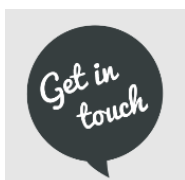
As it was our first time competing at this event, the children were especially excited and fully embraced the experience. They performed exceptionally well, finishing an impressive 4th overall out of 10 schools. Along the way, they achieved excellent results across a range of events, proudly bringing home a number of medals.

The atmosphere at the pool was fantastic, with parents cheering enthusiastically and results being announced over the tannoy, adding to the excitement of the event. A huge thank you goes to Trace (Jack and Desi's dad), who organised the entire competition—from collating students' swimming times and offering valuable training tips, to submitting entries to the organisers and coordinating the races on the day. His hard work and dedication ensured the event was a great success.

It was a fantastic experience for all involved, and our pupils demonstrated great determination, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Throughout all of these events, our students have shown incredible determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship, often competing against much larger schools and performing at a very high level. We are extremely proud of their hard work and achievements, which truly reflect the spirit and dedication of our school community.

Next term look out for some ACE athletics events before the City wide Withdean athletics later on in the year.



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



**Come and discover the joy
of cycling in a supportive,
environment.**

**Free, fun & friendly
Ages 8-15**

GIRLS CYCLING

**TASTER
SESSIONS**

**Preston Park
Youth Cycling Club
Saturday 18 April
9.30-10.30am
(4-week course)**

**No experience needed (You must
be able to ride independently)**



Book Now. Email: chair@ppycc.org.uk

**MORGAN
SINDALL**

CONSTRUCTION

PROUDLY
SPONSORS



BRIGHTON & HOVE HOCKEY STARS

**COME & MEET
NEW FRIENDS &
PLAY FIELD
HOCKEY**

SPRING SESSIONS 2026
FOR BOYS & GIRLS | SCHOOL YEARS 3-6

STARTING APRIL 22ND
BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL
5 WEEKS | WEDS 6:30PM - 7:30PM

COST: £10 **FREE SHIRT & STICK INCLUDED**

more info and
to register here



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER VISIT:
BRIGHTONANDHOVEHOCKEYCLUB.NET
(HEAD TO 'INFORMATION' > 'JUNIOR SECTION' > 'BRIGHTON & HOVE HOCKEY STARS')

¹⁴ Level 1 & Level 2

CYCLE



TRAINING

at Preston Park and Hove Park



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.

Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April

Tuesday 7 – Friday 10 April

10am – 12.30pm each day

Ages 9 –15

Levels 1 & 2 together is £47 per person.

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

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.

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

Level 3

CYCLE



TRAINING

at Preston Park
and Hove Park



Monday 30 March – Wednesday 1 April

Tuesday 7 – Thursday 9 April

1.15pm – 3.15pm each day

Ages 11 – 15

All children must have attended a level 2 course and show allow 3 months practice between levels.

All trainees will be assessed on level 2 outcomes before progressing further.

Level 3 is where you learn to cycle safely on busy roads within the city.

Training includes roundabouts, traffic lights and filtering. You must have completed Levels 1 and 2.

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

Level 3 training costs £ per person.

To book your place, please contact Emily Tester on 01273 293847 or email: east.central@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Holiday cycle training courses



Cycle training is held at Hove and Preston Park during the.

Level 1 & 2 – Ages 9 to 15

Cost £47 per person, concessions available



Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April

Tuesday 7 – Friday 10 April

10 to 12.30 each day

Children must have completed all level 1 activities before progressing to Level 2

Level 3 – Ages 11 to 15

Cost £52 per person, concessions available



Monday 30 March – Wednesday 1 April

Tuesday 7 – Thursday 9 April

13.15 – 15.15 each day

Children must have attended Level 2 activities before progressing to Level 3.

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

To book a place visit <https://cycling.envelope.host/courses>

or contact 01273 293847 or email east.central@brighton-hove.gov.uk