



SPARK

Newsletter July 2026

Michelle Ricetti – Family Liaison Officer/Cover Supervisor

SUMMER TERM – PART 2!



The final Spark newsletter of the academic year is here, bringing another fantastic year at OLOL to a close.

What a wonderful term it has been! We've enjoyed another brilliant Summer Fayre (a huge thank you to our amazing PTFA), a sizzling Sports Day and a series of hugely successful Bake-Off sales. Our Year 5 entrepreneurs have also been incredibly busy developing their own

original business ideas, achieving record-breaking profits of more than £600 per team! Our Year 5 and 6 children were inspired by visits from our Career Axis speakers, who shared their own career journeys and aspirations. We were also delighted to welcome our new Reception children into school, where they met Miss Anscombe and enjoyed exploring their new classroom ahead of September.

Our Year 6 leavers gave a truly memorable end-of-year performance, with plenty of laughter, pride and more than a few tears from the audience. Alongside school trips, residential adventures and so many wonderful learning experiences, it has been a fitting end to another exceptional year. Thank you to our pupils, staff, parents and wider school community for making this such a special year. We wish you all a safe, relaxing and happy summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on 2nd September.

Reception Yellow Submarine

Our role play area has become a submarine and we are celebrating everything sea related. In science we are investigating floating and sinking, the children had to make predictions and then conduct an experiment to test out their predictions.



We then tried to work out why some things float or sink and the children began to learn that it is not size or weight but to do with density! **Miss Anscombe**

Reception **BOOK FOR LIFE**

Andy and Geoff from Rottingdean and Saltdean Lions came and presented each child in Reception with a book.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support that the Lions provide to our school. The work of the Lions makes a real difference to people of all ages, and it is wonderful for our children to see first-hand how charitable organisations help others through kindness, generosity, and community spirit.

Opportunities like this also help children understand the importance of giving back and supporting those around us.

The gift of a book is particularly meaningful. Encouraging a love of reading from an early age is one of the greatest gifts we can give children.



Books open doors to new ideas, spark imagination and creativity, build knowledge and vocabulary, and support children's confidence and wellbeing. Receiving a book of their own creates a sense of ownership and excitement that can inspire a lifelong enjoyment of reading.

Miss Anscombe

Reception **AWOY!!**

Captain Dan Tastic came and spent the day with Reception. We learnt a lot about the golden age of piracy and got to see and touch many artefacts including a 4kg canon ball, a grenado, a helm, a flintlock pistol, a tricorn hat to name but a few.



We heard about some of the most famous pirates, learnt about the different jobs on board a pirate ship and also the different ships pirates would use for different reasons. Did you know that a pineapple was a real luxury in the golden age of piracy and it's price equivalent to today would have been £10, 000! A fun day of learning was had by all including the grown-ups!

Miss Anscombe

Year 1 **Arundel Castle**

Year 1 had a fabulous time when we went to visit Arundel Castle. We learnt about the different parts of the castle and saw Queen Victoria's bedroom. We also saw lots of armour and swords. In the afternoon we did some dressing up.



The castle guides were so pleased with Year 1 because they were so well behaved and were very good at remembering the different names for the parts of the castle. What a great trip we had!

Miss Cordell



Year 1 *Fruity*

Year 1 put their design skills to the test by creating their own delicious fruit kebabs. They carefully planned their creations by drawing and listing the ingredients they would need before making the kebabs all by themselves. Once they were finished, they enjoyed tasting their healthy treats together in the shade by the pond—a perfect way to spend a sunny day!

Miss Ricetti



Year 2 WAKEHURST

Year 2 had a fantastic time on our first school trip together when we visited Wakehurst Gardens. They took part in an immersive art activity where they had to create an ephemeral piece based on something they have seen in nature - I'm hoping you can see by the pictures how fantastic they were!



We were then taken on a well-being trail around the grounds to see everything the garden had to offer, including an art exhibition by Henry Moore. The children even came across ducklings, cygnets and goslings on their trail which was one of their highlights!

Miss Hamilton

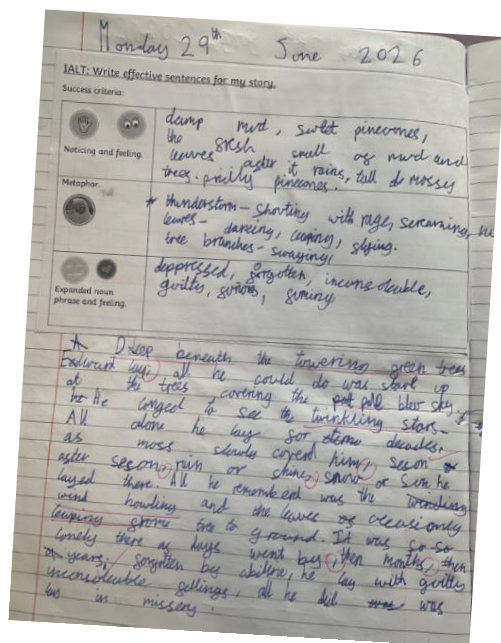


Year 3 Romans

Year 3 had an excellent trip to Brighton Museum for their Roman Experience! They got to investigate Roman ruins, remains and games all while Barnabus the REAL Roman shared his experiences! A great end to our Romans learning.

Mr Brown

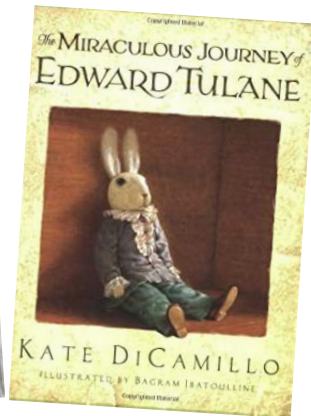




Year 4 Reading

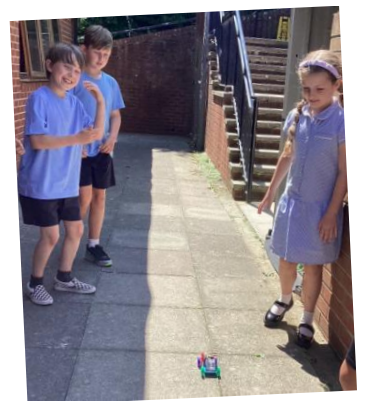
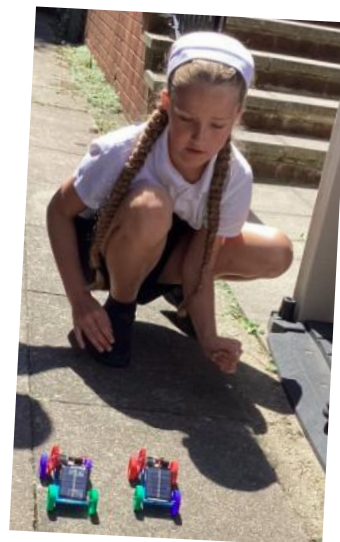
In Year 4 this half term we have been enjoying our class text 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane'. We have explored the character of Edward in depth and the children have thoughtfully discussed his character's development over the course of his journey. We have been fully immersing ourselves in the text, from using the fantastic illustrations to inspire some sketching, and in creating our own chapter for the book where Edward is discovered by a new character. Year 4 have impressed me with their enthusiasm for this text and for all of our texts this year. I know that they will thoroughly enjoy all of the new and exciting books in year 5. Well done for a brilliant year, year 4!

Miss Turner



Year 5 Energy

What an exciting and inspiring half-term for Year 5! The visit from Brighton Energy Co-Operative provided a fantastic hands-on opportunity to learn about different sources of electricity, and designing and racing solar-powered cars was a brilliant way to bring their learning to life.



Year 5



It's also wonderful to see how much the children have achieved through the InBusiness Challenge. Not only have they shown great entrepreneurial skills by making a profit, but they have also developed confidence, creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills while working with a variety of classmates. Well done, Year 5.

Mrs Nicholson

Year 6 THE GOOD SHEPHERD

On 17th June, I took 4 representatives from Y6 to the annual Good Shepherd liturgy at Worth Abbey. They were excellent ambassadors for our school and took part in the liturgy carrying the banner, and presenting the anchor that all schools were asked to decorate to represent their school. Then we got to enjoy a picnic in the grounds afterwards in the sunshine. A lovely day!

Miss Cordell



Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy term! They showed incredible determination and resilience while sitting their SATs, and we are so proud of them. They celebrated afterwards with a three-day residential trip to Blackland Farm, where they had a fantastic time.

Even in the searing heat, they threw themselves into kayaking, high ropes, team-building activities and Gladiator Challenges with enthusiasm. They were a credit to the school, showing kindness, support for each other and impeccable manners throughout. We wish Year 6 every success and happiness as they move on to secondary school – we will miss them greatly.

Remember to come back and visit us; you will always be part of the Our Lady family.

Mrs Wilks





SCHOOL IN THE WOODS IN FULL BLOOM

Volunteers, staff and pupils at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School in Rottingdean were delighted to show Chris Murphy, an Assessor for the South & South East in Bloom Competition in the Parish Category around our school in the woods area as part of Rottingdean in Bloom's entry this year.

With support from Rottingdean in Bloom in the form of advice and its members' donations several areas have been improved with the creation of a scented sensory garden packed with herbs and tactile plants as well as a budding fruit bush collection and more traditional flowering displays. The school in the woods area is maintained with the help of parent volunteers and enjoyed by pupils both as an outdoor play area and a place for self-regulation and outdoor learning.

Helen Clark from Rottingdean in Bloom said 'We're delighted to be able to support our Primary Schools in their green endeavours. Our Lady of Lourdes pupils obviously enjoy their School in the Woods and are developing good foundations for understanding and caring about the natural environment. We wish them all success.'





We have had another busy and exciting term in Music!

ROCKSTEADY

Many children have thoroughly enjoyed continuing their Rocksteady lessons, developing their confidence and musical skills. We have also been treated to some wonderful performances from our talented violin, guitar and keyboard players.

Mrs Wilks



PERFORMANCE

Our Year 2 children had a fantastic opportunity to visit The Dome to take part in *The Old Lady Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle*. This engaging musical production tells the story of an ungrateful old lady who lives in a vinegar bottle and is never satisfied with what she has. Created by Create Music, the story was brought to life by professional musicians, an actor, and hundreds of local schoolchildren. It was a memorable experience, and our pupils performed brilliantly.

SINGING

Reception Class also delighted us by singing in church. They performed beautifully and represented the school with confidence and enthusiasm, making everyone very proud.

Our school choir continues to go from strength to strength. They are sounding fantastic, and it has been wonderful to see so many new members joining. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, commitment and the progress they are making.



As another fantastic sporting year draws to a close, we are delighted to share some of the incredible achievements and opportunities enjoyed by our children throughout the Summer Term. From athletics success and sporting festivals to football fixtures and Sports Day, it has been a term packed with participation, teamwork and achievement.

ACE ATHLETICS SUCCESS AT LONGHILL

Our Year 6 athletes competed superbly, with the boys and girls both producing excellent performances. Between them, the teams achieved 1st and 2nd place finishes, resulting in an overall **joint 1st place** finish. A fantastic achievement to end their ACE athletics journey.

The Year 5 teams were outstanding, with both the **girls' team finishing 1st** and the **boys' team finishing 1st**, securing an impressive **overall 1st place** finish.

Our younger athletes were equally successful. Both the **girls' and boys' teams finished 1st**, earning an excellent **overall 1st place** result. We are incredibly proud of all the children who demonstrated determination, resilience and outstanding teamwork throughout the competition.



ACE FESTIVALS

Unfortunately, poor weather meant that the planned Year 5/6 rounders festival could not go ahead as intended. However, this didn't stop the fun! The event was cleverly adapted into **Longball Chaos**, an exciting throwing, striking and dodging game where children mixed with pupils from other partnership schools. Our children were fully engaged throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

YEAR 1 & 2 CRICKET FESTIVAL

Our Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed a wonderful cricket festival where they had the opportunity to practise striking balls, making catches and taking part in a variety of fun cricket-based activities.

The event was brilliantly supported by the Longhill Sports Leaders as well as **Katy and Russ from St Peter's Cricket Club**, whose enthusiasm helped create a memorable experience for all involved.

For families interested in exploring cricket opportunities outside school, please visit:

St Peter's Cricket Club

<https://stpeterscricketclub.com>

MULTI-SPORT FESTIVAL FOR YEARS 1 AND 2

Our Year 1 and 2 children took part in another exciting sporting event where they experienced a range of activities delivered by specialist coaches:

- **Helen** from Rugbytots, part of Brighton Rugby Club
- **Mason** from Community Basketball Academy
- **JP** from Street Funk
- **Dave** from Woodingdean Wanderers Football Club

It was fantastic to see our youngest children exposed to such a wide variety of sports and activities in such a short space of time. The enthusiasm, smiles and energy throughout the day were wonderful to see.

BASKETBALL FESTIVAL

Selected Year 3/4 and Year 5 children attended a basketball festival alongside pupils from other ACE Partnership schools. The event featured skill-based activities, drills and mini-matches led by **Mason from the Community Basketball Academy**.

The energy and effort on display were fantastic, with children throwing themselves into every activity and returning thoroughly warm, tired and proud of their efforts!

For further information about Community Basketball Academy:

Website: <https://communitybasketball.org>

Email: info@communitybasketball.org



CITY ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS ONCE AGAIN!

On **18th June**, more than 30 pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 competed in the annual **City Athletics competition at Withdean**.

The children represented the school magnificently, demonstrating outstanding behaviour, enthusiasm and athletic talent throughout the event. We are thrilled to announce that we **won our division**, with many members of the team earning **Gold, Silver and Bronze medals**.



Most impressively, this victory means that we have now brought home the trophy for the **fourth consecutive year**—an incredible achievement.

The relay races provided some of the most exciting moments of the day. Supported by fantastic cheering from the stands, our athletes delivered remarkable performances, winning **Gold in five of the six relay events**.

Our Year 6 girls were only narrowly denied a medal in their relay race.

We could not be prouder of every child who took part.

FRIENDLY FOOTBALL FIXTURE

Our final sporting event of the year, apart from Sports Day, was a friendly mixed football match against **Rudyard Kipling Primary School**.

The fixture was specifically organised to provide opportunities for children who do not always get the chance to represent the school in competitive sport. The enjoyment, teamwork and enthusiasm shown by all involved perfectly highlighted what school sport is all about.

Goals were scored by **Ayesha, Lucca and Rory** in a thrilling **4–2 victory**.

While the result was secondary to participation and enjoyment, it was wonderful to see the children playing with such confidence and commitment.

Special mentions go to: **Jacob and Enan** for their excellent goalkeeping performances and **Bethany and Georlyn**, who were outstanding and dependable in defence throughout the match.

Well done to all players involved.



SPORTS DAY

After two previous cancellations, we were delighted that **Sports Day** was finally able to take place, despite the extremely hot conditions.

The children were absolutely fantastic throughout the day. It was wonderful to see everyone taking part, supporting one another and giving their best effort in every activity. The atmosphere was full of encouragement, positivity and excitement, with children enjoying the opportunity to be active and celebrate sport together.

A huge thank you goes to all staff and volunteers who helped make the day possible, and a special thank you to the **PTFA**, who kindly provided ice lollies for every child at the end of the event. They were certainly appreciated in the summer heat!



THANK YOU

As the sporting year comes to an end, we would like to thank all of our pupils, staff, volunteers, coaches, parents and partner organisations for their support. The children's enthusiasm, determination and sportsmanship throughout the year have been exceptional and continue to make us incredibly proud.

Finally, we would like to extend a huge thank you to **Mr Hoad**, our PE teacher. Without his dedication, enthusiasm and hard work, none of the opportunities and achievements highlighted above would be possible.

From organising competitions, festivals and fixtures to inspiring children in their PE lessons each week, Mr Hoad goes above and beyond to ensure that every child has the chance to enjoy sport, develop new skills and experience success. His commitment to providing such a wide range of sporting opportunities has had a tremendous impact on our pupils throughout the year.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Mr Hoad as part of our team, and the children learn so much from his passion, knowledge and encouragement. On behalf of the whole school community, thank you, Mr Hoad, for everything you do. We are very lucky to have you as part of our school.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer break and look forward to another exciting year of sport and physical activity ahead.

Mrs Golawska

School Nurse

Hello, my name is Katrin Middleton and I am the allocated school nurse for 'Our Lady of Lourdes'.

I work for the NHS and can offer support with health issues such as sleep, growth, continence (day or nighttime wetting & constipation), healthy eating, dental health, hygiene, low level emotional wellbeing, behaviour and development. I can also refer your child to other specialist services if appropriate.

I am able to offer 'drop in' sessions at pick up time in the playground and sessions where parents can book appointments (15min slots) with reception to have a brief discussion about your concerns.

A separate consultation can also be booked to discuss your concern in a more confidential setting.

Please look out for alerts when the dates are announced for these sessions.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Please check out the website link below and QR code for further information:

<https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/services/school-nursing-service>

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

Gaia is performing in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the Theatre Royal Brighton this August, and it would be so lovely to see some school friends in the audience!

It's such a fun show and a great one for the kids to see during the summer holidays.

Her performance dates are:

Thursday 13/8, Saturday 15/8: 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM & Sunday 16/8: 6:00 PM

Ticket Link:

<https://share.google/qQi866vL1X8EttBWz>

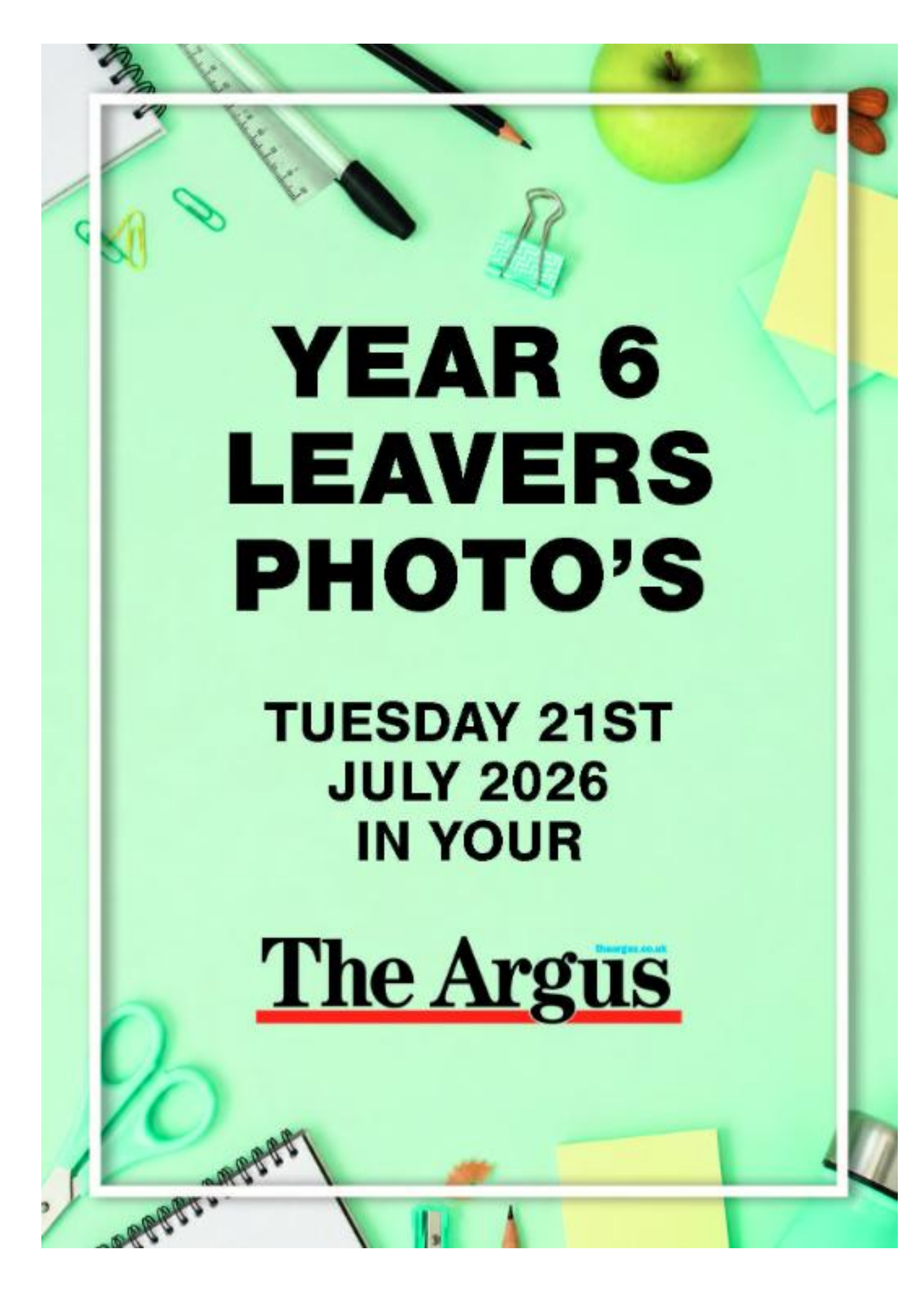




Kind regards,

Katrin

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



YEAR 6 LEAVERS PHOTO'S

**TUESDAY 21ST
JULY 2026
IN YOUR**

The Argus Dunfermline.co.uk



Academy Swim Trials

**Is your
child aged
between
5-8 yrs old
and loves
swimming?**

**Would they love
to join our team?**

City of Brighton and Hove Junior
Academy trials are now being held on
a Tuesday and Friday evening at 6pm.

If you're interested in joining the club
either scan the code or visit:



<https://brighton.swimclubmanager.uk/register-for-trial/>



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 27 – Thursday 30 July
Monday 3 – Thursday 6 August
Monday 10 – Thursday 13 August
Monday 17 – Thursday 20 August
Tuesday 25 – Friday 28 August

10.00 – 12.30 each day

Ages 9 – 15

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.

Levels 1 & 2 together is £50 per person. Concessions available

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**

withdean athletics academy....



Summer Holiday Athletics Camp

Monday 3rd – Friday 14th August 2026

Minis (4-7's) – 10am – noon - £12 day rate

Whole Day 7-12 years 10am – 3.00pm - £30

Bookable at reception for any of these days

contact reception on **01273 542100**

www.freedom-leisure.co.uk

Please bring suitable footwear and a drink, all other equipment is provided.





LOVED BY KIDS,
TRUSTED BY PARENTS.

With our famous fit and unbeatable comfort in every step,
parents can trust Clarks to deliver perfectly fitting,
ultra-durable school shoes, that empower kids to be their
very best selves - *all day, all term,*
and all at a price you'll love.

Our in-store experts are available to help with professional
measuring and personalised advice, to ensure your child
leaves with school shoes that fit perfectly
and feel comfortable all term long.

We also offer Quiet Time appointments, with fewer
crowds, less noise and gentler lights in store.
For Quiet time appointments, simply get in touch with
your local store and the team will be happy to help.

