



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN
ROTTINGDEAN
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA
www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk



Friday 18th September 2026

Welcome Back Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all our families as we begin a new academic year. It has been wonderful to see the children return with such enthusiasm, positivity and readiness to learn. A special welcome to the families who are joining our school community for the first time. We are delighted that you are part of the Our Lady of Lourdes family.

As we settle into the new term, I would like to share a few celebrations, reminders and updates to help ensure a successful start to the year for everyone.

Celebrating Our Year 6 SATs Results

Before looking ahead to another exciting year, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of our former Year 6 pupils.

We were delighted with the children's SATs outcomes this summer, which reflected their hard work, resilience and determination throughout their time at Our Lady of Lourdes. We are grateful to our dedicated staff and supportive families whose encouragement helped the children to achieve their very best.

Our pupils achieved:

- **Reading:** 76%
- **Writing:** 72%
- **Mathematics:** 76%
- **Reading, Writing and Mathematics Combined:** 66%

A significant number of pupils also achieved **Greater Depth**:

- **Reading:** 28%
- **Writing:** 28%
- **Mathematics:** 21%
- **Combined Greater Depth:** 10%

These outcomes are a testament to the hard work of the children and staff.

Whilst we are proud of these excellent results, we are even prouder of the wonderful young people our children have become. They left Our Lady of Lourdes as confident, compassionate and resilient learners, ready for the next stage of their education and committed to living out our school values. Congratulations to the Class of 2026. We continue to keep them in our prayers as they begin this exciting new chapter.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions last week. It was lovely to welcome so many parents into school, and we hope you found the meetings informative and helpful as we begin the new academic year together.

We look forward to seeing many of you again at our English and Phonics Curriculum Meetings next week. These sessions will provide practical information about how we teach reading, phonics and

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writing, as well as ways you can support your child at home. Working in partnership with families is one of the best ways to help our children flourish, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Welcoming New Members of Staff

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to the Our Lady of Lourdes family this year.

A warm welcome goes to Mrs Stephenson, who joins our Year 6 team and will be working alongside Mrs Wilks, and to Mrs Arnold, who has joined our Year 2 team. The children have already made them feel very welcome, and we are delighted to have them as part of our school community.

We are equally pleased to welcome Gavin Brock as our new Music Teacher. Many of the children have already enjoyed their first music lessons with Gavin, and we look forward to seeing their musical talents continue to flourish under his guidance. Music plays such an important role in the life of our school, enhancing both our curriculum and our worship.

At the same time, we would like to take the opportunity to thank Liz Van Tromp for the tremendous contribution she has made to the musical life of Our Lady of Lourdes over many years. We wish her every happiness in her retirement and thank her for the joy, enthusiasm and inspiration she has brought to so many children.

Ladywell Pilgrimage

On Wednesday, ten of our pupils took part in a pilgrimage to Ladywell to celebrate the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures*. Alongside children from Cottesmore St Mary's, they enjoyed a short walking pilgrimage, time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the opportunity to write prayers for loved ones.

There was also time for games and friendship as the children got to know their peers from Cottesmore. We were incredibly proud of the children, whose behaviour was exemplary throughout the day. They approached every part of the pilgrimage with reverence, respect and enthusiasm, particularly during Adoration and prayer. They were wonderful ambassadors for Our Lady of Lourdes and a real credit to their families and our school.

Schools Singing Programme

We are delighted that our Schools Singing Programme has now begun for our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils. Through the programme, the children develop their singing skills while learning a repertoire of hymns and songs to support our Catholic worship and liturgical celebrations.

The children have made a wonderful start and are already singing with enthusiasm, confidence and joy. We look forward to hearing them lead and support our collective worship, Masses and liturgical celebrations throughout the year.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTFA for their generous support in helping to fund this programme. Opportunities such as these enrich the children's experience and would not be possible without the commitment and generosity of our parent community.

If you are interested in getting involved with the PTFA, you would be warmly welcomed. Whether you can volunteer regularly, help at an occasional event, contribute ideas, or simply lend a hand when you

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can, every contribution makes a difference. The PTFA plays a vital role in supporting our school, and we are always grateful to welcome new members and volunteers.

We look forward to seeing the children grow in confidence and faith as they share their gifts through music and worship.

Winnie, Our School Dog

Many of the children have already enjoyed spending time with Winnie, our school dog, this term.

Winnie has been spending time with children in our woodland area, where she helps to create opportunities for calm reflection, conversation and confidence-building. She continues to be a much-loved member of our school community and brings great joy to many children and adults alike.

Winnie is a Cavapoo, a breed that is generally considered to be low-shedding and often more suitable for those with allergies. If your child has a dog allergy, or feels anxious or nervous around dogs, please let the school know so that we can make appropriate arrangements and ensure that every child feels safe, comfortable and supported.

Uniform Reminders

Thank you for your support in ensuring that children come to school looking smart and ready to learn. Please remember:

- All uniform, coats, PE kits and water bottles should be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Hair should be neat and tidy, with no patterns or designs cut into it.
- Hair should remain a natural colour.
- Children may wear small stud earrings only.
- Hoops, dangling earrings and other jewellery should not be worn to school.
- Earrings must be removed for PE lessons for health and safety reasons. Staff are unable to remove earrings for children.

Your support helps us maintain high standards and ensures that lost property can be returned quickly.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that, in line with our school policy, **only Year 6 pupils are permitted to bring a smartphone to school**, where this has been agreed with parents to support their journey to and from school.

Children in other year groups should not bring smartphones onto the school site. Should a smartphone be brought to school by a child in Year 5 or below, parents will be contacted and asked to collect the device.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe, focused and distraction-free learning environment for all children.

Attendance Matters

Excellent attendance is vital if children are to flourish both academically and socially. Every day in school matters, and regular attendance helps children to build confidence, friendships and strong learning habits. Being present every day also enables children to feel fully involved in the life of our school community.

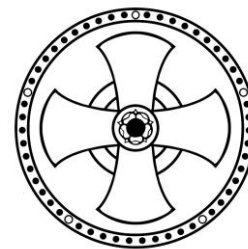
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Please note that **holidays taken during term time will not be authorised except in truly exceptional circumstances**. We ask all families to arrange holidays during the school holiday periods wherever possible.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that children arrive on time and ready to learn each day.

Attendance %	Days Missed	Weeks Missed	Lessons Missed (approx.)
100%	0	0	0
97% (Target)	5 Days	1 Week	25 Lessons
95% (Current)	9 Days	~2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	~4 Weeks	100 Lessons

End of the School Day

Thank you to all parents and carers for your cooperation at collection time. We are especially grateful to those who wait until they are called before entering the car park to collect their children. This simple measure helps us keep all children safe and allows for a calm and orderly dismissal at the end of the day.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we begin this new academic year together. The strong relationship between home and school is one of our greatest strengths, and we are grateful for all that you do to support your children and our school community. We look forward to a year filled with learning, friendship, faith and opportunity for every child as we continue to grow together in God's love.

May God bless you and your families throughout the term ahead.

A Philbrook

Anita Philbrook
Headteacher