OUR LADY OF LOURDES NEWS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY

Autumn Term **www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk** **Friday 4th September 2026**

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to our new school year!

I hope you all had a lovely summer break with your children and extended families. The pupils have taken great delight in sharing their adventures with us.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the children back to school. As always, they all had big smiles on their faces and said that they were happy to be back. At our first assembly on Wednesday, we talked about the tragic loss of the El-Khawas family and how we are all here to support each other through this difficult time for our school community. All of the children responded so kindly and respectfully and have written some beautiful messages to Yousef, Malek and their extended family. I would like to thank all members of our school community who signed the Book of Condolence. A Mass will be held on Wednesday 9th September at 10:00am at Five Precious Wounds – all are welcome to attend.

This morning, we came together to remind pupils of the following:

- Uniform – Our Lady of Lourdes has a Uniform Policy that all parents expected to adhere to.
- Attendance & Punctuality – Our school day starts at 8:55am. All pupils are expected to be in school on time.
- Why Come to School – Children are reminded about the importance of coming to school.
- Behaviour & Attitudes to Learning – Children were reminded that they come to school to learn and follow the school rules.

Throughout the assembly, we reinforced the word 'kindness' – being kind to ourselves, and being kind to others, and our responsibility as Catholics to follow Christ's Mission.

Welcome to New Staff

We are delighted to welcome Miss Elawad, who has joined us as class teacher in year 2. The class has made a great start to the new school year with her. We have also welcomed Mr Akpa-Agwu, who is working as an LSA in key stage 2 as well as supporting EYFS at lunchtime. Many of you will have spoken to Miss Gure and Mrs Elliott, who have returned to the school office. I am sure you will join us in making them all feel very welcome.

Benedict's Law

In February, the Government formally passed Benedict's Law. This law was enforced from 1st September 2026 which means that all schools must have Epi-Pens on site and all staff receive the relevant training. Staff at Our Lady of Lourdes have received the training on allergy awareness, prevention and how to respond, and use Epi-pens in an emergency.

Curriculum & Expectation Meetings

Please make a note of the day and time for your Curriculum & Expectations meeting. This is an opportunity to meet with, and hear from your child's class teacher about the expectations for this academic year. Please note; individual children will not be discussed during this meeting. If you wish to discuss any concerns relating to your child, please contact the school office to arrange a separate meeting.

New Academic Year Reminders

Autumn Term Dates

- Curriculum & Expectations Meeting - Monday 14th September at 3:45pm - Reception, Years 1 & 2
- Curriculum & Expectation Meeting - Wednesday 16th September at 3:45pm - Years 3 & 4
- Curriculum & Expectations Meeting - Thursday 17th September at 3.45pm - Years 5 & 6 (Year 6 will rename to SATs & Transition Meeting)
- Year 6 trip to National Army museum - Wednesday 23rd September
- Year 2 trip to The National Gallery – Thursday 22nd October
- **Half Term – Monday 26th October to Friday 6th November**
- Pupils return to school on **Monday 9th November**

Safeguarding Procedures

All parents who wish to visit the school office **MUST** ring the buzzer on the school gate to announce their arrival. Please do not attempt to enter the school when the main gates are open at the start and end of the day without following our safeguarding procedure, as you will be instructed by a member of staff to buzz the office. In addition, please ensure that you do not hold the gate open for other parents/visitors to enter the site unannounced. All parents and visitors **MUST** announce their arrival.

Pupil Safety - End of Day Pick Up

For the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, parents and local residents, please ensure that you wait on the pavements at the end of the school day. Please do not stand on the road junction between Wesley Road and Shakespeare Avenue. We encourage all pupils to walk on the pavements when entering and exiting Wesley Road. Thank you for your cooperation.

Years 5 & 6 – permission for students to walk home alone

Students in years 5 and 6 are allowed to leave school at the end of the school day unaccompanied with the permission of their primary parental guardian. Please complete this form if you agree to allow your child to walk home alone - Y5 & Y6 permission form.

Caterpillars, Nursery & Reception Class – Stay & Play

We are delighted to confirm that our first Stay & Play date this academic year will be on Friday 9th October from 8.45am to 9.30am. Parents are invited to stay with their children, look at their work and see how they are fitting in at the start of a new term. There is no need to book, simply come along and join in. We look forward to seeing you.

School Uniform

Congratulations to the majority of pupils who returned on Wednesday looking incredibly smart in their autumn/winter school uniforms. Thank you to those parents for adhering to our standards. However, unfortunately, there were a small number of pupils who returned school in slightly muddled versions of our school uniform. Please ensure that you have read our school uniform policy and July newsletter that was sent to you before the summer holiday. All information regarding our school uniform can be found on our school website. Please be advised that uniform letters will be sent out from Monday 7th September.

Jewellery

In line with our policy, pupils are allowed to wear watches and gold or silver plain stud earrings. For health and safety reasons please do not send your child to school wearing hooped earrings or any form of neck chain or bracelet.

Parent Staff Association

Our mission this term is to recruit as many parent volunteers to help resurrect our Parent Staff Association (PSA). Schools rely on the support from parent volunteers to plan, organise and run traditional events such as the, fast approaching, Christmas Fair. As mentioned in previous newsletters we have been unable to run these events due to limited offers of support; therefore, we will be asking all our parents to do their best to support your child's school' Parent Staff Association.

Parents in Partnership

Parents and schools must work in partnership and therefore should you have any concerns about your child's academic progress, or overall wellbeing please ensure that you follow our procedures to **make an appointment to speak to us here at school**. Your first point of contact should always be your child's class teacher. If you arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher and are unable to attend, please ensure that you contact the school.

Please note that should you have any queries or minor concerns, the Headteacher and other members of SLT are available at the start and end of the school day. However, requests for formal meetings are by appointment only. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Year 6 Secondary School Transfers – Pupils in Year 5 and 6

So that you do not miss out on important information shared at open evenings, we strongly advise you to visit the websites of secondary schools that you are considering for your child's secondary education.

Closing date for Secondary School Applications is 31st October 2026.

Virtues Reflection Sheets – Reminder

Virtues Reflection Sheets are used to encourage pupils to discuss with you the behaviour they have demonstrated in school, and in doing so provide you with information about their behaviour. The sheet requires that you sign to acknowledge that you have discussed the matter with your child. We therefore request that when Virtues Reflection sheets are sent home with your child that you spend some time discussing the alternative choices that they could have made. We also request that you sign and return the sheet the following day. Please note that if your child receives three forms over the course of one-half term you will be required to attend a meeting with the Assistant Head of Phase. In addition, should the forms not be signed and returned the school will be inviting you in for a meeting to discuss this further with you.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Zero Tolerance of Intimidating and Aggressive Behaviour towards any member of our school community:

Please be aware that abusive, intimidating, threatening or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated in our school. **It is also completely inappropriate for parents to approach other parents or pupils to address issues that have happened in school – Please do not do this! We have a very clear Complaints Policy that must be followed**.

For further information please see our Dealing **with Unacceptable Behaviour By Parents/Visitors on School Premises Policy** on our school website. This policy outlines the action the school will take when such incidents occur.



SAFEGUARDING & SAFETY NOTICES

UNACCOMPANIED EYFS & KS1 PUPILS

We have noticed several of our very young pupils being dropped at the top of Wesley Road to walk unaccompanied to the school gates. As this is now an access roads for local residents and both schools we request that you walk your child to the gate and hand them over to our staff.

ENTERING WESLEY ROAD

Wesley Road is now open for vehicle access for residents. Therefore, we must request that you use the pedestrian pathways when approaching the school.

To ensure the safety of our school community please refrain from walking down the centre of the road. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL

If you require your child to walk home unaccompanied or with another minor you must provide this information, including the name of the accompaning minor, in writing to the school. Pupils will not be released without this information.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please be reminded that we are a Nut-Free School. This means all forms of nuts and products that contain nuts in any form must not be sent into school. Please be vigilant when sending food items into school as, for some individuals, contact with nuts can be life-threatening. Please ensure the school holds updated medical information on your child. If your child requires a Epi-pen please ensure you have supplied the school with one.

THE DANGERS OF GRAPES, CHERRY TOMATOES AND OTHER SMALL FRUIT ITEMS

Whole grapes, cherry tomatoes and other small fruit items **are a choking hazard**! If you are sending grapes or cherry tomatoes in as part of your child's packed lunch please ensure that you have sliced them in half or quarters. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

REPORTING INCIDENTS WHEN THEY HAPPEN

We encourage all pupils to report incidents as soon as they happen. This allows teachers and support staff to be aware of circumstances surrounding the incidents when they happen, and deal with them at a time that does not impact the learning or safety of other pupils. This is the message we give to all our pupils, and we will be further reinforcing our procedures and expectations with all staff to ensure clarity on this matter.

MEDICAL NEEDS

Please ensue that you notify the school of any updated medical needs for your child. It is vital that you notify us immediately of any changes. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Online Safety Reminders



We take the safety of our pupils very seriously both in and out of school. In order for us to assist you in keeping your child safe online we have put together the following informaton. This can also be found on our school website and by scanning this QR Code

Our **very clear advice** is as follows:

- Do not give children under 10 a smart phone.
- Be clear on your reasons for giving your child a smart phone – would a standard mobile phone without internet access suffice for your child's needs?
- Monitor your child's mobile phone and other device activity at the end of each day.
- Remove all devices from your child at bed time and give them a book to read inappropriate messaging and use of your child's mobile phone. Set strong privacy settings on all devices from your child at bed time and give them a book to read.
- Monitor all WhatsApp, texts and social media activity. Mobile phones are registered to you as the adult; therefore you may be held responsible for all inappropriate activity on your child's mobile devices.
- Regularly check your child's Google search history
- Set Strong Privacy Settings on devices.
- Be aware of the recommended ages for games your child is playing e.g. Roblox. Know who your child is talking to when playing the game.

Please not that the NSPCC have reported that children as young as 5 years of age have social media accounts. Please note that it is illegal for children under the age of 13 years to have their own social media accounts (X, Instragram, Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok). To ensure your child's safety at home please monitor their activity on phones, electronic devices and social media platforms.

Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing weekend.

Best wishes

Ms Halpin

Our Lady of Lourdes School Uniform Reminder

Thank you for adhering to our School Uniform Policy. For all information on our summer uniform, and what to prepare for the autumn term, please visit our website www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk

KS1 & KS2 Summer Uniform	
Boys	**Girls**
Royal blue official school jumper or cardigan * 	**Royal blue official school jumper or cardigan *** 
School Grey school trousers or smart tailored shorts  	**School Grey knee length skirt, pinafore or smart tailored shorts**  
Black or Grey socks	**White ankle or knee length socks**
Black sensible shoes (No tassels, logos, coloured laces etc) 	**Black sensible shoes** (No tassels, logos, coloured laces etc) 
Official school coat* or plain navy/black coat (No other coats or jacket is permissible) 	**Official school coat* or plain navy/black coat** (No other coats or jacket is permissible) 
Our Lady of Lourdes hat* (No other colour hats/scarves are permissible) 	**Our Lady of Lourdes hat*** (No other colour hats/scarves are permissible) 
KS1 & KS2 PE Kits	
All Year Navy blue PE tracksuit*  	**Navy Blue Shorts can be worn in summer months** 
Black plimsolls/Plain Black Trainers (No logos) 	**Black plimsolls /Plain Black Trainers** (No logos) 

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Term and Holiday Dates for 2026 - 2027

AUTUMN TERM 2026

68 Days

First Day of Term for pupils:	**Wednesday 2nd September 2026**
Half Term	*Monday 26th October to Friday 6th November 2026*
Last Day of Term for pupils:	**Friday 18th December 2026 (School Closes 3:30pm)**

SPRING TERM 2027

53 Days

First Day Spring Term:	**Tuesday 5th January 2027**
Half Term	*Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027*
Last Day of Term for pupils:	**Thursday 25th March 2027 (School Closes 3:30pm)**
Easter Holidays:	*Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027*

SUMMER TERM 2027

69 days

First Day Summer Term:	**Monday 12th April 2027**
Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 3rd May 2027
Half Term:	*Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027*
Last Day of Term for pupils:	**Friday 23rd July 2027 (School Closes 3:30pm)**