OUR LADY OF LOURDES NEWS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY

Autumn Term **www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk** **Friday 23rd October 2026**

Dear Parents & Carers

Act of Kindness – 'Saja and Sara' Kindness Award



Following the tragic events at Shoreham Beach, Mrs Kent, and our Year 6 pupils wrote letters to the RNLI Life Boat Station at Shoreham to thank them for all they did, and continue to do to help others. We also wanted to offer support as the RNLI had come under negative press for saving the lives of people arriving to the UK on boats.

In return, we received the most heartwarming email from a member of the RNLI team who had been on duty on the day the tragedy occurred. He was so moved by the communication received from the school that he has made a substantial personal donation for a ten year award to be set up in memory of Saja and Sara El-Khawas as both girls had been pupils at Our Lady of Lourdes. His request was that the award be given to pupils who demonstrated 'acts of kindness', 'inclusivity' and 'caring for the enviromment'. He also requested to remain anonymous.

With his agreement, and the agreement of the extended El-Khawas family, it was decided that the 'Saja and Sara Award' would be presented to pupils at the end of the Spring Term at Easter.

How it will work

The donation will be used for four awards that will be presented to one pupil chosen from each of the four key stages: EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UPKS2. Each prize will be physical books which will be purchased in advance and reflect the themes of diversity, inclusion, kindness and caring for the environment.

We have extended an invitation to the donor to come along and present the first award in Saja and Sara's name and we will await their decision.

Charity Event



Thank you to everyone who made the incredible home make cakes and treats and all those who donated cakes for the year 2 Charity Cake Sale. The total amount raised will be in the first newsletter when we return after the half term.

Reception and Nursery Classes Theme Day

On Tuesday 10th November we will be holding a theme day to support our new topic of **In To The Woods.** Children in these classes are invited to dress up as a woodland character or creature.

Timings to Start of School Day



From **Monday 9th November** there will be a change to the start of the school day. Gates will open at 8:30am for children to arrive for soft start activities, and registration and formal lessons will start at 8:45am. Please ensure that you are prepared for the new start times.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Year Two Trip to the National Gallery



Yesterday, the children in year two enjoyed an informative trip to the National Gallery, where they learnt about several different paintings. The children's behaviour was excellent and the adults received several compliments from members of the public. Well done, year two!

Permission for School Trips

Please make sure that you give permission for your child to attend class trips. We are not able to take children on trips without parental consent. Failure to provide permission in advance of the trip will result in your child remaining in school, where they will be given work to complete in an alternative classroom.

Reading with Mr Reid – New Reading Clubs



We are delighted to announce that after half term two new fun filled reading clubs will be available for students. "Reading with Mr Reid" will be an opportunity to improve reading skills, discuss books and encourage a love of reading. A KS2 club for years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will take place on Wednesdays from 3.30 – 4.30pm and a KS1 club for reception class, years 1 & 2 on Wednesday lunchtime. Both clubs are available to book via your Arbor account. There are a limited number of spaces that are available on a first come, first served basis. However, please note that we be offering these clubs to different students every half term, so if you do not get a place this time, they will be available again in January.

Creating a Community of Readers – Book of the Week

Thank you to Ms Halpin's granddaughter Mia for her recommendation "'Space Band' by Tom Fletcher" last week. Scroll to the bottom of the newsletter to find out Mr Coranti's recommendation this week.

School Librarians Blog

Our wonderful year 6 librarians have put together a blog describing what they do to support the school library:-

Our role as a librarian

Have you ever wondered who helps keep our school library full of amazing books and exciting adventures? That's us, your school librarian team! Our job is to help make the library a welcoming and organised place for everyone. We help look after the books and make sure they are returned to the correct places. We want every pupil to enjoy visiting the library and discovering exciting new stories. Whether you love adventure, mystery, funny stories or fascinating facts, there is always something new to explore! Being a librarian teaches us to be responsible, helpful and organised. We are proud to help our school community and look after our wonderful library. Remember, every book takes you on a different adventure, so why not discover your next favourite book today? Happy reading, everyone!





Isabeau Yr6
Danica Yr6
Reshnavi Yr6
Bobbi Yr6
Lizanne Yr6

Black History Month

Our Lady of Lourdes has had a fantastic October learning about and celebrating Black History Month during their visits to the library.

Firstly, the children learnt about the Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole, who during the Crimean War 1853 - 1855, raised her own funds, left Jamaica to travel to London and then on to southern Russia. She went to care for the sick, wounded and dying British soldiers on the battlefield alongside with the famous Florence Nightingale. Her caring dedication , bravery and heroism made a significant contribution to Britain's military success in that conflict. Her standard of nursing care is the template upon which modern day nurses are trained today in hospitals. Mary Seacole is buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Kensal Green.

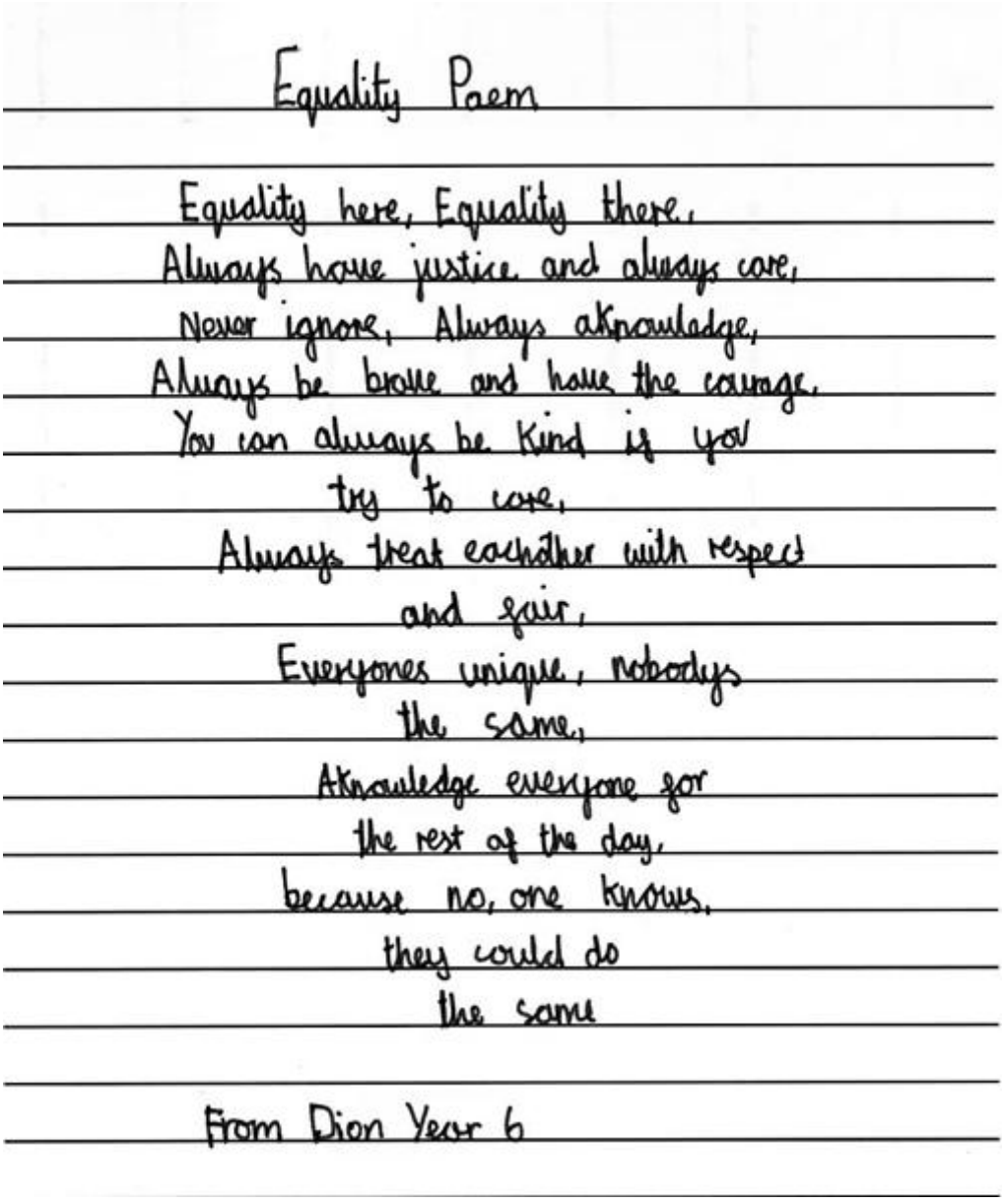
The children then learnt about human evolution, migration and the origins of humanity originating from the African continent. They were introduced to 'Cheddar Man', the oldest recorded human

remains found in Britain. Cheddar Man existed about 10,000 years ago; he was dark skinned with blue eyes. His species was the first to populate Europe. Cheddar Man's skeletal remains and a replica of his head are on display at the National History Museum, in the Human Evolution section. Well worth a visit during half term.

Finally, the children learnt about the black African Roman warrior Emperor Septimus Severus, who around AD 200 came to Roman Britain and built the Roman defensive wall around 'Londinum', the ancient Roman name for the city of London. The wall is still visible today at Tower Hill near the Towers of London. Emperor Septimus passed away in Britain and is buried in York. A busk of his head is on display at the entrance to the British Museum. Also worth a visit during half term.

Mr Reid.

Poem by Dion, Year 6



Equality Poem

Equality here, Equality there.
Always have justice and always care,
Never ignore, Always aknowledge,
Always be brave and have the courage.
You can always be Kind if you
try to care,
Always treat eachother with respect
and fair,
Everyones unique, nobodys
the same,
Aknowledge everyone for
the rest of the day,
because no, one knows,
they could do
the same

From Dion Year 6

Names on School Uniform

PLEASE add your child's name on their school uniform. We already have a number of items in lost property with no names on them. If an item has a name on it we will ensure it is returned. Thank you for your support.

Booking Clubs in Advance

Please remember that you must top up your child's account before booking into our Morning and After School clubs. It is also extremely important that you then book your child into the club **IN ADVANCE**. There are a limited number of spaces in each club so please do not drop or leave your child at either club without booking them in as this can lead to safeguarding issues.

Please also note that if you book your child into After School club after 3pm you must call the school office to advise them. The register is printed each day at 3pm and bookings made after 3pm will not be listed. Thank you for your continued support.

Changes to School Meals or Packed Lunches

Please remember that you must advise the school office of any changes to your child's usual daily lunch pattern. We inform the catering team of the numbers every morning and need to ensure that enough meals are prepared so that we have plenty for everyone.

Harvest Collection



Thank you to all our families who donated food items for our Harvest Collection. These items will be delivered to Sufra Foodbank today. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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: Friday 30th October 2026

Applying for a place at OLOL – Reception Class for September 2027 start

If you wish to apply for a place in our Reception class from September 2027 you must apply via the London Borough of Brent – www.brent.gov.uk/admissions. You should also complete our Supplmentary Information Form (SIF) and provide a copy of the child's baptismal certificate. SIF form's are availble from the school office.

Closing date for Primary School applications is: Friday 15th January 2027

Road Safety



Wesley Road has recently become very busy with high volumes of delivery vans, residential and other vehicles. We are therefore asking all parents to use the footpath when dropping children to school and not walk down the middle of the road. Pupils walking / cycling down the middle of Wesley Road are at risk from cars turning out of Shakespeare Avenue, often at high speed.

To enable KS1 and KS2 parents and pupils to access the main gate, Mr Malone will open the EYFS gate to allow parents to drop off inside the gate. The purpose of this is to reduce the number of parents waiting on the pavement outside the EYFS gate, therefore allowing pupils to walk on the footpath and not detour onto the road.

We would ask that all buggies are lined up against the railing and not positioned in such a way that the footpath is blocked.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Autumn Term Dates

- Half Term – Monday 26th October to Friday 6th November.
- **Pupils return to school on Monday 9th November. Gates will open at 8:30am. School day will start at 8:45am prompt.**
- Nursery & Reception In To The Woods Theme Day – Tuesday 10th November
- Year 6 Brent Citizen Workshop – Wednesday 11th November
- Year 6 Workshop at the Ben Kinsella Foundation – Thursday 12th November
- Relationship Sex Education Workshop (RSE) Thursday 12th November at 9am - please note the new date and time
- Year 3 trip to Southwark Cathedral – 13th November
- PSA Christmas Fair planning meeting - Friday 13th November at 8.45am
- School Photographer – Friday 20th November
- Year 5 theatre trip to Matilda – Wednesday 25th November
- Year 6 theatre trip to The Lion King – 2nd December
- PSA Christmas Fair – Christmas Fair – 3rd December
- Year 4 theatre trip to The Snowman – 9th December

Winter School Uniform

Pupils are to return to school on Monday 9th November in their correct Winter school uniform. For full details, please see information listed below, or our Uniform Policy on our school website www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk

To ensure that all of our pupils return in the correct school uniform, particularly hats, gloves, scarves and ear muffs please see the uniform list below.

Thank you for adhering to our School Uniform Policy.

KS1 & KS2 Winter Uniform	
Boys	**Girls**
Royal blue official school jumper*	Royal blue official school jumper*
Official school tie*	Official school tie*
Grey school trousers	Grey school pinafore or skirt or trousers
Black or Grey socks	Black or grey socks or tights
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 colour coat 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)
Ear Muffs - plain black or navy	Ear Muffs - plain black or navy
Plain black or navy gloves	Plain black or navy gloves
	Head scarf or covering - school blue

PLEASE NOTE POLO TOPS ARE NOT PART OF THE WINTER UNIFORM.

DfE National Average Attendance Figures – 95%

Our Lady of Lourdes Attendance Figure currently 96%. Congratulations! We have now reached above national average for attendance. Thank you for your continued support in sending your child to school every day.



Absence Recording

Please remember that you must call the school **BEFORE 8.30am** on each day your child is absent from school. Please call 020 8961 5037, select option 1 and leave a message clearly stating your child's name, class, the reason for their absence and their expected date of return. Thank you.

Polite Reminder

The school will no longer authorise any absence requests other than for exceptional and emergency circumstances. Emergency requests that require travel will only be authorised if the date of booking is provided. We do not require the travel tickets as this only shows the date of travel.

What is the impact on my child if they are absent, or regularly late for school?

Absence - Every Day Counts

% Attendance	No of Missed Days	Missed Learning
100% attendance	0 days missed	No learning missed
97% attendance	5 days missed	A week's learning missed
94% attendance	12 days missed	2 weeks and 2 days learning missed
90% attendance	19 days missed	3 weeks and 4 days learning missed
85% attendance	30 days missed	6 weeks of learning missed
80% attendance	40 days missed	8 weeks of learning missed

Punctuality /Lateness – Every Minute Counts

Arrival time	Hours Missed	Missed Learning
Always on Time	No hours missed	No learning missed
5 minutes late every day	15 hours of learning missed	3 days learning missed
10 minutes late every day	32 hours missed	6.5 days learning missed
20 minutes late every day	65 hours missed	13 days learning missed
30 minutes late every day	95 hours missed	19 days learning missed

Mobile Phones

Pupils in years 5 & 6 who walk to school unaccompanied are permitted to bring mobile phones to school. Once in school these phones are locked away in the office for safe keeping and are handed out to pupils at the end of the day. Please note that pupils in year 4 and below are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SAFEGUARDING & SAFETY NOTICES

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.

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.

Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing weekend. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 9th November at 8:30am in their Winter School Uniform.

Ms Halpin

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Term and Holiday Dates for 2026 - 2027

AUTUMN TERM 2026

69 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

55 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

71 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 16th July 2027 (School Closes 3:30pm)**

PSA

Parent and Staff Association



We are busy planning for our annural Christmas Fair on 3rd December and we need lots of help and support. Please read the letter that was sent to parents detailing how you can help and what each year group can bring to help ensure that we have a wide variety of goodies.

The next planning meeting will be on **Friday 13th November at 8.45am.** Please come along if you can.

Caterpillars, Nursery, Reception Year 1 - small raffle prizes, such as games, chocolates, arts & crafts.

Years 2, 3, and 4 - bottles of wine for the tombola, adults kindly bring these to the school office.

Years 5 and 6 - toiletries such as bath and body products, aftershave/perfume box sets.

EVERY CHILD - **A Christmas Jar** - Please fill and decorate jam jars with general party bag fillings approximately £1 in value. For example: small sweets, toys or stationery then decorate them (Christmas themed). These are always really popular so the more you can fill and bring in, the better.

Please send your donation to school by **Friday 27th November.**

Cultural Food Table

This is one of our most popular tables. If you would like to provide a tempting feast for all to enjoy, please contact the school office with your name, and the food item you will be providing on the day of the Christmas Fair.

Help on the day

We will need lots of parent volunteers to help run each stall. A sign-up sheet will be sent out after half term, please give up a little bit of your time to help make the event a huge success.

Raffle Tickets

Each child will receive a book of raffle tickets to sell in advance of the Christmas Fair. Please support your child in selling the tickets that they bring home. Tickets will also be on sale after school and at the Christmas Fair.



Raffle Prizes and Donations

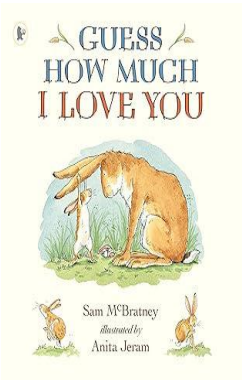
We are contacting local business to ask for donations for our raffle. If you work for a company that might be willing to donate a prize, please let the school office know. We can prove the fundraising letter if needed.

Alternatively, if you have anything at home that we could use as a raffle prize please hand it into the school office. Please note that it must be brand new, unopened and in perfect condition.

Thank you for your continued support – **The OLO PSA**

Book of the Week – Guess How Much I love You by Sam McBratney

Chosen by Mr Coranti



"Guess How Much I Love You" is a beautiful story about love between a parent and a child. It follows Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare as they try to show each other just how much they love one another. They use lovely comparisons, such as stretching their arms wide and reaching as high as they can, to explain their love.

This is a very special book in our home because it is the book my daughter loves being read to. She enjoys listening to the story, looking at the lovely illustrations and hearing the characters tell each other how much they love one another. It is a heartwarming story that makes bedtime extra special.

I could have chosen a Spanish or a Basque book but this story is so meaningful to us. I wanted to share a book that my daughter truly loves. I think *"Guess How Much I Love You"* is a wonderful choice for Primary School children because it teaches us about love, kindness and the special bond between parents and children.

I would definitely recommend this book to other children and their families. It is a lovely story to read together, and it reminds us that love is something very special that can be difficult to measure in words.

Attendance Winners



Reception – St Bernadette

100%





Year 5 – St Luke

99.3%



Achievements







Anayah Anthony-Nicholas	Reception
Kiramai Lambert	Year 1
Jazelle Nsubuga	Year 2
Abigail Seyum	Year 3
Dollie-Rae Carpenter	Year 4
Jayden Neves Macedo	Year 5
Ariah-Sophia Plange	Year 6



OUR LADY OF VIRTUES



Love of Learning	Malachai Hibbert	St Bernadette – Reception
Love of Learning	Mia Malik	St Peter - Year 1
Confidence	Benjamin Joseph	St Paul – Year 2
Friendship	Joy Sambo	St Matthew – Year 3
Determination	Marielle Ouattara	St Mark – Year 4
Courage	Rohail Khan	St Luke – Year 5
Love of Learning	Dion John	St John – Year 6



KS1 Class Of The Week	Year 2
KS2 Class Of The Week	Year 4