OUR LADY OF LOURDES NEWS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY

Autumn Term **www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk** **Friday 2nd October 2026**



Dear Parents & Carers

The Importance of Dental Hygiene

All schools in our Local Authority have been tasked with raising awareness of the importance of good dental hygiene. Tooth decay is the leading cause of hospital admissions for children aged 5 to 9 in England with over 21,000 children being admitted in 2024-2025 for tooth extractions. It is therefore vital that we all play our part in ensuring that our children have healthy teeth and beautiful smiles.

From brushing their first tooth to their first trip to the dentist, here's how to take care of your children's teeth. A regular teeth-cleaning routine is essential for good dental health. Follow these tips and you can help keep your kids' teeth decay-free.

Toothbrushing tips It's important to use a fluoride toothpaste, as this helps prevent and control tooth decay.

Children aged up to 3 years

- Start brushing your baby's teeth as soon as the first milk tooth breaks through (usually at around 6 months, but it can be earlier or later).
- Parents or carers should brush the teeth.
- Brush teeth twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush last thing at night before bed and on 1 other occasion.
- Use children's fluoride toothpaste containing no less than 1,000ppm of fluoride (check on the box) unless a dentist advises using a family toothpaste with higher levels of fluoride, such as between 1,350ppm and 1,500ppm of fluoride.
- Use only a smear of toothpaste.
- Make sure children don't eat or lick toothpaste from the tube.



Smear of toothpaste

Children aged 3 to 6 years

- Brush at least twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush last thing at night before bed and at least on 1 other occasion.
- Encourage your child to brush their own teeth while supervising them.
- Use children's fluoride toothpaste that contains 1,000ppm to 1,500ppm fluoride (check on the box).
- Use only a pea-sized amount of toothpaste.
- Spit out after brushing and don't rinse – if you rinse, the fluoride won't work as well.



Pea sized blob of toothpaste

Children aged 7 and over

- Brush at least twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush last thing at night before bed and at least on 1 other occasion.
- Use fluoride toothpaste containing between 1,350ppm and 1,500ppm of fluoride (check on the box).
- Spit out after brushing and don't rinse – if you rinse, the fluoride won't work as well.
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Children aged 7 and over should be able to brush their own teeth, but it's still a good idea to watch them to make sure they brush properly and for about 2 minutes.

How to help children brush their teeth properly

- Guide your child's hand so they can feel the correct movement.
- Use a mirror to help your child see exactly where the brush is cleaning their teeth.
- Use a small, soft toothbrush that is right for your child's age.
- Brush your child's teeth using small, circular movements.
- Remember to gently brush their gums and behind their teeth.
- Make tooth brushing as fun as possible by using an egg timer to time it for about 2 minutes.
- Don't let children run around with a toothbrush in their mouth, as they may have an accident and hurt themselves.

Taking your child to the dentist

- NHS dental care for children is free.
- Take your child to the dentist when their first milk teeth appear, or before they are 12 months old. This is so they become familiar with the environment and get to know the dentist. The dentist can advise you on how to prevent decay and identify any oral health problems at an early stage. Just opening up the child's mouth for the dentist to take a look at is useful practice for the future.
- When you visit the dentist, be positive about it and make the trip fun. This will stop your child worrying about future visits.
- Take your child for regular dental check-ups as advised by the dentist.
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- Find a dentist near you

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.

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.

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

Certificate of Catholic Practice

If you are applying to a school that requires a Certificate of Catholic Practice you will need to make an appointment to speak with your Parish Priest at the church you regularly attend mass. For parishioners who attend the Five Precious Wounds, please contact the presbytery on 0208 965 3313 to arrange a meeting with Fr William or Fr Stephen.

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.

Creating a Community of Readers – Book of the Week

It was lovely to see so many children in Year Four reading Mrs Elliott's recent choice of "Birthday Boy," by David Baddiel in the Library this week. She can't wait to hear what they think of it! Thank you to Mr Reid for his recommendation of "Horrible Histories: Rotten Romans," last week. Scroll to the bottom of the newsletter to find out Miss Bhudia's recommendation this week.

New Academic Year Reminders

Autumn Term Dates

- Caterpillars, Nursery & Reception Class Stay & Play - Friday 9th October from 8.45am to 9.30am
- Relationship Sex Education Workshop (RSE) Thursday 15th October at 3:30pm
- Nursery & Reception Open Morning for prospective parents - Thursday 15th October at 9:15 in classroom
- 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.**
- Year 6 Brent Citizen Workshop – Wednesday 11th November
- Year 6 Workshop at the Ben Kinsella Foundation – Thursday 12th November
- Year 3 trip to Southwark Cathedral – 13th November
- School Photographer – date has been changed to Friday 20th November
- Year 5 theatre trip to Matilda – Wednesday 25th November
- Year 6 theatre trip to The Lion King – 2nd December
- Year 4 theatre trip to The Snowman – 9th December

Half Term Activities in Brent

A number of external providers offer clubs, camps and workshops during the half term breaks. Please see the school website for all the information - Useful Links | Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School & Nursery. Please note that none of these sessions are organised by our school so you need to contact the companies directly with any questions.

DfE National Average Attendance Figures – 95%



Our Lady of Lourdes attendance figure is currently 94.8%. Unfortunately, this is significantly below the national average. Please ensure that you are sending your child to school every day.

Absence Recording

Please remember that you must call the school **BEFORE 8.45am** 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

Harvest Collection

Thank you to all our families who have sent food items in for our Harvest Collection. We will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items, including canned vegetables, pasta, rice, cereals, soups, and other long-lasting items. Donations can be brought to school until Friday 16th October and all contributions, big or small, are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support and generosity in making this tradition meaningful and impactful.





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.

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.

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

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*

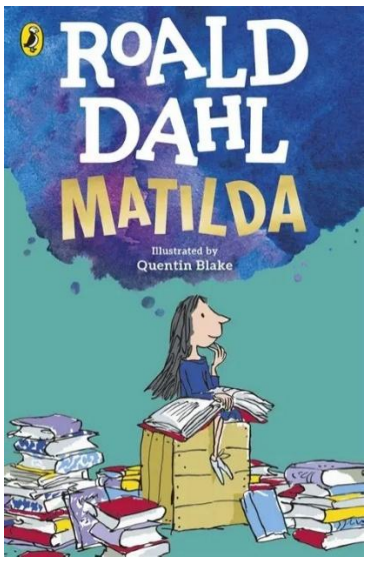
SUMMER TERM 2027

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)**

Book of the Week - Matlida by Roald Dahl

Chosen by Miss Bhudia



Matilda is a funny, exciting and magical book. Matilda is different from her family because she is extremely intelligent and enjoys books. Sadly, her parents do not understand or appreciate her. When Matilda goes to school, she meets the kind and caring Miss Honey. However, she also has to face the frightening and unkind Miss Trunchbull, the headteacher.

I really enjoyed reading Matilda because it is full of humour, adventure and surprising moments. Matilda is a brilliant character because she is brave, determined and always stands up for what is right. The story also teaches us that being different can be something special and that kindness and courage are very important.

Attendance Winners



Year 1 – St Peter

100%





Year 2 – St Paul

99.2%



Achievements







Azell Richards	Reception
Jae Marie Thompson	Year 1
Kahlil Brome	Year 2
Diandra Agyeman	Year 3
Fenet Mekoonn	Year 4
Rohail Khan	Year 5
Danica Da Cunha	Year 6



OUR LADY OF VIRTUES



Love of Learning	Maryam Ali	St Bernadette – Reception
Enthusiasm	William Matawaran	St Peter - Year 1
Courage	Summer Rose Carter	St Paul – Year 2
Love of Learning	Zana Krasniqi	St Matthew – Year 3
Love of Learning	Caedan Officer	St Mark – Year 4
Love of Learning	Jayden Neves Macedo	St Luke – Year 5
Determination	Ruby Alexander	St John – Year 6



KS1 Class Of The Week	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
KS2 Class Of The Week	Year 4