



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School



Newsletter — September 2012

We welcome everyone into our community to live, love and learn together in the light and example of Jesus Christ.

Welcome back to everyone and a very special welcome to our new 'Reception' children and their families. I'm sure that everyone will help the new families to settle in quickly and will be supportive at all times. I hope the children have had a restful break and are pleased to be



back with their friends. I am sure they have benefitted from the



opportunity to see and experience the Olympics and Paralympics. What an amazing summer with so many inspiring athletes!

We also warmly welcome Mr Clinton, Year 5 class teacher, and Miss Carney who is an additional teaching assistant working with reception class.

School Information If there are any changes of address or telephone numbers would you please let Mrs Barrett or Mrs Hayden know ASAP. A current phone number is essential in case the school needs to contact you urgently. An annual medical update form is being sent out with this newsletter. **Please return this as soon as possible, even if your child has no medical conditions (just write N/A).** In this way, new teachers can be certain that they have the most up-to-date information from you, rather than relying on last year's form.

School Procedures If there are any problems or worries that parents want to discuss with the class teacher, staff are more than willing to meet you **after school by appointment**. Mornings are not really

suitable for meetings without prior notice because staff are preparing for the school day and once the bell goes, their priority is the children. Other more urgent messages may, of course, be left with the office.

Dinner Money / Other Money When you are sending money into school, please ensure it is in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class and what the money is for. Money for different items should be sent in separate envelopes. A reminder that school dinners are £9.50 per week and this should be handed in on **Monday morning**. Dinner money can be paid weekly or half termly by cheque (made payable to 'Education Catering' with your cheque card number and child's initials on the back). Some sandwich children like to avail of 'Fun Friday' lunch which is paid for at the beginning of the week £ 1.90.

Details regarding entitlement to free school meals are available from the school office.

Early Birds and Evening Owls Club At present the club is completely full on Tuesday and Wednesday after school and Wednesday mornings. If you have booked places but do not need them, please let Mrs Rickerby know as soon as possible. A reminder that sessions are chargeable when booked, even if they are not taken up. The increase in staff to 4 has enabled the team to provide more activities after school and use more of the school facilities including the hall, grounds and ICT suite. To ensure that children have an opportunity to unwind and play, they will have a

drink at 3.30 p.m. but the snack time will now be 4.45 p.m.

Premises The school has been cleaned so thoroughly by Mr and Mrs Rollason and we thank them for making it such a lovely, clean environment for the children to be educated in. Hopefully, you will have noticed the improvements that we are making to Reception playground and pathways. We had to carry out the work during the summer holiday because of excavation and fencing is yet to be completed. Please make sure you supervise children carefully in the morning and at hometime so that they do not stray beyond playground areas. The early years shed has been replaced and re-sited so that outdoor play equipment is more accessible to the staff and children.

P.T.A. News Congratulations to the PTA for raising £ 1500 at the summer fayre despite the inclement weather. Our excellent hard working volunteers are already planning their activities and will notify you shortly of events for this term. They are always ready to welcome new parents - please consider whether you can volunteer to be a member of the P.T.A. or volunteer to help out at events.

Secondary School Meetings Parents in Year 6 will need to complete their secondary preference forms shortly. All of the schools are holding open evenings (Hagley High have an open 'Saturday') and I would strongly advise parents to go along with their child to visit schools that you intend putting on your preference form.

Alton Castle Year 6 children will be taking part in a retreat between 17th - 19th September. Details will follow in a separate letter.

Scholars Bus Pass Some Birmingham parents may not be aware that they can apply for a free bus pass for

their child if they live a certain distance from the school. The qualifying distances, measured by the shortest available walking route, are:

For children 5 to 8 - 1 mile

For children 8 - 11 1 ½ miles

If you would like an application form, these are available from the school office or further details can be obtained from BCC Transport Dept 303 4425 or educationtransport@birmingham.gov.uk There is no financial assessment for a scholars pass.

Inclusion Mrs Harlow, who is our inclusion teacher, works part time Wednesday - Friday. She is introducing a 'drop-in' session for parents who can discuss any matter relating to inclusion; please ring the school office if you would like to make an appointment to speak to her. Dates and times for this term are: Wednesday 2.45 - 3.45 on: 19th Sept, 3rd & 17th Oct, 7th & 21st Nov, 5th & 12th Dec.

School support - we regularly work with a broad range of services, some that you may be familiar with, others less so. 'Malachi' is a service we started to engage with last year, together with our local cluster of 10 primary schools. Our designated staff, Liz Priestley and Yolanda Duckworth, work very effectively with individuals and groups of children covering a broad range of support. This is often for a period of weeks, or in some cases longer. Many children require a little additional support or quality time as they pass through school. This is not always 'academic' - sometimes it is about relationships, friendships, anxieties about school etc. Liz also talks to parents and offers advice and support. We have found the service very effective for the children she has worked with. Please contact me in confidence if you would like to know more about how Malachi might be helpful for your child. If Liz or Yolanda are working with class teachers and groups of children in

their classes as part of their PHSE you will be notified.

IFST (Integrated Family Support Team) this is another service that we work with. We mainly use this service for advice (Claire Hewitts) but also some direct contact with children and families. Claire's role is primarily to signpost the school and parents to other appropriate support and services. Her remit is very broad, so again, if there are areas that you would like more support with, please make an appointment to speak to me, Mrs van Vliet or Mrs Harlow.

Medicines If your child has an inhaler please make sure that you have brought it back into school after the holiday. Would you also ensure that the 'use by date' will last for the whole term. We will administer prescribed medicines if parents complete a school form, but 'general' medicines including paracetamol / throat sweets cannot be administered by school staff and should not be sent into school.

School Fund Parents are asked to contribute £3 a term per family for school fund. Thank you for your support.

Internet Safety In line with our Internet Safety

Diary Dates - September 2012:

A separate list of diary dates will be sent out very shortly. Dates can change during the term, so please make sure that you check updates with each newsletter.

SCHOOL TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2012 - 2013

Autumn term 2012	Spring term 2013	Summer term 2013
Monday 3 September to Friday 19 October	Monday 7 January to Friday 15 February	Monday 15 April to Friday 24 May
Half term	Half term	Half term
Monday 29 October to Friday 21 December	Monday 25 February to Thursday 28 March	Monday 3 June to Tuesday 23 July

policy, please could you sign and return the attached letters by Monday 19th September.

Aston Villa Ticket Scheme

We have been allocated a large number of children's tickets for all home games. As a participating school, these can be allocated free to parents of children who attend the school. If you would like to access tickets they can be obtained from the school office.

Uniform Please ensure that all your child's uniform and PE kit is labelled. If there is any reason why your child is not wearing school uniform, please send a note or let their teacher know the reason why. We know that you strongly support the policy on uniform. A list is attached to this newsletter as a reminder. This includes reference to fashion haircuts, hair accessories, jewellery etc. Whilst on a one to one basis this may seem unnecessary, these matters often cause great distractions to the children.

Coats: Although mornings may seem warm, and a number of children come to school in cars, children should bring a coat to wear at playtimes as the weather can change quickly.

Dogs on school premises For safety, dogs are not allowed on any part of school premises including playgrounds or pathways.

School Uniform 12/13

The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged as it helps the child to identify more closely with the 'school family' and generally assists in promoting the public image of the school.

The winter uniform consists of:

BOYS Grey trousers, white shirt, royal blue pullover with school crest, grey socks, school tie, and sensible black shoes.

GIRLS Plain grey skirt/pinafore dress or trousers / culottes, white blouse, royal blue cardigan with school crest, white socks or grey woollen tights, school tie, sensible black shoes.

Summer Uniform:

BOYS Grey shorts or trousers. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

GIRLS Blue/white striped or check summer dress. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

P.E.

Boys and Girls: Navy shorts and plain white T-shirt. Plimsolls for indoor P.E. and dance.

Track suits may be worn for outdoor games during the winter months.

Training shoes which do not cover the ankles may be worn for outdoor games. They are not suitable for indoor P.E.

Swimming Costume and towel. One piece swimsuit for girls, swimming trunks (not shorts) for boys.

Book bags, pump bags and sun hats can be purchased from the school. Parents are free to obtain items from wherever they please with the exception of the school crest jumpers and cardigans which can be obtained from Clive Marks in Bearwood (or we are trialling new provider Tesco online).

ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME.

ALL DRESS SHOULD ALWAYS CONFORM TO SAFETY.

Long hair should be tied back for hygiene reasons and especially during P.E., for safety reasons. Hair accessories should be simple and follow school colours. 'Fashion' haircuts are not appropriate for school for boys or girls. Boys' hair should not be 'shaved' with patterns and should be even in length (i.e. no 'Mohicans').

Children are asked not to wear jewellery apart from a watch as its loss can be upsetting. For safety and hygiene, the wearing of earrings is not allowed but if necessary, ear studs may be worn which must be removed for swimming lessons.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEALTH / MEDICINE RECORD 2012/13

Child's Name**Class**

Medical Condition(s)

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Name of Medicine(s)

(If applicable)

.....

.....

When taken

Any other instructions

Please note: we only administer medicines that are prescribed by a doctor.

This requires a parent to complete a consent form (available from the school office).

Children must not be given medicines to bring to school. Parents must bring / collect prescribed medicines to the main office.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure medicines, including inhalers, are up-to-date.

If your child's medical condition (and medication) changes, please update this record.

Further copies of this form are available from the main office.

School should be made aware of food allergies and other foods that children cannot eat due to religious observance:

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Signed **(parent)**

Date