



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School



Newsletter — November 2012

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

Year of Faith (November)

It always strikes me when I attend Our Lady of Fatima Church for Sunday Mass how *many* votive candles are lit by children and adults at the start or end of mass.

Catholics will light a candle to show thanks to God and to praise him for his many blessings. Candles are also lit for prayer intentions. To "light a candle for someone" indicates an intention to say a prayer for another person, and the candle symbolises that prayer. The tradition of lighting a candle, usually for a loved one, is ever poignant in November, month of the Holy Souls. Jesus tells us, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The candles are meant to show that light and draw Catholics closer to God. It is so good to see this tradition passed on to our young children, who, even if they do not fully understand the meaning, are learning about their faith from an early age. It is also great to see the growing number of children at the 10.30 a.m. mass - thank you parents for supporting your children.



Harvest Celebration Service

I'd like to offer a very sincere thank you for your generous support for Cafod and the Fireside Centre. We have been able to send £ 170.00 to Cafod. Thank you to everyone involved in preparing the Harvest service, to the many parents, relatives and friends who joined us and for the willing volunteers who were prepared to take the food and toiletries to the Fireside Centre. The children enjoyed singing and celebrating and we did 'Go out with joy!'



Carole Fletcher - the School Council led a collection for Carole which raised £205.45. Thank you.

Poppies Year 2 will shortly be selling Poppies in school in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. We

encourage children to bring in a silver coin to buy a poppy. In the month of November, when we pray especially for those who have died, we include all of those who have died as a result of conflicts throughout the world. We also pray for our own family members and friends.



Year 3 prepared and led our first school mass today, All Saints, in which we also remembered 'All Souls'. We have introduced a prayer box where names of loved ones can be included which we will incorporate into our services and assemblies throughout the month. If you have names of family and friends that you would like included, please send into school.

Year 3 will attend an important Sunday Mass at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 20th November at Our Lady of Fatima Church as part of their preparation for First Holy Communion. There is a very important meeting that precedes this, on Thursday 10th November at 7 p.m. in the school hall that all Year 3 parents who would like their child to receive the sacraments next year should attend.

'Operation Christmas Child'

Shoebox appeal After previous year's success, we are again taking part in the Christmas Shoe-box appeal. We sent home leaflets about how families can participate just before half term. This involves making a 'gift box' that will be sent to some of the most deprived children in parts of Africa and Eastern Europe. Our children are very caring, and they really enjoy the opportunity to do something very practical. Most families sent in a complete 'shoe box' because it was a lovely family activity collecting small gifts and wrapping them. We will be displaying gift boxes in the entrance area and they will be collected on **Thursday 22 November**.



Why not visit www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/ with your child for detailed information?

School Dinners—Meal of the Month In November, Mrs O'Brien, school cook, will be preparing a special meals on Monday 5th for Bonfire Night. If your child usually brings a packed lunch but would like to have this meal please send in the money **tomorrow**.

Attendance Parents Evening Thank you for an excellent turnout at the first consultation evening. If you missed your appointment, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

School Admissions September 2013 Primary School closing date for Birmingham residents is: Mon 3 December '12.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for helping your child(ren) maintain good attendance. The half term class attendance trophy was awarded to Year 4 and Reception Class won the KS1 trophy—a super start to school life! All classes achieved an attendance of above 95.5% which is great news, although 48 children are below the 95% target individually which is worrying for their personal opportunities.

1st Year 4	98.5%
2nd Year R	98.2%
3rd Year 1	98.0%
4th Year 3	97.9%
5th Year 2	97.0%
6th Year 6	96.4%
7th Year 5	95.8%



Anti Bullying Week: The week beginning 19th November is national anti bullying week. Do not be surprised (or alarmed!) if your child is talking about 'bullying'. It is very important that we are open with the children and discuss the impact of bullying on victims. We do encourage children to speak to someone when they are unhappy or things go wrong. Sometimes it is a fall out between friends that can be resolved. If you notice that your child is unhappy do talk to the school about it. We all have a duty to help our children develop as happy, healthy citizens.

P.E. (Games) lessons Years 5 & 6 Monday afternoons are timetabled for games lessons with 4 adults so we anticipate that lessons will continue. Please make sure that your child has suitably warm clothing e.g. tracksuit and trainers so that they enjoy the winter air without feeling the cold!

Diary Dates - November 2012:

PTA Firework Display and Disco.

This Friday, 2nd November

6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Entrance £2 Adult, £1 Child.

All children must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them throughout the evening.

The school has just received a very generous donation from the P.T.A. for £ 1250 to contribute to Nativity Costumes and transport costs for school trips. This is so helpful in keeping the cost of visits at a manageable charge.

ASTON VILLA TICKETS FOR SCHOOLS:

Free children's tickets available for all home matches



from the school office.

BOOK WEEK - 5-9 NOVEMBER 2012

Please support your child during Book Week. Books will be on sale in the School Hall from 3.30 pm - 4.15 pm Monday to Thursday.



A big thank you for sending in Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. We have managed to order lots of sports equipment for the school.

And finally, now that the weather is getting colder:

Emergency Procedures Just a reminder about the system of informing parents on school closures. In **extreme** weather conditions the local authority will give a central decision regarding the closure and re-opening of all schools within the city. These decisions will be announced on BBC Radio WM, BRMB and Heart FM. therefore avoiding the need for each school to make an individual decision. If this decision is made centrally, the Authority's advice is that teaching and support staff should not try to attend so it is important for parents to listen to radio broadcasts when the weather is very bad. We will also try to use the SMS to alert parents.

November Dedicated Month for Holy Souls
 Thurs 1 Whole School Mass - All Saints (led by Year 3) all welcome 9.05 a.m.
 Fri 2 PTA Fireworks / Disco



Week beginning Mon 5 November 2012 BOOK WEEK

Mon 5 Firework School Dinner (children who have packed lunch can book a meal)
Non-uniform day
 Tues 6 Year 1 trip to Cannock Chase Toy Museum
 Thurs 8 Class Assembly - Year 4 - 9.05 a.m. all welcome
 Tues 13 Year 4 Inspire Workshop for parents
 Thurs 15 Year 3 Parent Meeting for anyone whose child will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion 7 p.m. school hall
 Sun 18 Year 3 'Listening' Mass in Our Lady of Fatima Church 10.30 a.m.
 Tues 20 Year 2 Inspire Workshop for parents
 Tues 27 Year 5 Inspire Workshop for parents



December (Advent starts Sunday 2 December - 4 Sundays of Advent)

Mon 3 Last day for Reception applications for Sept 2013 to B'ham LA
 Thurs 6 Whole School Mass Feast of St Nicholas (led by Year 4) 9.05 a.m.
 Mon 17 Infant Nativity 9.15 a.m. or 2.15 p.m. all welcome
 Tues 18 Christmas Class Parties (afternoon)
 Thurs 20 Junior Carol Service 9.05 a.m. all welcome
 Thurs 20 **Christmas Dinner** (children who have packed lunch can book a meal in advance)
 Fri 21 Break up for Christmas Holiday 3.30 p.m.



Mon 7 January 2013 First day of term for pupils - see below

Advance Notice:

We are aware that Birmingham's Half Term holiday did not coincide with other local authorities and this caused difficulties for parents, particularly those who have children at Hagley High School. We have therefore looked at their term dates and training days for the rest of the academic year. Hagley High School have two training days in July (22nd & 23rd) which means their term concludes on Friday 19th July. Initially, we planned to continue our school year until Tuesday 23rd July but we recognise that this may lead to further absences if parents take their summer holiday starting that week. Therefore, we have transferred our existing final two training days (which were going to be in January & June) to July 22/23rd. Consequently our summer term 2013 will conclude on Friday 19th July for pupils. Children start back to school on Tuesday 3rd September 2013 (Monday 2nd is a training day).