



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — December 2012



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

**Advent is here!** Our advent wreath and Christmas 'Jesse' Tree were delivered last Friday in time for our first Advent assembly. Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent and school is now definitely 'getting ready' for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. On Thursday, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas with our final mass of term. Please join us if you can. The infants are busy preparing their Nativity Play which they will share with you on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December. You are very welcome to attend at either at 9.15 a.m. or 2.15 p.m. The Juniors are fine tuning their singing to lead a Carol Service on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> at 9.10 a.m. Refreshments will be served after each event and a collection taken with all donations going to Carole Fletcher's family.



**Parish Bazaar** — Father Seamus asked me to thank parents for supporting the Bazaar, either by buying raffle tickets or attending on Saturday.

**Year 3:** Thank you to the parents of children in Year 3 - we had a 100% turnout for the 'Listening' Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church which forms part of their preparation for First Holy Communion. Mrs van Vliet will be writing to parents this week regarding the dates for May and June.



**'Operation Christmas Child' Shoebox appeal** another thank you! This year you surpassed previous totals by making 94 boxes - next year we are aiming for 100.

**Book Week** - we had a very exciting week this year and a great response to the book fair which raised **£1119** giving **£672** in commission for books for the school library. Monday was a fantastic start to the week with children and staff imaginatively dressed in fancy dress linked to their 'class' reader. Thank you

for supporting this - the children had a super day. Year 4 led a lovely assembly and the week concluded with lively sessions of themed dance, taught by Michelle Pendleton, with every class having music and dance linked to their book.

**P.E. (Games) lessons** 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!

**School Dinners—Meal of the Month** A separate letter will be sent out to parents of children who bring packed lunches to see if they would like a 'Christmas' dinner on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**Final week of term:** Please check all dates for the final week of term. On party day (Tuesday) children come to school dressed in their own clothes (no school uniform). We are sending home Christmas Party Boxes because this system worked so well last year. Please remember the children will still have their school dinner so they only need small snack items and a (still) drink. We have quite a few children with food allergies so do not put any items in that contain nuts (e.g. fun size snickers / topic) as we will have to remove them for safety. On Wednesday, we have a visiting singer - Hamish McQueen who will work in age group sessions throughout the day. He will help the children celebrate Christmas through songs (Pop, Action, Christian). He will be talking about his own faith journey and help the children understand more about Advent being a time of preparation and waiting.

**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. It is very rare that all schools will close.

**Safety:** A reminder that when using the main entrance in Winchfield Drive, adults and children should use the pathway and **not** the driveway. We also still have a very small number of parents driving into the school entrance, usually when collecting / dropping off children out of normal session times. Cars should not be driven onto the school drive (including club users). Children arriving late should be walked to the main entrance by the adult.

**Ten Ten Theatre Group:** Following on from anti-

bullying week and supporting our PHSE curriculum, we have a visiting theatre group coming to school on 14 January. They will lead pupil sessions throughout the day promoting friendships and relationships but the first 50 minute session is for parents so if you can, please put the date in your diary and come along!

**Internet Safety:** I will be sending a separate letter to parents of children in Years 3 - 6. Please look out for an envelope in your child's school bag this week.



#### P.T.A.

Thank you to the P.T.A. for another very successful event - the Firework Disco. This was a very enjoyable evening for children and adults alike. The fireworks were amazing! Your support for the first two events this term has helped to extend the funds raised by the P.T.A.

The final event for this term is the Christmas Disco. There are two separate discos - one for the infants and one for juniors. Both will take place at

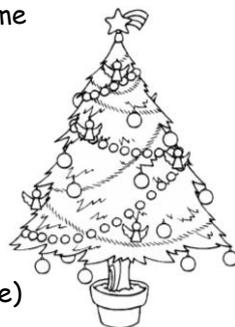
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, Higgins Lane, Quinton on Thursday 20th December.

Infants: 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. Juniors: 8.00 - 9.30 p.m.

Infants must be accompanied by an adult.

#### Diary Dates - December 2012: (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. All welcome
Mon 17	Infant Nativity 9.15 a.m. or 2.15 p.m. All welcome
Tues 18	Christmas Class Parties (afternoon)
Weds 19	Hamish McQueen Christian Musical Celebration Day
Thurs 20	Junior Carol Service 9.10 a.m. All welcome
Thurs 20	<b>Christmas Dinner</b> (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