



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School



Newsletter — July 2013

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

Visit our school website on: [www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk](http://www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

As I write this newsletter, I am also reading individual school reports that teachers are busy finalising, which you will receive on 15 July. We do not receive the results of the Year 6 tests until 9<sup>th</sup> July so Mrs Greatrex will be busy right up to the last moment! It is always a real privilege and joy to read about children's many and varied talents and achievements and the pride which teachers have in their progress is evident. Every child's report is unique to them and it is important for us to remember that we celebrate the joy of this God given individuality. We are not at the end of term yet and there is still much to do and achieve, but I would like to record my sincere thanks to all the staff who contribute so much to the children and school through their varied roles.

**Goodbye Mrs Quinn and Mrs Thatcher** -we say a fond farewell on the last day of term to two ladies who have contributed so much to our youngest pupils over the past two years. We wish them well in their future endeavours.



I am pleased to say we have appointed a new office manager who joins us in

September. I would like to thank Mrs Hayden for her excellent support and extended hours to get us through one of the busiest periods of the school year.

**Goodbye Year 6** - we also say a very affectionate farewell to our Year 6 pupils on 19 July. Whilst we are sad to see them go, we are filled with immense pride at the way they have grown and developed over the years. It is wonderful that they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation just before they leave us. We welcome Bishop Philip Pargeter (who will confer the sacrament) to the school and parish on 17th July. They disperse to many

different schools where we hope they will make a good impression with their many gifts and talents. If your Year 6 child is the last one to leave, we say 'Goodbye and thank you' to parents too. Your support over the years has been greatly valued.

**Going Forth Mass** - thank you to parents in Y3 for supporting your children at the 'Going Forth' Mass. Traditionally, the children can now elect to become altar servers and read more regularly at Sunday Mass. This is a lovely way to show their growing commitment to their faith. Thank you for your feedback to Mr Clinton's questionnaire - your comments are very helpful given the changes made this year to accommodate larger family gatherings.

**Swim Gala** - our team were incredibly successful at the Catholic swimming gala which saw 26 schools across the city compete against each other. We got to 7 (out of 8) finals, performing magnificently in each one including both boys and girls relay which meant we accumulated enough points to win the Boys Overall Trophy, Small School Trophy and finally 'Overall Champions'! Our very successful team were Joseph, Travis, Dermot, Karnell, Niamh, Mary, Alice, Esmee and Caitlin. Well done team, they were great ambassadors for the school.



**Trips and Visits** - we like to expand the children's learning experiences and one way is to take them out of school. The feedback we received to the parent survey also indicates that parents are very positive about these learning opportunities. It has been a very busy few weeks, and I would like to praise the children for being so well behaved and sensible, thank the adults who plan and organise the trips and the volunteers who are willing to go with them:

**Bear Creek:** All the junior classes took part in this

physical activity day at Edgbaston Reservoir on our physical activity day and had a great time. The feedback from the children was very positive and the plea 'Can we go again next year?'

**St Chad's Cathedral:** I have heard nothing but praise from all the adults who accompanied Year 6 on the bus to our lovely Cathedral which forms part of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is a very interesting visit finding out more about St Chad, Pugin who designed the Cathedral, and the history of the building.

**Lordswood Sport Festival:** Well done to the children in Year 5 who took part in this sporting event.

**Reception Class Farm Visit** - our youngest pupils had a wonderful time at Mount Pleasant Farm and incorporated a great deal of the experience in their learning and very entertaining class assembly!

**Avoncroft Museum:** Year 2 had a wonderful time learning how buildings have been made over the centuries. I have heard all about 'wattle and daub' and I am sure the Year 2 parents have too!

The juniors also had first-hand experience of how other faiths worship by visiting the **Islamic Mosque Centre** in Small Heath and a local **Synagogue** during our 'Other Faith' week.

Still to come are a visit to Severn Valley Railway (Y3) and the final treat for Year 6!

**As well as visits out of school, we always welcome visitors to our school -**

The director of the Birmingham Catholic Primary Partnership came to school to thank the children for the money they had raised for the Rwandan schools appeal and explain how the money had been used. Some of the short stories he spoke about were very though provoking.

**Hagley High School** brought some of their talented Year 10 musicians '**Falling out of Favour**' to lead a whole school assembly (or is that concert?). It was great to see two ex-pupils - John and Jack who have really developed their musical talents as part of this group. It shows the younger pupils who may be at the early stage of their musical learning how, with practise, they can go on to greater things. **Kata Skupien** certainly demonstrated this with an exceptional concert of classical piano playing. Our **Keyboard and Choir Concert** was also enjoyed by the whole school and proud families. We now look forward to the **Strings Concert** which takes place this Friday in the school hall at 2 p.m. Mr Mallinson from Hagley returns again on 10<sup>th</sup> July with the 80's band so I anticipate knowing all the music!

We thank Miss Tarpey from **St John's Ambulance** for her First Aid day with Year 6. This is a very important and educational day for the pupils before they move on to secondary school. Year 6 also have a visit from the local police as part of their transition education.

**PTA Sponsored Bounce** - thank you to the PTA members who generously gave up an afternoon to help all the children enjoy this annual physical event. Due to the changeable summer weather we had to remain indoors but this didn't dampen spirits or bouncing!

**P.T.A. Summer Fayre Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

There has been a great response to the Friday collections and the PTA are working hard to make sure that the fayre is a great success. Please keep this day free in your diary and support the PTA. It is not too late to offer help!

The final PTA event of the year is our '**Farewell on the Field**' which takes place at 3.15 p.m. on the last day of term. All are welcome.

**Early Birds and Evening Owls Club** Please ensure that if you require bookings for September, that you have registered your child(ren)'s names with Mrs Rickerby and confirmed your booking dates. The club is getting very close to being full for some sessions so this is essential. All bookings must be made directly with the club and not via the school office.

**Transition Meeting** - thank you to parents who came to this meeting about secondary school transfer. It was good to see a number of Year 4 parents present - do remember that you (and your child) can also attend the open evenings at secondary schools in September / October.

**Alton Castle Meeting** - following the positive response from parents, I can now confirm that the residential visit to Alton Castle for Year 6 children will take place between 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September. If you have not returned your response, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Sports Day** - we hope that this will go ahead as planned on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 1.45 p.m. If the weather is inclement on the day, we will use the SMS messaging service by 11.00 a.m. to let parents know if we need to postpone. We will only postpone if it has rained or is likely to rain. We have a reserve day of Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. Entrance will be via Winchfield Drive only and I would ask that for the safety of all children, parents remain on the far side of the





running track. Mr Clinton has kept the **Olympian Themed** idea with four house teams named after the original Olympic teams of the Ancient Olympics: Argos, Athens, Corinth and Sparta.

**We would like all children to have these available for sports day:**

School PE Kit

A water bottle

School sunhat or school cap

Coat (just in case!)

### Classes for 2013 - 14

On Wednesday 3 July, when most of our current Year 6 pupils visit their new schools we will have a transition morning so that all pupils will meet their teachers for 13/14:

EYFS	Miss H Davis
Year 1	Mrs N Levack
Year 2	Mrs T Workman
Year 3	Miss J O Connell
Year 4	Mr J Clinton
Year 5	Mr D O'Connor
Year 6	Mrs C Greatrex

### School Transport Consultation - Important Changes to Transport to School charges

If you haven't done so already, I strongly urge all parents to go to the school website TODAY where the following hyperlink will take you to the city council website page:

[http://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/childrenscommisioning/consultation\\_transport](http://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/childrenscommisioning/consultation_transport)

**Attendance** It is worrying to staff and governors about the dip in 100% attendance this year. We recognise that children cannot attend school when they are unwell but there seems to be a trend for some families to make extended visits to families overseas or take holidays during term time. I would urge all families to consider very seriously the impact this has on your child or children. There are 13 weeks during the year when holidays / visits to families should be taken. The gaps in learning remain. We will

be monitoring absences very closely next year and endeavor to meet with families where these unauthorised absences are repeated. Congratulations to the 16 children who still have 100%



attendance for this year. They will be presented with a certificate on the last day of term and I will write to their parents shortly to invite them to the assembly. We also have 33 children with an attendance of 99+% and they will also receive a certificate in the final week acknowledging their excellent attendance. When you receive your child's report, please look very carefully at their % attendance and see if they have good attendance. This would be 97% or higher.

**School Books and PE Kits** Could everyone please check if there are any school text books or library books at home and return them to school. If your child has represented the school in a team could you also check that you have returned all the PE kits to school. Thank you.



**Parent Survey** Thank you to those parents who completed the school parent survey including additional comments. The results are attached and are also on the school website.

**School support** - we regularly work with a broad range of services, some that you may be familiar with, and others less so. 'Malachi' is a service we engage with. Our contact worker, Liz Priestley, works very effectively with individual 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 this year. Whilst we have our plans for next year, please contact me in confidence if you would like to know more about how Malachi might be helpful for your child

**Diary Dates - updated 1 July 2013:**

Wednes 3 July	Year 6 Secondary Transition Day (most secondary schools)
Wednes 3 July	New Intake Reception 2013 visits to school (1/2 day sessions)
Thursday 4 July	Year 2 Class Assembly 9.05 a.m. - all welcome
Thursday 4 July	Year 3 educational visit to Severn Valley Railway
Friday 5 July	Strings Concert 2 p.m. all welcome
Saturday 6 July	PTA Summer Fete - all invited and welcome
Monday 8 July	Sports Day (afternoon school field) 1.45 p.m. all welcome
Tuesday 9 July	New Intake Reception 2013 visits to school (1/2 day sessions)
Wednes 10 July	Governing Body Meetings (Finance 6 p.m., Full 6.45 p.m.)
Thursday 11 July	Year 6 Class Assembly 9.05 a.m. all welcome
Thursday 11 July	Year 6 Leavers activity (after assembly)
Monday 15 July	Back up Sports Day (afternoon school field)
Monday 15 July	Annual Reports to Parents
Wednes 17 July	Mass of Confirmation 7 p.m.
Thursday 18 July	Final School Mass of Year <u>2</u> p.m. - all welcome
Friday 19 July	Final assembly - farewell to Year 6 and Staff leavers, 100% attendance certificates - all welcome 9.05 a.m.
Friday 19 July	<b>3.15 p.m. Farewell on the Field - all welcome</b>
	<b>3.30 p.m. School closes — End of Academic Year</b>



Wishing you all a restful and relaxing summer holiday

Autumn Term 2013 starts on **Tuesday 3 September** for children

(Monday is a teacher training day)





**Parent Survey Summer 2013** 51 responses covering 59 children – 28% of pupils

<b>% of responses</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>Each child – 1.7%</b>				
1. The school has a strong Catholic ethos and promotes the faith	<b>93.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>		
2. My child is happy at this school	<b>83.1</b>	<b>16.9</b>		
3. My child feels safe at this school	<b>86.4</b>	<b>13.6</b>		
4. My child makes good progress at this school	<b>74.6</b>	<b>25.4</b>		
5. My child is well looked after at this school	<b>78.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>		
6. My child is taught well at this school	<b>81.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>		
7. My child receives appropriate homework for their age**	<b>64.4</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
8. The school makes sure pupils are well behaved	<b>67.8</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
9. The school deals effectively with bullying** see below	<b>30.5</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>
10. The school is well led and managed	<b>79.7</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
11. The school responds well to any concerns I raise (if applicable)**	<b>54.2</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
12. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress**	<b>61.0</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
13. Onsite Before and After School care is a useful addition to provision**	<b>49.2</b>	<b>22.0</b>		
14. I would recommend this school to another parent**	<b>79.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>		

\*\*Where the above totals do not round to 100% it is due to the 'Don't know or not applicable' responses. This 'Don't know or not applicable' response was made for the following questions:

<b>Response 'Don't know or not applicable'</b>	<b>No. of responses</b>	<b>% total</b>
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	<b>3</b>	<b>5%</b>
The school deals effectively with bullying	<b>28</b>	<b>47.5%</b>
The school responds well to any concerns I raise (if applicable)	<b>12</b>	<b>20.3%</b>
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	<b>1</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Onsite Before and After School care is a useful addition to provision	<b>16</b>	<b>27.1%</b>
I would recommend this school to another parent	<b>1</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

Volunteers wanted following  
Confirmation Mass  
at Our Lady of Fatima Church  
Year 6 on  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July

After the Mass, families will move into the Parish Hall for refreshments (approx. 8.30 p.m.) If you can help with setting up the hall 7 p.m. onwards, serving teas / coffees 8.15 p.m. or simply clearing up at the end for ½ hr we would be very grateful. We do not want to ask the families of children who are receiving the sacrament so ideally any parent in Rec – Year 5 who does not have a sibling in Year 6.

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I, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ in Year \_\_\_\_\_ will  
be available to help in the Parish Hall at \_\_\_\_\_ .

Please return via the school office.

Thank you