



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School



Newsletter — September 2013

We welcome everyone into our community to live, love and learn together

in the light and example of Jesus Christ.

[www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk](http://www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

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.

We also warmly welcome Miss Davis, Foundation Class teacher and Mrs Murgatroyd, our Office Manager.

## School Information



If there are any changes of address or telephone numbers would you please let Mrs Murgatroyd 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 £10 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 £ 2.

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.**



**Premises & Safety** The school has been cleaned very thoroughly by Mr and Mrs Rollason and we thank them for making it such a lovely, clean environment for the children to return to and be educated in. Please remember that the play equipment is not supervised after school and children, including pre-school should not be using the equipment for safety reasons.

**P.T.A. News** Our excellent hard working volunteers are already planning their activities:

Annual AGM - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 7 p.m.

Welcome Disco - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

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 - why not attend the A.G.M.?

The welcome disco is open to all families but please remember that children must be accompanied by an adult. A polite reminder: as a public building, the law regarding no smoking covers all parts of the school premises including the playground.

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**Alton Castle** Year 6 children will be taking part in a retreat between 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September. Details for parents will follow in a separate letter.

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**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.

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**Internet Safety** In line with our Internet Safety policy, an acceptable use form will be sent out shortly to be signed and returned by Monday 16th September.

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**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.

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**Car Parking:** a reminder to our new families. The car park in Winchfield Drive must not be used by parents at any time including when collecting from the after school club. Please make sure that this safety message is passed on to anyone who collects your child.

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#### **Teacher Training Days**

All schools have 5 training days across the school year. Our dates are listed with the term dates (attached). We have 2 further dates this term - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October. This will make a 'long weekend' for pupils in what is a very long half term.

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**School Fund** Parents are asked to contribute £3 a term per family for school fund. If you haven't sent in your donation yet, please try to do so by the end of September. Thank you for your support and to those

parents who have already sent this in.

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### Secondary School Transfer for Sept 2014

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

**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 including on your preference form.

Parents are strongly advised to [apply online](#) or to have returned their Birmingham Local Authority Preference Form by 1<sup>st</sup> October. (If parents wish to view schools that are outside of Birmingham and whose open evenings fall after 01 October 2013 you may [apply online](#) by Thursday 31 October 2013. This will not disadvantage your application).

### Primary School Applications for Sept 2014

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

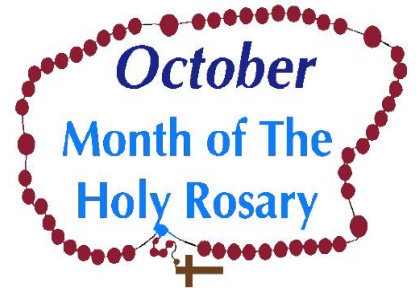
1. If you have a child starting this school **next** September - by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013- You should [apply online](#) to the local authority or return your completed preference form to School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service. If you live in Birmingham and your child attends a community or private nursery in the city, you should receive information from the local authority (Birmingham City Council) via post about how to start your child at school in the reception year for September 2014. Information can also be obtained from the school. If you live **outside** Birmingham you must apply to the local authority in which you live (i.e. the Council to which you pay your Council Tax) for their Preference Form. You should include this school on that form and return it to your local authority.
2. Also, if your child is Catholic, you need to get a Supplementary Information Form from our school office and you must return it to us together with original proof of your child's baptism. You can do this NOW - governors use this information to rank children in order.

### Diary Dates - September 2013: Further dates will be added as available

#### September

Mon 9	Reception Class start full-time
Tues 10	KS2 Yamaha Roadshow Years 1 - 6
Tues 10	Swimming lessons begin - Years 4 & 6
Weds 11	Year 6 residential visit to Alton Castle 2 p.m.
Fri 13	Start of AVFC curriculum football initially Years 1 & 3
Fri 13	Year 6 return from Alton Castle (approx. 4.30 p.m.)
Sun 15	Start of Children's Liturgy at 10.30 a.m. children's mass
Mon 16	Start of Italian Club - Year 5 & 6 3.30 - 5.00 p.m.
Tues 17	Makaton Club Year 6 3.30 - 4.15 p.m.
Thurs 19	Start of AVFC after school club
Thurs 19	First Mass of School Year - all welcome - 9.05 a.m.
Thurs 19	PTA meeting in hall - AGM at 7 pm
Weds 25	Governing Body Meeting

Fri 27 PTA Welcome Disco  
**October (Month of the Rosary)**  
 Tues 1 Secondary School applications submitted  
 Weds 2 Parents Evening (1) 3.45 - 6.45 p.m.  
 Thurs 3 Blessing Service for Reception Class, families  
 very welcome 9.05 a.m.  
 Mon 7 Parents Evening (2) 3.45 - 6.45 p.m. (No Italian Club)

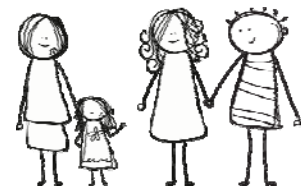


Weds 9 Year 1 Inspire Workshop 9.15 a.m.  
 Tues 15 Reception Class Inspire Workshop 9.15 a.m.  
 Fri 18 **School closed to pupils - Teacher Training Day**

Mon 21 **School closed to pupils - Teacher Training Day**  
 Tues 22 Year 3 Inspire Workshop 9.15 a.m.

Thurs 24 Harvest Service for whole school 9.05 a.m. (led by Year 5) all welcome  
 Fri 25 Break up for half term 3.30 p.m.

**November Dedicated Month for Holy Souls**



Mon 4 Children return to school 8.45 a.m.  
 Tues 5 Year 5 Inspire Workshop 9.15 a.m.

Weds 6 Open Morning 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Thurs 7 Whole school mass led by Year 6 - all welcome - 9.05 a.m.

Fri 8 PTA Fireworks

Mon 11 **START OF BOOK WEEK**



Thurs 14 Year 4 Class assembly - 9.05 a.m. all welcome

Tues 19 Year 2 Inspire Workshop 9.15 a.m.

Thurs 21 Year 3 Parent Meeting for anyone whose child will be receiving the Sacraments  
 of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in the school hall 7 p.m.

Sun 24 Year 3 'Listening' Mass in Our Lady of Fatima Church 10.30 a.m.

(This is also the end of the 'Year of Faith' on the Feast of Christ the King)

Tues 26 Year 4 Inspire Workshop 9.15 a.m.

Weds 27 Governing Body Meetings (Finance 6 p.m., Full 6.45 p.m.)

**December (Advent starts Sunday 1 December - 4 Sundays of Advent)**



Mon 2	Last day for Reception applications for Sept 2014 to B'ham LA
Fri 6	Whole School Mass Feast of St Nicholas (led by Year 3) 9.05 a.m.
Thurs 12	Infant Nativity 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
Mon 16	Junior Carol Service 2.15 p.m.
Tues 17	Christmas Class Parties (afternoon)
Thurs 19	Christmas Dinner
Fri 20	Break-up for Christmas Holiday 3.30 p.m.

Back to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014** - School open for pupils 8.45 a.m.

## **School Uniform 13/14**

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.

School caps or sun hats can be purchased from the school office

### **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, elastic ties 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 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' including 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.

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## **YEAR 6 ONLY**

We have purchased some school logo hooded sweatshirts to trial for Alton Castle. The children in Year 6 would then be able to wear these for outdoor P.E. lessons for the rest of the academic year.

Please indicate if you would like to purchase one of these and they can be distributed before the children go to Alton Castle.

There are two sizes: Size Youth and XL Youth, both priced at £ 12.50. Samples available in office.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose £ 12.50 and would like to purchase size \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**HEALTH / MEDICINE RECORD 2013/14**

**Child's Name** .....**Class** .....

**Medical Condition(s)** .....

.....

**Name of Medicine(s)** .....

**(If applicable ie. required to be kept in school)**

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**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 including due to religious observance:**

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**Signed** ..... **(parent)**

**Date** .....

## Our Lady of Fatima School Term Dates - School Year 2013 - 2014

<b>Autumn Term 2013</b>	<b>Spring Term 2014</b>	<b>Summer Term 2014</b>
Monday 02 September to Friday 25 Oct Monday 04 November to Friday 20 Dec	Monday 06 January to Friday 14 February Monday 24 February to Friday 11 April	Monday 28 April to Friday 23 May Monday 02 June to Monday 21 July

### Teacher Training Days (school closed to pupils)

- 1) Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013
- 2) Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013
- 3) Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013
- 4) Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014
- 5) Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014