



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School



Newsletter — November 2013

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

## Harvest Celebration Service

Thank you for your kindness in supporting the Harvest Celebration. We had a fantastic turnout of parents and families at the service, tremendous support for Brush-strokes with food and toiletries and £ 176.58 was raised for CAFOD.



## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you very much if you have already sent in your Christmas Parcel for Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' or have already requested your label! The boxes will be collected early on **Friday 22 November** so if you would like to create a gift parcel with your child please send it in to school by Thursday 21 November. I have attached a slip if you want to request a boy / girl label for your parcel. There is a two page worksheet attached to this newsletter that can be coloured in / completed by your child and inserted into the box if they would like to communicate with the recipient of the box!



## School Admissions September 2014

Applications for Reception in September 2014 should be made to the local authority where the parent and child live by 2 December 2013. All applications should be acknowledged. If you have a sibling starting next September remember that you also need to submit a supplementary application form (available from school office / website) to the school with a copy of their baptismal certificate.

**Free School Meals Checking Service** There is a new and very easy way for parents to check their eligibility for free school meals. This is on the website [www.link2ICT.org/FSM](http://www.link2ICT.org/FSM)

You may or may not realise that the school receives some of its income for children who are **entitled** to Free School Meals even if they do not eat them, so if your child brings a packed lunch but you are entitled to claim, please check the website above.

There is a guide on the website for parents to read to help them complete the form (we can also print the guide out). This form only has to be completed **once** by parents whilst at the school and is updated on a regular basis by the free school meal checking service. If a parent does not have access to the internet we can enter details for them as long as we have received written permission or they can come into office (it does not take very long). The advice is for every parent to go on to the FSM website and fill in the form regardless. This could make a significant difference to the school budget if all 'entitled' parents were to complete the online form so please do check the website.

## Year 3 Sacramental Preparation Parent Meeting

There will be an important meeting for Year 3 parents on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November** at 7 p.m. All parents should attend. The dates for sacramental preparation will be given out at this meeting. On 21<sup>st</sup> November parents will be asked to indicate a preferred date from the two dates in May 2014 for First Holy Communion.

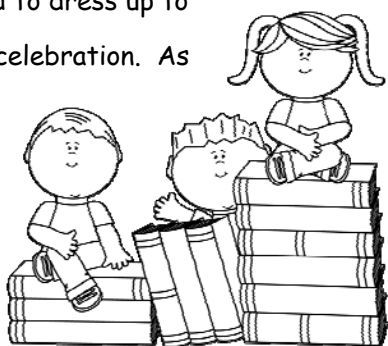


**Book Week** We are having a very successful 'Book Week' with lots of exciting activities taking

place. Years 5 and 6 went on public transport to the new Library of Birmingham on Monday and despite the rain they were also able to pay their respects at 11 a.m. at the Hall of Memory.

Wednesday sees 'Rhythmicity' in attendance, on Thursday, Year 4 will lead a special class assembly with a 'book theme' and on Friday all children (and grown-ups!) are invited to dress up to conclude the week of celebration. As

our whole school creative curriculum theme this half term is 'celebration' children can dress in



anything loosely linked to celebrating. This may be a club uniform e.g. beavers, smart clothes, dressing up clothes but not school uniform. There is no charge for this 'own clothes day' but if you would like to send a donation we will send any money collected to the Philippine Typhoon Appeal.

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### Aston Villa Tickets for Schools

With the new sport in school initiative, Aston Villa Tickets for Schools are encouraging us to use their initiative to boost school fund and from this buy sport equipment for the school. They have issued us with 100 tickets so if you would like to buy some they are still available **at the end of the day** from the school office (the start of the school day is very busy).

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**PTA Firework Disco** There was an amazing turnout for the firework disco last Friday and a real family

/ community atmosphere. Thank you to all the PTA members who worked so hard to make it a most enjoyable occasion, to the fantastic team who set up the firework display and to the staff who supported the event especially our cooks and Mr Rollason.



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**Dates for the Diary** are attached for this term, please check any that are relevant to you or your child, especially with Christmas Nativity Plays, Carol Services and Masses. Remember the school website is a useful way of checking for updates. I find that I need to press the 'refresh' button at times to get the most up to date information.

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**School Fund** - Have you sent in your school fund this term?

We use the school fund to supplement lots of small items and some bigger ones, for example the theatre group visits like the one in December. Please can I ask all families to make their £ 3 contribution as soon as possible? We keep a record of all amounts that come in to the office so if you are not sure if

you have already contributed please ask!

Thank you



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**Year of Faith** ends on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November which is the Feast of 'Christ the King', the end of the liturgical year and the 10.30 a.m. will be a special mass for Year 3 children and



their families. It is wonderful to see so many of our children regularly in attendance at this mass.

**Tombola** **Raffle**

**Come and see Santa!**  
At  
**Our lady of Fatima Christmas Bazaar**  
Date Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013  
Time 2pm  
Venue: Church Hall Higgins Lane  
Details  
Tel 0121 422 4865

**Cake Stalls** **Craft Stalls**

**Children's Christmas Fancy Dress ~ Lots of Prizes**  
**Plus much more besides**

The Parish Bazaar takes place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November in the parish hall, Higgins Lane starting at 2 p.m. This is an important fundraiser for the Parish. There is a fancy dress for children, an important visitor (in red) will be there and there is the opportunity to capture the moment with a photograph. We have some books of raffle tickets (£ 5 per book) in the school office if you would like some.

### Inspire Workshops

There has been a fantastic turnout for the 'Inspire Workshops' and we have two more this term:

Year 2 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November and Year 4 on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs van Vliet has worked very hard to co-ordinate these and your feedback indicates that parents find these sessions very useful. Most of all, the children love the time they get to spend with you! Thank you for your support.

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

November	Dedicated Month for Holy Souls
Mon 11	START OF BOOK WEEK, Yrs 5 & 6 visit new Library of Birmingham
Tues 12	Governing Body Meeting 6 p.m.
Weds 13	'Rythmicity' Workshops all day - all classes
Thurs 14	Year 4 Class assembly - 9.05 a.m. all welcome
Fri 15	<b>Own clothes day</b> - theme of 'Celebration'
Mon 18	Rec Class and Year 1 to Cannock Toy Museum
Tues 19	Year 2 Inspire Workshop 9.10 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.
Fri 22	Collection of 'Shoe Boxes' Operation Christmas Child
Sat 23	Parish Bazaar 2 p.m. in Parish Hall, Higgins Lane
Sun 24	Year 3 'Listening' Mass in Our Lady of Fatima Church 10.30 a.m.



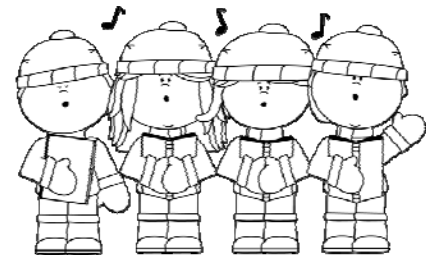
(This is also the end of the 'Year of Faith' on the Feast of Christ the King)

- Mon 25 Tennis Tournament at prior School (details to follow)
- Tues 26 Year 4 Inspire Workshop 9.10 a.m.
- Wed 27 'Bauble' workshops all day - details to follow
- Wed 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
- Thurs 5 Year 6 'Heights and Weights' 1.30 p.m. NHS nurses
- Fri 6 Whole School Mass - Feast of St Nicholas (led by Year 3) 9.05 a.m.
- Tues 10 Visiting Theatre Group to school - Musicians of Bremen (all classes)
- Thurs 12 Infant Nativity 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. - ALL WELCOME
- Thurs 12 Year 4 visit to Blakesley Hall
- Mon 16 Junior Carol Service 2.15 p.m. - ALL WELCOME
- Tues 17 Christmas Class Parties (afternoon)
- Thurs 19 Christmas Dinner
- Fri 20 Break-up for Christmas Holiday 3.30 p.m.



Children return for spring term on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014



## Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Please indicate if you would like

a  boy or  girl label.



Your child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

We will send a label to you for your shoe box

Last date for boxes is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November



# All about me!

## This is what I look like



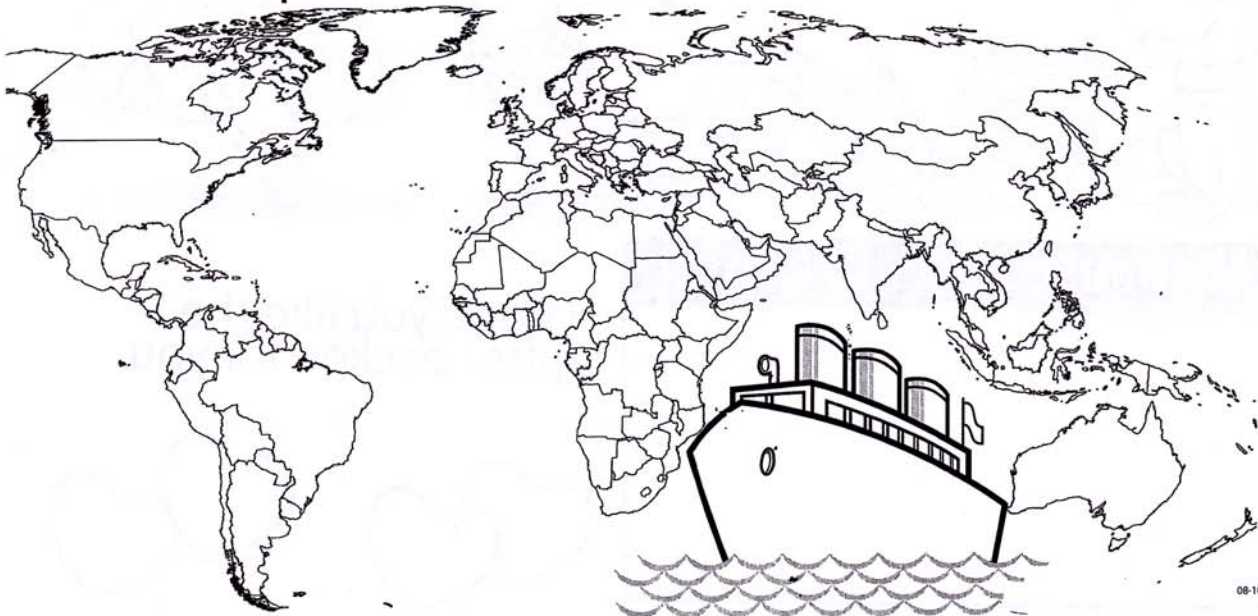
I live in the town of \_\_\_\_\_

**Hi!** I would like to introduce myself to you.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am very glad to meet you. I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old. This is a map of my country - the United Kingdom. I coloured the county where I live. My shoe box has taken a fantastic journey to find you!



**Here is a map of our world.** I coloured the country where I live.





There are lots of things I like.



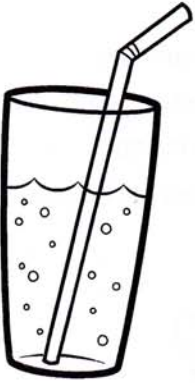
**My Favourite:**

drink is \_\_\_\_\_  
colour is \_\_\_\_\_  
food is \_\_\_\_\_  
animal is \_\_\_\_\_  
toy is \_\_\_\_\_

When I have free time,  
I like to \_\_\_\_\_

At school, I like to \_\_\_\_\_

In my family, I have  
\_\_\_\_\_ brothers  
\_\_\_\_\_ sisters  
\_\_\_\_\_ pets



**My house looks like this**

I hope you like the gifts I packed for you.

