



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School



Newsletter — January 2014

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

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



We return to school in 2014 celebrating the Epiphany when we think of the visitors travelling to see the new baby king by following a star.

Everybody is a star in God's Heart. God is Superstar. When our star shines we do kind actions, we are grateful for all the good blessings we receive every minute of every day. The Magi Kings found Jesus, the Star, by searching. Lord, help us to keep going, even when the journey is challenging, and help us always to bring our gifts of Thanks to You!

'Happy New Year 2014' and welcome back! I hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. On behalf of staff, thank you for your kindness and generosity with cards and gifts. The end of last term was so busy and exciting and thankfully not too affected by ill-health. I do hope that you have either escaped illness or have rested and recovered, and let's hope we now escape the bad weather! If the weather is very poor, we will still use the system of informing parents via the local radio stations, school website and the SMS system so do let us know if you have changed your mobile number.

Can I also thank parents who keep us informed of absences by ringing on the first day of absence. Once an absence has been reported, there is no need to ring again on following days but please send a note once your child returns

to school. If we are not given a reason for an absence this will be recorded as unauthorised.

Attendance

Congratulations to Year 3 who had the best class attendance for the Autumn Term.

Reception	95.3 %		
Year 1	94.6 %		
Year 2	97.6 %	wow!	
Year 3	98.9 %	Winners of Class	
Year 4	98.8 %	wow!	Trophy
Year 5	93.6		
Year 6	96.2 %		

Well done Year 3 and Miss O'Connell!



Punctuality - starting from January any child who is brought in through the office entrance must be signed in by an adult. This is to audit our pupils' punctuality, particularly if they have been marked absent by the classteacher on the register. Please make sure that your child arrives in plenty of time to enter school through the correct entrance for their class.

Thankyou — Christmas collections at school raised £ 118.24 for Macmillan Nurses. Thank

you for your kindness.

Clubs this half-term:

Italian (Monday) - Year 5 / 6 until 1/ 2 term
then Years 3 / 4

Code Club - Monday

Aston Villa Coaching - Y2 - Thursday

Tennis - Monday

Makaton - Tuesday

Aston Villa Football Coaching - we will also continue football coaching during school time and Years 4 and 6 currently have a session on Friday mornings. We encourage all pupils to have a warm PE kit for outdoor lessons this term including tracksuit & trainers.

Swimming Sessions continue on Tuesdays for the Juniors and this term **Years 5 and 3** will have lessons. Please remember to send in kit each week.



Year 6 Inspire Workshop

Mrs Greatrex will lead Year 6 workshop for parents on Tuesday 21st January. She will discuss some of the changes to the SATs in May including the



revised spelling, punctuation and grammar paper introduced last year and the changes to the mathematics papers planned for May 2014.



Chinese New Year Meal

Mrs O'Brien and her team always put on a festive meal to celebrate Chinese New Year and the children enjoy opening their fortune cookies! This year, **Year of the Horse** falls on Friday 31st January, she will cook a special meal on this day (Fun Friday /Pizza Day will be on Thursday 30th). Parents of children who bring a

packed lunch can avail of this meal by sending £ 2.00 on or before Monday 27th January so that she has time to order in advance. Please clearly label your child's envelope with Chinese Meal'. Children traditionally wear their own clothes on this day based upon the lucky colour red! Gong Xi Fa Cai.



Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation On Thursday 6th February we welcome Year 3 parents to a meeting in the school hall at 7 p.m. in preparation for the children's Sacrament of Reconciliation which will take place on Saturday 8th March. It is very important that **all** children are represented at this meeting.

PTA Quiz Night

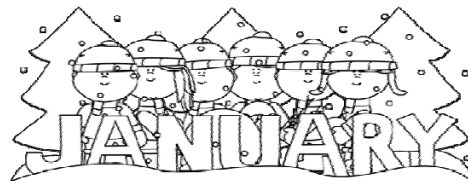
Start revising and reading those newspapers, sports pages and learning all the names of those music tunes! The PTA's quiz night is Friday 7th February.

School Fund - please read

Our School Fund is very necessary to provide small everyday items for school and pupils' use and planned activities for example visiting theatre groups. It would be very much appreciated if a voluntary contribution of **£3 per family** (per term) was made to the fund. I am sure that we can count on your support. Unfortunately we have noticed a drop off in contributions in recent terms. I would urge **all** families to contribute so that we can plan ahead for activities and theatre groups etc.

Please return the attached slip with your contribution as soon as possible. All contributions are recorded so please fill in your child(ren)s name(s). If you cannot make a contribution this term, please indicate this on the slip so that we do not need to contact you with a reminder. A reminder will be sent to parents who have not replied by half term.

Dates for Diary –January 2014



There will be more dates to add as the term continues but these dates available so far:

Mon 6 Jan	Return to school spring term 2014
Thurs 9 Jan	9.05 a.m. Whole school mass led by Year 2 - all welcome
Thurs 9 Jan	1.30 p.m. Year 6 Personal Safety workshop - PCSO
Tues 14 Jan	Swimming starts for Years 3 and 5 (all term)
Weds 15 Jan	Ten Ten Christian Theatre Group all day (9 a.m. Parent session—all welcome)
Weds 15 Jan	Hearing Tests for Reception Class
Sun 19 Jan	10.30 a.m. 'Caring' Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church— for all Year 3 children & their families
Tues 21 Jan	9.05 a.m. Year 6 Inspire Workshop (Parent & Child) coffee in BASC from 8.55
Weds 22 Jan	Governing Body Meeting 6 p.m.
Tues 28 Jan	Year 2 to Soho House
Weds 29 Jan	Governing Body Meeting 6 p.m.
Fri 31 Jan	Chinese New Year - own clothes (Red theme)
Fri 31 Jan	Year 6 Able Writers session at Harborne School
Thurs 6 Feb	9.05 a.m. Year 3 Class Assembly
Thurs 6 Feb	7 p.m. Meeting for all Year 3 Parents of children receiving Sacraments of Reconciliation
Fri 7 Feb	PTA Quiz (adults only) details to follow
Thurs 13 Feb	Year 5 Hagley Consortium Evening Concert at Birmingham Town Hall
Fri 14 Feb	Year 3 'Clock on to Safety' concert at Symphony Hall
Friday 14 Feb	3.30 p.m. Break up for Half Term
Monday 24 Feb	8.55 a.m. School re-opens
Weds 5 Mar	9.05 a.m. Ash Wednesday Mass led by Year 5 - all welcome
Sat 8 Mar	11 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) — Yr 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Fri 14 Mar	PTA St Patrick's Disco
Mon 17 Mar	Feast of St Patrick - own clothes day (Green theme)
Wed 26 Mar	Parents Consultation Meetings 3.45—6.45
Thurs 27 Mar	9.05 a.m. Reception Class Assembly - all welcome
Mon 31 Mar	Parents Consultation Meetings 3.45—6.45
Mon 7 Apr	Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
Fri 11 Apr	3.30 p.m. Last day of spring term—school closes for Easter Holiday



Advance notification of some summer term dates (more to follow in February):

Mon 28 Apr	8.55 a.m. Start of summer term
Mon 5 May	School closed - Bank Holiday
Sat 10 May	12 noon First Holy Communion Mass
Mon 12 May	Start of 'SATs' week Year 6
Wed 14 May	6 p.m. GB Meeting
Sat 17 May	12 noon First Holy Communion Mass
Mon 19 May	May Procession
Fri 23 May	Break up for half term
Mon 2 Jun	Children return to school
Mon 16 Jun	Teacher Day - school closed to pupils
Fri 18 Jul	End of school year



SCHOOL FUND SPRING TERM 2014

I attach my family contribution of £3 / other £ _____ for the spring term.

Eldest child in school _____ Class _____ .

We will return this slip to you to acknowledge your contribution.

Received in school by _____ Thank you for your support.