



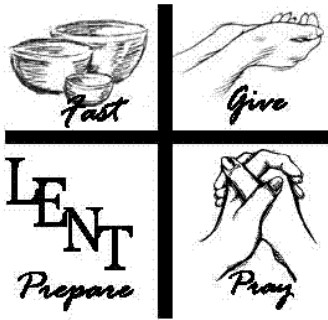
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School



Newsletter — March 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



A Journey through Lent This is a very important time in the liturgical year and the children will start their Lenten faith journey on Wednesday in school

as they prepare for the most important celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Our preparation includes: Ash Wednesday Mass, Year 3 receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time (8 March), Year 1 Class Assembly, Service of Reconciliation and individual Confession for Years 4–6 and on the last Thursday of term Year 3 will lead a special service 'Sharing a Meal' which all parents are welcome to attend.



We are called to remember the three important aspects of Lent: **Prayer, Fast and Almsgiving.**

As a school we are again supporting charities near to home as well as the wider world—Father Hudson's Society and the Catholic Primary Partnership's Rwanda Schools Appeal.

Your child will receive a collection box for Father Hudson's Society. Do encourage them to link their 'fasting' to 'giving' For example, you could reward them for sacrificing their crisps, chocolate or going to bed (a little) early! We hope that the activities that the children engage in, in school each week, help them on their Lenten faith journey. Many of them are 'enjoyable' so that they recognise that helping others in greater need is not always a painful sacrifice! For example, sorting out their

unwanted toys and books for the toy sale might be a little painful but being able to choose something *they* want at the sale, taking part in games, buying cakes all add up to a very enjoyable experience! The 'silver trail' where the whole school adds silver coins to an iconic picture to raise money is often a very spiritually uplifting occasion. The Wednesday Word, class prayer bags and 'Walk with Me' calendars are useful ways that you can prepare at home as a family. Do check all the diary dates below including the Lenten Journey Page so that your child is able to fully take part in all events in school.

Parents evening You will receive your parents evening appointment letters this week for either **Monday 24th March or Tuesday 1st April.** Please note these are changed dates to those initially planned. This is an important meeting when you can find out how your child is progressing so we really hope we get 100% attendance. The teachers are looking forward to meeting you. We would ask all parents to make suitable childcare arrangements so that teachers and parents can focus fully.

Attendance Thank you for your continued support of your child(ren). Nearly all children have attendance over 90% and the vast majority are above 96.5% which is the target for 'outstanding' attendance! Only a very small minority of children's education is affected by poor attendance often related to holidays / visits abroad in term time. Our congratulations go again to top class Year 3 who had the best attendance in Spring 1:



1 st	Year 3	97.5%
2 nd	Year 6	96.6%
3 rd	Year 1	96.1%
4 th	Years 4	95.9%
5 th	Year 5	95.8%
6 th	Year R	95.7%
7 th	Year 2	95.0%

Teachers will inform you of your child's attendance for the first half of the year at parents evening.

Multi-Academy Consultation Thank you to the parents who turned out on a cold evening for our consultation meeting. Your questions and views are important to us. There is now a section on the school website where you can keep updated on what is happening. Please check out this section.

RE Competition: Who are the Saints?

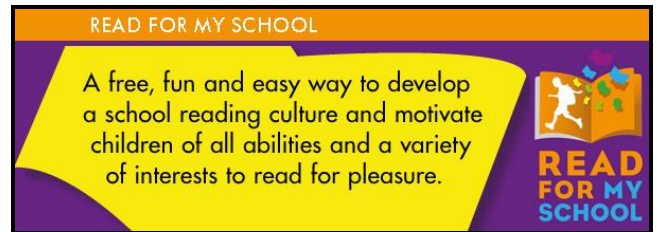
The children of Key Stage Two are invited to take part in a competition run by the Catholic Truth Society that involves researching a famous saint or patron of a local Catholic Church.

All entries should be handwritten, consist of the child's own work, and be no longer than two sheets of A4 paper. The closing date for the competition is **Thursday 10th April**, when the entries will be sent off by Mr Clinton. Entries can be handed in at any time before this date. All entries should have the child's name, date of birth, and name and address of the school on the front.

In addition to the prizes and certificates awarded by the CTS for entries, there are also awards for the best entry from each boy and girl in each class. There is also an opportunity for the team houses of the school, currently named after trees, to be re-named after the saints that the children have written about. Please aid your child in this endeavour by helping them to research their chosen saint and giving them adequate time to complete this task.



Reading Competition



Mrs van Vliet sent out letters regarding the above, online challenge. The latest challenge runs from 2 - 16 March and we would love as many KS2 pupils as possible to take part. Reading for pleasure is at the heart of the initiative, which aims to generate excitement about books and cultivate long-lasting positive attitudes towards reading.

Year 5 I hope the parents and families who attended the Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall enjoyed the event, especially our own children's performance of Super Trooper! Mr O'Connor and I were very proud of the children, both in terms of behaviour and performance.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers We are again collecting the Active Kids vouchers which can be redeemed against a wide range of active equipment. Thank you for your support in collecting these vouchers and bringing them into school.



Car parking Unfortunately, parking is becoming a bit of an issue again. Please remember that the safety of all children is paramount and we ask that no parent parks on the zig-zag lines outside the school gates. These kerbs need to be kept clear so that children have a safe space to cross. **The school car-park must not to be used by parents when collecting or dropping off children.** This includes children who are taken out of school during the school day for appointments and for those collecting from the Early Birds and Evening Owls Club. Please make sure that anyone who collects your child is aware of this.

School Meals There will be a slight increase (5p) in the price of school meals after the Easter holiday. From April 28th prices will be:

1 day £ 2.05

1 week £ 10.25



If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please be very careful about which snack bars you include in their packed lunch. We now have quite a few children with food allergies including allergies to nuts. Some of these children require medication, including adrenalin 'epipens' if they come into contact with nuts / the food they are allergic to. Some bars, including Cadbury's, now

seem to bear the message 'may contain nuts' which we ask you to avoid sending into school. Lunchtime supervisors try to be vigilant, but please be sensitive to the health risk to these children.



Aston Villa tickets This scheme has been very successful and we are currently able to distribute tickets to anyone who requests them. As the football season is nearing its' conclusion, we would like to distribute the remaining tickets at £ 1 per child's ticket.

Diary Dates - updated March 2014:

Mon 3 Mar Irish Cultural Group working with Year 5

Weds 5 Mar 9.05 a.m. Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass led by Year 5 - all welcome

Fri 7 Mar Birmingham Primary Keyboard Concert at MAC Theatre

Sat 8 Mar 11 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) – Year 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Tues 11 Mar Football Match (Home game)

Weds 12 Mar Good Shepherd Appeal Assembly - visitor from Fr Hudson's Society

Fri 14 Mar PTA St Patrick's Disco

Mon 17 Mar Feast of St Patrick - own clothes day (Green theme)

Weds 19 Mar Governing Body Meetings (6 pm Finance Committee, 6.45 Full GB)

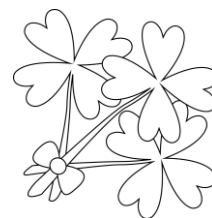
Fri 21 Mar University of B'ham Think Tank Science visit (Years 4 & 5)

Mon 24 Mar Parents Consultation Meetings 3.45–6.45 new date

Tues 25 Mar Year 6 visit Hagley High School pm to see dress rehearsal of 'Joseph & his Amazing Technicolour Coat'

Thurs 27 Mar 9.05 a.m. Reception Class Assembly - all welcome

Thurs 27 Mar Netball Tournament 1 pm - 4 pm



Tues 1 Apr	Parents Consultation Meetings 3.45—6.45 new date
Wed 2 Apr	Lenten Toy Sale
Thurs 3 Apr	9.05 a.m. Year 1 Class Assembly - all welcome
Fri 4 Apr	Ukelele strings workshop
Mon 7 Apr	Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
Wed 9 Apr	Whole school Easter bonnet parade.
Wed 9 Apr	Governing Body Meeting 6 pm
Thurs 10 Apr	Year 3 'Sharing a Meal' service & brunch
Thurs 10 Apr	West Midlands Fire Service workshop - Yrs 4 & 5 at 2 pm
Thurs 10 Apr	7 p.m. Meeting for all Year 3 Parents of children receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist in May
Fri 11 Apr	3.30 p.m. Last day of spring term—school closes for Easter Holiday



Advance notification of some summer term dates (further dates will follow):

Mon 28 Apr	8.55 a.m. start of summer term
Thurs 1 May	UK Maths Challenge
Mon 5 May	School closed - Bank Holiday
Sat 10 May	12 noon First Holy Communion Mass
Mon 12 May	Start of 'SATs' week for Year 6
Wed 14 May	6 p.m. GB Meeting
Fri 16 May	9.15 GB Curriculum Committee Meeting
Fri 16 May	PTA Sponsored Bounce
Sat 17 May	12 noon First Holy Communion Mass
Mon 19 May	May Procession 2 pm - all welcome
Fri 23 May	Break up for half term
Mon 2 Jun	Children return to school
Wed 4 Jun	Year 6 visit to St Chad's Cathedral
Thurs 5 Jun	9.05 a.m. Year 5 Class Assembly - all welcome
Thurs 5 Jun	7 pm Meeting for all Year 6 Parents of Catholic children receiving the



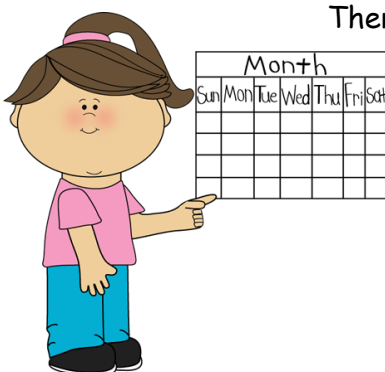
Sacrament of Confirmation

- Sun 8 Jun 12 noon Going Forth Mass at OLF Church
- Weds 11 Jun NSPCC Assembly Years 5 & 6
- Thurs 12 Jun 7 pm Year 5 Parents Meeting (Secondary Transition & Y6 Residential to Alton Castle Information Meeting.
- Sat 14 Jun Catholic Swimming Gala
- Sun 15 Jun 10.30 Mass of Enrolment for Year 6 at OLF Church (Confirmation)
- Mon 16 Jun Teacher Day - school closed to pupils
- Weds 18 Jun NSPCC Workshops - Years 5 & 6
- Thurs 19 Jun 6.45 pm New Intake Meeting for Parents of children who will join the school in Reception Class, September 2014
- Tues 24 Jun Circus Skills workshop - all classes
- Thurs 26 Jun Year 5 'Technology' Day at St Paul's School, Edgbaston
- Fri 27 Jun 9.05 am Whole School Mass (of Illumination for Y6 Confirmation Preparation)
- Wed 2 Jul Transition Day
- Sat 5 Jul PTA Summer Fayre
- Tues 8 Jul Reception Class Sept 2014 2nd session in school (am or pm)
- Weds 9 Jul Governing Body Meetings (6 pm Finance Committee, 6.45 Full GB)
- Fri 18 Jul **End of academic school year - last day of term for children**



Children start new academic school year on Tuesday 2 September 2014

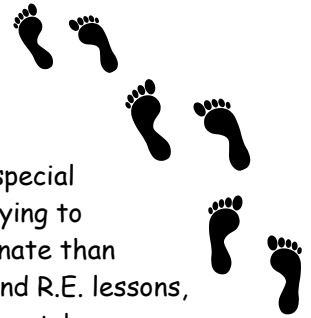
There are more dates that need to be added for the summer term including sports day. Please check further newsletters for additional dates. Remember to visit the school website for information including copies of newsletters on www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk





Our Lady of Fatima School

Lenten Activities 2014



We are all on a journey through Lent. This is a very special time and we mark Lent with prayer, self denial and trying to do good 'deeds' for example helping others less fortunate than ourselves. Many activities form part of the normal school day, for example assemblies and R.E. lessons, but we are sending a list of 'extra' activities so that parents are aware of Fundraising events!

This year, as a school, we are again supporting two main charities in our fund raising: Father Hudson's 'Good Shepherd' Appeal and the Birmingham Catholic Primary Partnerships appeal for three villages in Rwanda where they are trying to buy basic resources to put into the school buildings.

- Wed 5th March Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:05 in the school hall.
- Friday 7th Board game afternoon in class: £1 donation to charity collection.
- Wed 12th Good Shepherd Assembly—led by Father Hudson Society Volunteer, who will explain more about how the Good Shepherd boxes help so many people.
- Friday 14th Whole school Friday Fun Film afternoon £1 donation.
- Monday 17th St Patrick's Day— own clothes day £1 donation to charity collection.
- Thursday 27th Reception class assembly.
- Friday 28th Silver Coin Collection—children are invited to bring silver coins to school to make a silver trail in the school hall. **Parents are invited to add to the trail** after school and can enter via the rear entrance to the hall (from the Infant Play ground) or the main entrance at home-time.
- Wed 2nd April Toy Sale, we invite children to bring in the toys / books they no longer want and buy others from their friends!
- Monday 7th Years 4-6 Reconciliation Service 2pm.
All classes please bring your (full) Good Shepherd box back to school by today so that the money can be counted.
- Wed 9th Whole school Easter bonnet parade.
- Thursday 10th Year Three 'Sharing a Meal' service .
- Friday 11th Years 2—6 will be involved in Stations of the Cross prayer service



The **Easter raffle (10p per ticket)** with prizes donated by school staff, will continue throughout Lent with prizes drawn at the Easter Bonnet Parade.