



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School



Newsletter — April 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

Appointment of New Headteacher



I am delighted to inform you that following a recruitment process culminating in interviews yesterday, the governors have appointed a new Headteacher and it is someone we all know very well - Mrs van Vliet! I am sure you join with me in

congratulating her. She has been a tremendous support to me for the past eight years and is the ideal person to lead the school forward. She will take up her appointment from September so please do remember her in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS MRS VAN VLIET!

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and Father Seamus welcomes all families to the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Welcome Mrs Barnes: we have a new member of staff - Mrs Barnes who has joined us as a permanent, full-time teaching assistant.

Date for Confirmation: we have been notified of the details for Year 6 Confirmation. We will be able to welcome our newly appointed Bishop - Robert Byrne to the school and parish on Wednesday 2nd July when he confers the sacrament at 7 p.m. There is a lovely article about the Bishop in the recent edition of Catholic Today. There will be a separate letter to Year 6 parents regarding the arrangements for preparation meetings and services.

Parents evening: We had excellent attendance at the mid-year meetings. This was an important opportunity for you as parents to gain an update so if you were not met with your child's class teacher please do arrange an appointment as soon as possible.

Attendance

Our congratulations go to our top class **Year 2** who had the best attendance in Spring 2:

1 st	Year 2	98.7%
2 nd	Year 3	98.4%
3 rd	Year 4	98.3%
4 th	Years 6	98.2%
5 th =	Year R	97.0%

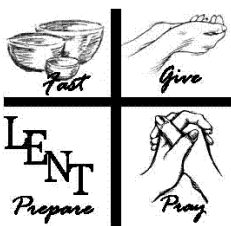


A Journey through Lent:

Thank you for supporting the children in so many ways on their Lenten journey. I will let you know after Easter the total amount raised for our charity collection. The KS2 children

were able to receive the sacrament of confession this week when Father Seamus was joined by Father Raymond and Father Bernard from St. Mary's Parish. I would like to thank Miss O'Connell and Year 3 who led a very moving and special service today and tomorrow we conclude the term with

Stations of the Cross.



5th = Year 5 97.0%

7th Year 1 95.6%

In general, these attendance figures are really excellent and we thank parents for their support.

New Intake arrangements: Our new reception intake will be notified over the Easter holiday break! Once parents receive notification from the local authority (probably on the 17th / 18th) they need to accept the place as soon as possible by returning the acceptance slip to this school.

Academic Term Dates 2014-15: these have now been agreed by Governors and are published on the school website: www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

School Website updates: we try to keep key information, forms and policies on the school website for parents' information as well as for anyone who wants to know more about us. At the bottom of the welcome screen it tells you what has been added most recently. As well as '14/15 term dates our updated child protection policy has been added recently and some lovely pictures on our special events page.

Football results: our team have played a couple of competitive matches with mixed fortunes:

Our Lady of Fatima 1 - 5 Greenmeadow

Our Lady of Fatima 4 - 3 Harborne

Well done team, I know they have another game set for straight after Easter.

Netball results: we also competed in the Birmingham Catholic Schools' tournament and reached the semi-finals. Again, we are always proud of our players.

School fund reminder: I will add it to the next newsletter, but I know some parents like to be very prompt about sending their summer term £ 3 contribution in very early.

Summer uniform: we do hope that the children will be able to enjoy our lovely grounds in the summer term and many switch to summer uniforms. Our uniform is listed on the school website. Please do

ensure that we can maintain the high standards of presentation at our school by keeping to some basic uniform rules:

- Summer dresses if worn are light blue check or stripes.
- School shoes are important, not trainers. If girls wear sandals they need to be suitable for wearing to run on our lovely field.
- Boys and girls can wear a white polo shirt instead of shirt and tie.
- Don't forget you can buy uniform online at Tesco's as well as Clive Marks or the standard supermarkets.
- Avoid fashion haircuts or excessive accessories.
- School caps or hats available from office.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

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.



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: I know that the recent resurfacing is causing congestion around the Winchfield Drive entrance but I have been contacted by a very

concerned neighbour in Word Hill about blocking driveway / garage entrances. I can understand that parents think it is only for a 'short space of time' but one neighbour in particular has to be ready to get out in an emergency and I would ask that everyone shows respect by not blocking driveways.

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



Change in arrangements: school staff try to be as flexible as possible when parents change meal arrangements but please remember that it is important to give a week's notice if your child is changing to school meals or vice versa. If your child has a Friday school meal please still remember

to send your money into school on Monday.

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.

**Wishing you all a very
Happy and Holy Easter**
Have an enjoyable and restful break.

Diary Dates - updated April 2014:

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



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

Mon 28 Apr 8.55 a.m. start of summer term

Tues 29 Apr Lordswood Sport Festival

Thurs 1 May 9.05 a.m. Whole School Mass led by Y4 - all welcome

Thurs 1 May UK Maths Challenge

Thurs 1 May Football Match v. Chad Vale (home)

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
Wed 21 May	Hagley High School touring band
Fri 23 May	Break-up for half term
Mon 2 Jun	Children return to school
Mon 2 Jun	Able writers - consortium schools
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 on 2 nd July
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 & 4 Parents Meeting (Secondary Transition & Y6 Residential to Alton Castle Information Meeting (September '14)
Fri 13 Jun	Edgbaston Reservoir Physical Activity Day - all KS2 classes
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	Year 2 Class Assembly 9.05 - all welcome
Thurs 19 Jun	Year 3 visit to Sea-Life Centre
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
Thurs 26 Jun	Year 4 Lordswood Sports Festival
Fri 27 Jun	9.05 am Whole School Mass (of Illumination for Y6 Confirmation Preparation)



Tues 1 Jul	Bishop Robert Byrne visits school
Wed 2 Jul	Transition Day including new Reception intake $\frac{1}{2}$ day visits
Wed 2 Jul	Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of Fatima Church 7 p.m.
Mon 7 Jul	Sports Day starting at 1.45 p.m.
Tues 8 Jul	Reception Class Sept 2014 2 nd session in school (am or pm)
Weds 9 Jul	End of school year Mass of Thanksgiving led by Y1 9.05 a.m. all welcome
Weds 9 Jul	Governing Body Meetings (6 pm Finance Committee, 6.45 Full GB)
Fri 11 Jul	Hagley High School Touring Band concert 9 a.m.
Mon 14 Jul	Retirement Mass (Mrs. Martin) 2 p.m.
Thurs 17 Jul	Year 6 Leavers assembly 9.05 a.m. all welcome
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**

Remember to visit the school website for information including copies of newsletters on www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

School Term Dates 2014/15

Autumn Term 2014	
Mon 1 September	(Teacher Training Day - School closed to pupils)
Tue 2 September	Start of Term - School opens
27 to 31 October	Half Term
Fri 19 December	End of Term - School closes for Christmas
Spring Term 2015	
Mon 5 January	Start of Term - School opens
16 to 20 February	Half Term
Fri 27 March	End of Term - School closes for Easter
Summer Term 2015	
Mon 13 April	Start of Term - School opens
Mon 4 May	May Day Bank Holiday
25 to 29 May	Half Term
Fri 17 July	End of Term - School closes for Summer
Mon 20 July	(Teacher Training Day - School closed to pupils)