



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — July 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



Confirmation: We had a beautiful and reverent evening on Wednesday when the Year 6 pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Robert Byrne was a very welcome guest to our parish and

school. Congratulations to our Year 6 students. They have just a few days remaining with us before they take on the exciting challenge that lies ahead. Our thoughts and prayers go with them on their life journey as they transfer to the following schools:

Hagley High School, King Edward's: Five Ways, Camp Hill and High Schools, Old Swinford Hospital School and Queen Mary's Grammar School. May God bless you all.

First Holy Communion: Congratulations to our Year 3 pupils who received the Sacrament of the Eucharist this term. We hope that, with the support of their parents, they will now participate more fully in the faith life of the church by volunteering as part of the Sunday liturgy reading rota or considering being an Altar Server.



Academy updates: Preparations move on with an initial planned date of transfer of 1st October. Thank you to those parents who have

made tentative enquiries regarding offering their services as 'Academy Representatives'. Just as we currently have Foundation Governors, practising Catholics can apply to be Foundation Representatives. Once the Academy has been established there will be an election for staff and parent representatives.



Classes for September:

Reception	Miss Davis
Year 1	Mrs Levack
Year 2	Miss O'Connell
Year 3	Mrs Workman
Year 4	Miss Adkins
Year 5	Mr O'Connor
Year 6	Mrs Greatrex

As you know, Mr O'Connor was appointed as Deputy Headteacher. Mr Clinton leaves at the end of this term to take up the post of Assistant Headteacher at our neighbouring parish school - St Mary's, Harborne. We thank him for his contribution to our school and send him and his family our very best wishes for their future. We are still in the process of recruiting permanent teaching staff to senior

positions and Mrs van Vliet will keep you updated about this.

Secondary school options: Parents in Year 5 should now be considering their options for Secondary School. I would remind parents that if you are applying for a Catholic school you must supply each school directly with proof of baptism. This is usually in the form of a baptismal certificate and a supplementary information form available directly from each school. If you haven't got a baptismal certificate you can contact the church where your child was baptised and they will issue you with one.

Crossing: Sadly, we say a fond farewell to our Crossing Warden Ted who retires at the end of term. We wish him well and we hope to see him on the last day to say thank you and goodbye properly. We have not been notified of Ted's replacement yet so if you use the Hagley Road crossing please be extra vigilant at the start of the new term.



ACW School's RE Project 2014: Congratulations to Sergio in Year 4 who won first prize in the National Competition organised by the Association of Catholic Women. As a regular and loyal altar server, we are delighted and very proud of his success. Our children were so successful that they also won a number of runners-up prizes.

Swimmers: Our girls and boys teams were highly successful at the Catholic Swimming Gala, getting into six of the eight final races including both relay teams. They won the 'Father Corcoran' Cup thanks to their terrific team work!

Years R & 1 meal uptake of UIFSM -

September: From September, all infant children in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school meal (Universal Infant Free School Meals). A letter has been sent to all parents of current Reception and Year 1 parents regarding whether or not they want to take up this offer. It is not compulsory and

parents can still provide a packed lunch if they prefer. This is completely regardless of family income. There has been some concern that this affects how schools are funded overall. The DfE use a formula for allocating money to schools and the % of children entitled to free school meals significantly increases a school's budget. The school subscribes to a Birmingham service that checks a family's eligibility to Free School Meals. It is very simple to use and avoids any need to provide proof to the school. Once registered, parents do not have to do anymore. We would encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/school>

Reports to parents: Annual reports for Years R - 5 will be sent out on Wednesday 9th July. Due to the late date that the DfE return Year 6 SATs results (Tuesday 9th July), Year 6 reports will be sent out slightly later than other year groups but we will endeavour to distribute these as soon as possible. If you need to speak to your child's teacher about their school report Wednesday 16th July has been set aside for parent's to make an appointment.

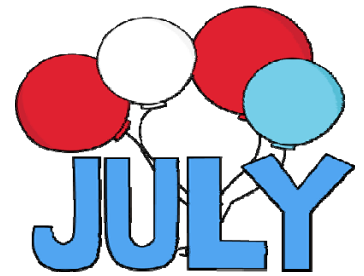
Day of Action: You may have heard on national and local news that several unions plan to take strike action on Thursday 10th July. At the time of writing this newsletter I have not been informed by staff that they are taking action but I am aware that we have members in 3 trade unions that have announced action. If it is necessary to carry out a partial or complete closure I will notify you immediately.

Parking: It is only a very small minority, but we still have complaints about parents who park or drop-off on the zig-zag lines outside school. The zig-zag lines are there to provide a safe place to cross for all of the children so I continue to appeal to all parents to exercise care and thoughtfulness at all times.

Aston Villa Former Players Vs. Birmingham City Former Players: Sunday 10th August (in aid of Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer): We have been given 80 free tickets for this event at Austin Sports & Social Club - collect from school office.

Diary Dates - updated July 2014:

Tues 1 Jul	Bishop Robert Byrne visits school
Wed 2 Jul	Transition Day - 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	Annual reports to parents - Year R - 5
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) 1.45 p.m.
Weds 16 Jul	NEW DATE: End of school year Mass of Thanksgiving led by Y1 at 9.05 a.m.all welcome
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



I have to say I am finding it very difficult to write this final message to you all. I am sure I will see many of you to say goodbye to before the end of term but just in case I don't ...

I would like to record my sincere thanks to

everyone who is part of this school and parish community - past, present and future. It has been a real privilege to serve as Headteacher and I know I am going to miss you all greatly. Thank you for your support over the years. My thoughts and prayers will be with you all in September and I will never forget my time at Our Lady of Fatima School. You are precious in God's eyes and you are precious in mine. You will have a corner of my heart forever. God bless you all.

