



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — September 2014

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

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Our Value of the month is **co-operation**. Let us all try to work together in harmony.



Welcome

I am delighted to be writing this first newsletter as the new Headteacher of Our Lady of Fatima School. I would like to welcome everyone back after the summer holidays and especially all of our new children and their families. I know that the whole school community will help our new families to settle in well. I am sure that all the children are happy to be reunited with their friends.

It is certainly a privilege to serve the school and parish as Headteacher. Along with the many demands we face, comes responsibility, which leads to rewards - the rewards being your children, who will be at the heart of all our decision making. Together we are beginning a new chapter of the same well-loved book, where success takes place. We are so lucky to have such supportive parents who, like us, only want the best for their children.

Mrs Martin has asked me to record her sincere thanks to everyone for the kind letters, cards, generous gifts and messages upon her early retirement in July. She has enjoyed an extended holiday and hopes to pop in and see us later this term. May I ask you to remember Mrs Martin and her family in your prayers as she officially begins her very well deserved retirement. I know that she is remembering you all in her prayers too.

We also warmly welcome Miss Adkins who will be teaching Year 4. Due to family commitments, Mrs Parker, one of our school cooks, left at the beginning

of the summer holidays. We thank her for her hard work and wish her well in the future.

School Information

If there are any changes of address or telephone numbers would you please let Ms Murgatroyd or Mrs Hayden know ASAP. A current phone number is essential in case the school needs to contact you urgently. An annual medical update form for Years 1-6 is being sent out with this newsletter. **Please return this as soon as possible, even if your child has no medical conditions (just write N/A)**. In this way, teachers can be certain that they have the most up-to-date information from you. If your child has an inhaler please make sure it is back in school after the holiday and that the 'use by date' will last for the whole term. May I also remind you that First Aiders may only give prescribed medicines if parents complete a school consent form.



School Procedures

If there are any problems or worries that parents want to discuss with the class teacher, staff are more than willing to meet you **after school by appointment**. Mornings are not really suitable for meetings without prior notice because staff are preparing for the school day and once the bell goes, their priority is the

children. Other more urgent messages may, of course, be left with the office.

Attendance and Punctuality

We pride ourselves that our overall school attendance exceeds the national figure. We also place importance on the punctuality of all children as this makes a good start to the day. The Infant and Junior doors will be open from 8:45 a.m. to allow all children to arrive in their classroom by 8:55 a.m. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, we will contact you to arrange to make an appointment. Holidays during term time are strictly **unauthorised**. Attached is a letter from the Government regarding school attendance during term time.

Dinner Money / Other Money

When sending money into school, please ensure it is in a sealed envelope labelled with your child's name, class and what the money is for. **Money for different items should be sent in separate envelopes.** A reminder that school dinners are £10.25 per week and this should be handed in on Monday morning. Dinner money can be paid weekly or half termly by cheque (made payable to 'Education Catering' with your cheque card number and child's initials on the back). Children who usually have a packed lunch might like to avail of 'Fun Friday' lunch which is paid for at the beginning of the week - £ 2.05.



Details regarding entitlement to free school meals are available from the school office. 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_

Early Birds and Evening Owls Club

At present the club is completely full on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school and Wednesday mornings. If you have booked places **but do not need them**, please let Mrs Rickerby know as soon as possible as we have a waiting list. **A reminder that sessions are chargeable when booked, even if they are not taken up.**



Premises & Safety

During the summer break the school has been cleaned very thoroughly by Mr and Mrs Rollason and we thank them for making it such a lovely, clean environment for the children to return to and be educated in. Please remember that the play equipment is not supervised before or after school and all children, including pre-school children should not be using the equipment for safety reasons.

P.T.A. News : Diary Dates

PTA AGM - Thursday 18th September 7 p.m.

Welcome Disco - Friday 26th September 6:30- 9pm

Regrettably our annual Summer Fair last July had to be cancelled, due to too few volunteers. We have a small, committed PTA but they are always ready to welcome new or existing parents - please consider whether you can volunteer to be a member of the P.T.A. or volunteer to help out at events - why not come along to the A.G.M. to find out more? The welcome disco is open to all families but please remember that children must be accompanied and

supervised by an adult.

A polite reminder: as a public building, the law regarding no smoking covers all parts of the school premises including the playground and paths.

Alton Castle

Year 6 children will be taking part in a retreat between 24th - 26th September. Details for parents will follow in a separate letter.

Internet Safety - Years 1-6

In line with our Internet Safety policy, an acceptable use form is attached to this newsletter to be signed and returned by Monday 15th September.

Inspire Workshops

A separate letter will be sent out shortly to inform you of the Inspire Workshop dates. The workshops for most classes will focus on ESafety including advice on safe Social Networking.

Uniform

Your children have all returned to school looking extremely smart. Thank you for supporting our school uniform policy- a copy can be found on the school's website. Please ensure that all your child's uniform and PE kit is labelled. A list is attached to this newsletter as a reminder. This includes reference to fashion haircuts, hair accessories, jewellery etc. Please do not be persuaded by your child to allow fashion haircuts as these are not permitted in school.

Coats: As the British weather is so changeable, although the mornings may seem warm, children should bring a coat to wear at playtimes as the weather can change quickly.



Parking

A reminder to our new and existing families. The car park in Winchfield Drive must never be used by parents at any time including when collecting from the after school club, regardless of inclement weather.

Please make sure that this safety message is passed on to anyone who collects your child.

Please also remember to park with consideration on the roads surrounding the school so that local residents can gain access to their own properties. Parents should never park on any zig zag lines. Please consider leaving home a few minutes earlier so that you have time to park safely and walk your child into the school playgrounds.



Swimming lessons will now take place on a Friday afternoon. I am mentioning this here as the coach will be delivering the children back to school just before the end of the school day. The coach will need to park as close as possible to the school drive entrance on Winchfield Drive, to ensure the children disembark safely. This will require extra consideration when finding a clear parking space. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Teacher Training Days

All schools have 5 training days across the school year. Our dates are listed with the term dates (attached). We have 2 further dates this term - **Friday 3rd October and Monday 6th October**. This will make a 'long weekend' for pupils in what is a very long half term

School Fund

Parents are asked to contribute £5 a term per family for school fund. If you haven't sent in your donation yet, please try to do so by the end of September.

Thank you for your support and to those parents who have already sent this in. This contribution does help towards providing extra resources for your children.

Secondary School Transfer for Sept 2015

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Secondary School Meetings Parents in Year 6 will need to complete their secondary preference forms shortly. All of the schools are holding open evenings (Hagley High have an open 'Saturday') and I would strongly advise parents to go along with their child to visit schools that you intend including on your preference form.

Parents are strongly advised to [apply online](#) or to have returned their Birmingham Local Authority Preference Form by 1st October. (If parents wish to view schools that are outside of Birmingham and whose open evenings fall after 1st October 2014 you may [apply online](#) by Thursday 31st October 2014. This will not disadvantage your application).

There has been a pink, junior sized bicycle in the bike rack since last year's Year 5 completed their

Bikeability course in the summer. Please take a look as



you pass to check if it belongs to your child.

Aston Villa Tickets for Schools



Please collect Aston Villa Tickets for Schools for matches this term from the school office- £1.00 for children.

Primary School Applications for Sept 2015

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

1. If you have a child starting this school **next** September - by 1st December 2014- You should [apply online](#) to the local authority or return your completed preference form to School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service. If you live in Birmingham and your child attends a community or private nursery in the city, you should receive information from the local authority (Birmingham City Council) via post about how to start your child at school in the reception year for September 2015. Information will be obtainable from the school shortly. If you live **outside** Birmingham you must apply to the local authority in which you live (i.e. the Council to which you pay your Council Tax) for their Preference Form. You should include this school on that form and return it to your local authority.
2. Also, if your child is Catholic, you need to get a Supplementary Information Form from our school office and you must return it to us together with original proof of your child's baptism. You can do this NOW - governors use this information to rank children in order.

Revised Diary Dates - September 2014:

Further dates will be added as available.

Mon 8	Reception Class start full-time
Thurs 11	Whole school Mass led by Yr 6 at 9.05 a.m. All welcome.
Fri 12	Start of AVFC curriculum football for Yrs 1 & 3
Fri 12	Swimming lessons begin for Yrs 5 & 6
Sun 14	Start of Children's Liturgy at 10.30 a.m. children's mass
Mon 15	Start of Italian Club - Year 3 & 4 from 3.30 - 4.55 p.m.
Tues 16	Makaton Club Year 5 3.30 - 4.15 p.m.

Thurs 18 Start of AVFC after school club
 Thurs 18 PTA meeting in hall - AGM at 7 pm
 Weds 24 Governing Body Meeting
 Fri 26 PTA Welcome Disco
 Mon 29 Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. **Parents only for all appointments**- please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.

October (Month of the Rosary)

Tues 1 Secondary School applications submitted
 Thurs 2 Blessing Service for Reception Class and families- all very welcome 9.05 a.m.
 Fri 3 **Teacher Day- School closed to children**
 Mon 6 **Teacher Day - School closed to children**
 Tues 7 Year 1 Inspire Workshop: 9.10 am
 Weds 8 Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm **Parents only for all appointments** - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
 Tues 14 Reception Class Inspire Workshop 9.10 a.m.
 Tues 22 Year 3 Inspire Workshop 9.10 a.m.
 Thurs 23 Harvest Service(led by Yr 5) for whole school 9.05 a.m. All welcome.
 Fri 24 Break up for half term 3.30 p.m.



November Dedicated Month for Holy Souls

Mon 3 Children return to school 8.45 a.m.
 Tues 4 Year 5 Inspire Workshop 9.10 a.m.
 Weds 5 Open Morning 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
 Fri 7 Yrs 5 & 6 visit Birmingham Rep and Birmingham Library
 Fri 7 PTA Fireworks
 Mon 10 **START OF BOOK WEEK**
 Thurs 13 Year 2 Class assembly - 9.05 a.m. all welcome
 Tues 18 Year 2 Inspire Workshop 9.10 a.m.



- Thurs 20 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.
- Sun 23 Year 3 'Listening' Mass in Our Lady of Fatima Church 10.30 a.m.
(This is also the Feast of Christ the King)
- Tues 25 Year 4 Inspire Workshop 9.10 a.m.
- Weds 26 Governing Body Meetings (Finance 6 p.m., Full 6.45 p.m.)
- December** (Advent starts Sunday 30 November - 4 Sundays of Advent)
- Mon 2 Last day for Reception applications for Sept 2014 to B'ham LA
- Fri 5 Whole School Mass Feast of St Nicholas (led by Year 3) 9.05 a.m. All welcome.
- Thurs 11 Infant Nativity 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
- Mon 15 Junior Carol Service 2.15 p.m.
- Tues 16 Christmas Class Parties (afternoon)
- Thurs 18 Christmas Lunch
- Fri 19 Break-up for Christmas Holiday 3.30 p.m.

Back to school on **Monday 5th January 2015** - School opens for pupils 8.45 a.m.



SCHOOL FUND AUTUMN TERM 2014

I attach my family contribution of £5 / other £ _____ for the Autumn 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.

School Uniform 2014/15

The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged as it helps the child to identify more closely with the 'school family' and generally assists in promoting the public image of the school.

The winter uniform consists of:

BOYS Grey trousers, white shirt, royal blue pullover with school crest, grey socks, school tie, and sensible black shoes.

GIRLS Plain grey skirt/pinafore dress or trousers / culottes, white blouse, royal blue cardigan with school crest, white socks or grey woollen tights, school tie, sensible black shoes.

Summer Uniform:

BOYS Grey shorts or trousers. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

GIRLS Blue/white striped or check summer dress. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

School caps or sun hats can be purchased from the school office

P.E.

Boys and Girls: Navy shorts and plain white T-shirt. Pumps for indoor P.E. and dance.

Track suits may be worn for outdoor games during the winter months.

Training shoes which do not cover the ankles may be worn for outdoor games. They are not suitable for indoor P.E.

Swimming Costume and towel. One piece swimsuit for girls, swimming trunks (not shorts) for boys.

Book bags, pump bags, elastic ties and sun hats can be purchased from the school. Parents are free to obtain items from wherever they please with the exception of the school crest jumpers and cardigans which can be obtained from Clive Marks in Bearwood or Tesco online.

ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME.

ALL DRESS SHOULD ALWAYS CONFORM TO SAFETY.

Long hair should be tied back for hygiene reasons and especially during P.E., for safety reasons. Hair accessories should be simple and follow school colours. **'Fashion' haircuts are not appropriate** for school for boys or girls. Boys' hair should not be 'shaved' including with patterns and should be even in length (i.e. no 'Mohicans').

Children are asked not to wear jewellery apart from a watch as its loss can be upsetting. For safety and hygiene, the wearing of earrings is not allowed but if necessary, ear studs may be worn which must be removed for swimming lessons.

YEAR 6 ONLY

We have purchased some school logo hooded sweatshirts for Alton Castle. The children in Year 6 would then be able to wear these for outdoor P.E. lessons for the rest of the academic year.

Please indicate if you would like to purchase one of these and they can be distributed before the children go to Alton Castle.

There are two sizes: Size Youth and XL Youth, both priced at £ 12.50. Samples available in office.

Child's Name _____

I enclose £ 12.50 and would like to purchase size _____

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEALTH / MEDICINE RECORD 2014/15

Child's Name **Class**

Medical Condition(s)

.....

Name of Medicine(s)

(If applicable ie. required to be kept in school)

.....

.....

When taken

Any other instructions

Please note: we can only administer prescribed medicines.

This requires a parent to complete a consent form (available from the school office).

Children must not be given medicines to bring to school. Parents must bring / collect prescribed medicines to the main office.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure medicines, including inhalers, are up-to-date.

If your child's medical condition (and medication) changes, please update this record.

Further copies of this form are available from the main office.

School should be made aware of food allergies and other food that children cannot eat including due to religious observance:

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Signed **(parent)**

Date

Our Lady of Fatima School Term Dates - School Year 2014 - 2015

Autumn Term 2014	Spring Term 2015	Summer Term 2015
Monday 01 September to Friday 24 Oct	Monday 05 January to Friday 13 February	Monday 13 April to Friday 22 May
Monday 03 November to Friday 19 Dec	Monday 23 February to Friday 27 March	Monday 01 June to Monday 20 July

Teacher Training Days (school closed to pupils)

- 1) Monday 1st September 2014
- 2) Friday 3rd October 2014
- 3) Monday 6th October 2014
- 4) Monday 15th June 2015
- 5) Monday 20th July 2015