



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — October 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



October's value is **honesty**. Let us all try to have the courage to be true to ourselves and each other.



On Wednesday 1st October Our Lady of Fatima Primary School became part of the **St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi Academy Company** along with: St Ambrose Catholic Primary School, Kidderminster St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Brierley Hill St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stourbridge St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School, Stourport and Hagley Catholic High School.

We look forward to working with these schools to ensure the character and ethos of our Catholic schools are secured, whilst continuing to provide quality Catholic education across the primary and secondary phase - age 4 - 19.

All parents, pupils and staff are invited to a special Mass to celebrate the conversion to Catholic Academy status. This will take place on **Thursday 16th October** at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church, Stourbridge at 7.30pm. It would be lovely if as many as possible could attend. Please make a note of this date in your diary.



This morning we officially welcomed our new Reception Class to Our Lady of Fatima School family during a special Blessing Service. It was an uplifting, prayerful occasion. Thank you to our new and existing parents from Reception Class for allowing us the privilege of nurturing and educating your children through their primary years.

October is the month of the Rosary. Our school name is dedicated in honour of Our Lady. Please spend time with your child sharing prayers from their class Prayer Book.



Please note there will be Training Days on the following dates:

Friday 3rd October 2014

Monday 6th October 2014



OCTOBER INSPIRE WORKSHOPS

Tuesday 7th October- Year 1

Tuesday 14th October- Reception Class

Tuesday 21st October- Year 3

The children really do love their parents learning alongside them in school. Please make every effort to attend.

OPEN DAY

Hagley RC High School has asked us to remind parents in Years 5 and 6 they will be holding their annual Open Day on

Saturday 18th October

9.00 am to 12.00 pm.

There will be demonstrations, performances and displays which reflect the range of opportunities offered at Hagley Catholic High School. A tour of the school is likely to take approximately 2 hours so it is advisable for visitors to arrive between 9:00am and 10:00 am.

Harvest Celebration Service

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Harvest Celebration Service in school on:



Thursday 23rd October 2014 at 9.05 am

This year we will be supporting the **Fireside Centre** - a charity for the homeless. Sister Sabina or one of her colleagues from the Fireside Centre will be attending our Harvest Service and will talk to the children about how their donations really do make a difference. We ask for donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries. These may be brought into school **on or after** Wednesday 15th October. I will send out more details in a separate letter.



We also like to support our global family and we do this by making a donation to the charity **CAFOD**.

This year we are asking parents and children to make a **coin donation**. A collection will be taken up during the service on Thursday 23rd October.

CAFOD
just one world

Mr O'Connor is organising a staff 'Bake Off' to raise

further donations for our

Harvest Appeals. All staff will

be busy baking cakes ready to sell to the children on Friday 17th October. Cakes will be judged and the winner announced in November's newsletter.

Cook books at the ready for the most original cake- the staff are already feeling the pressure!



School Meals and Healthy Schools

Practically all of our infant children are availing of the government's new initiative to provide a free school meal to all KS1 pupils.

Reminder: Our school promotes Healthy Eating; we would encourage parents to please consider this when preparing pupils lunch. There should be limited chocolate items and savoury snacks. The school has a **NO NUTS** or ingredients with known nut contents policy eg. peanut butter, chocolate bars with nuts, etc. as we have children with nut allergies.

National Curry Week

Did you know it is National Curry Week, the week beginning 13th October?

Mrs O'Brien is cooking a

special meal on **Tuesday 14th October**. If your child usually has sandwiches but would like a meal on this day, please send in £2.05 in a clearly labelled envelope



indicating Curry Week Meal. They can still avail of Fun Friday too - just indicate clearly on the envelope which meal or meals you are requesting!

Operation Christmas Child

Although we try not to think about Christmas until after half term, we will be sending out our annual 'Operation Christmas Child' slips before we break up because the team that collect the shoe boxes collect at the beginning of November. It is a lovely activity for the children to engage in during the half term break. Further details to follow.



School Admissions September 2015

Secondary School closing date: Thursday 31st October 2014.

Our Open Morning for prospective parents here at Our Lady of Fatima School is on Wednesday 5th November 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. If you are intending to apply for a place for your child, please provide the school office with your child's Baptismal Certificate.

Year 3 Sacramental Preparation

There will be a meeting for Year 3 parents on Thursday 20th November at 7 p.m. All parents should attend. The dates for sacramental preparation have already been issued and can also be found on the school's website. On 20th November parents will be asked to opt for one of the two dates in May 2015 for First Holy Communion.

POLITE REMINDER

For safety reasons please ensure that parents and pupils do not walk down the main driveway of the school. May I also remind parents that the staff car park is never to be used to drop off or pick up children during any time of the school day, including after school hours when collecting children from the After School Club. Thank you.



Aston Villa Tickets for Schools

With the new sport in school initiative, Aston Villa Tickets for Schools are encouraging us to use their initiative to boost school fund and from this buy sport equipment for the school. They have issued us with 100 tickets so if you would like to buy some they are available **at the end of the day** from the school office (the start of the school day is very busy). See attached for more details.

ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB

Dear Parent

Tickets For Schools

I am delighted to tell you we are continuing our participation in the Tickets For Schools scheme launched by Aston Villa Football Club. The scheme enables pupils to attend a home Premier League football match at Villa Park for just £1.

Taking Part

If you are interested in taking part in Tickets For Schools, we will issue your child with a voucher for £1. This can be redeemed at the Aston Villa ticket office for an under 12 match ticket at a Barclays Premier League football match of your choice. Your child can attend **up to 10** football matches each football season with the Tickets For Schools scheme. Vouchers can be redeemed in person at the Aston Villa ticket office in person or by calling 0800 612 0970 and quoting the voucher number.

The great thing for Our Lady of Fatima School is that tickets are being donated to us free of charge by Aston Villa. As a result, all funds generated from the sale of vouchers will go directly into school funds!

Supervision

So that children are appropriately supervised, children taking part in this offer must be accompanied to Villa Park by an adult and an adult can accompany up to 4 children. Aston Villa will sell one match ticket per voucher to an accompanying adult at reduced prices from £15, or an accompanying adult can also be a current Aston Villa season ticket holder.

Availability

Full terms and conditions for Ticket For Schools and details of ticket availability can be found at:
www.avfc.co.uk/ticketsforschools

If you are interested in obtaining a voucher for your child then please contact the school office. For more information, please take a look at the Frequently Asked Questions on the Tickets For Schools website.

Going to a live football game is a very exciting experience and Aston Villa prides itself on being a safe and family friendly stadium. However, before making your decision, you should read the Top Ten Tips to Enjoying a Football game set out below.

Thanks again for supporting the school.

Mrs C van Vliet

Headteacher

Our Lady of Fatima School

TOP TEN TIPS TO ENJOY A FOOTBALL MATCH

1. Check the weather report before you leave home and dress accordingly as you will be in the open air throughout the match.
2. If you have never been to a football match before you will need to understand that it is a very noisy place, 42,000 people can create quite a noise and smaller children might wish to wear ear muffs.
3. Traffic will be very heavy so plan your journey to and from Villa Park. You can find travel information at www.avfc.co.uk in the "Villa Park" section, including information on parking, public transport and the Villa special bus service.
4. You also need to understand that whilst not condoned by the Club in anyway, some people in the audience may use language that is unacceptable so you may wish to consider who you bring to the match.
5. Remember that matches with an evening kick-off might finish a bit late for younger children.
6. As you will have children with you, make sure they have your emergency contact details with them, in case you become separated. Once you are at your seats, identify the nearest 'Tickets for Schools' support worker and stand steward in case you need help.
7. When you get to Villa Park identify a place outside Villa Park (for example the big screen outside North Stand or the car park outside the Holte Pub) as a place to meet if you accidentally get separated. Do the same once you are inside Villa Park and identify where the nearest fire exit is.
8. Ensure that nobody within your group wears colours/kit of the away team as these tickets are for the home areas and it could cause problems.
9. There are food kiosks in and outside Villa Park which are open before and during the match but not afterwards so ensure you get your warm drinks when you can.
10. If you wish to visit the Club's retail store, it will be open well before the match but not always after night matches. Souvenir programmes can be purchased from the vendors all around Villa Park.

Thank you to those families who have already contributed to the Autumn Term's School Fund. Your £5.00 termly family donation enables us to buy additional resources for your children. Please consider contributing if you haven't already done so.



SCHOOL FUND AUTUMN TERM 2014

I attach my family contribution of £5 / other £ _____ for the Autumn Term 2014.

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.

Diary Dates: Further dates will be added as available.

October

(Month of the Rosary)



Wed 1

Academy Conversion

Wed 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.

Thurs 16

Year 3 Class Assembly- 'Belonging'. All welcome.

Thurs 16

Academy Mass 7.30 pm at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church, Stourbridge
All welcome.

Fri 17th

Staff 'Bake Off'- Harvest cake sale

Tues 21

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.

Fri 31

Secondary School applications - online

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 2015 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.