



Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — December 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

December's value is **generosity**. It is in giving that we receive. Being generous of heart costs very little but the rewards are great.

Advent

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent. The children are all busy preparing for their Christmas celebrations here in school, but let us also remember that amid busy preparations ahead, Jesus is in the centre of our lives, as we wait to celebrate his birth.



Thank you, thank you, thank you....

I would like to thank all pupils, parents and relatives for their tremendous generosity during this term. You have all made a special difference to the lives of others by your charitable donations.



The Book Fair raised a phenomenal amount this year enabling us to have free books worth £652. Your children will all benefit from this.



The poppy appeal raised £80 for the Royal British Legion. Our Curriculum theme of 'Memories', allowed the children to gain a true understanding of why poppies are worn.



We sent 116 christmas boxes to Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia, through the Operation Christmas Child scheme. This practical task of giving meant so much to our children as they

learnt that by giving to others, they receive huge rewards of satisfaction and spiritual growth. Thank you all for your tremendous support.

Hello and goodbye...

We wish Miss Adkins a fond farewell at the end of this term as she moves on to her new position in one of the schools within our Multi Academy. I would like to thank her for her dedication and hard work in providing Year 4 with the very best start during the Autumn term. At the start of the Spring Term we welcome Mrs McGuinness who will be Year 4's new teacher and we also welcome Mr Bagwell who will teach Year 5, enabling Mr O'Connor to carry out his responsibilities as a non-class based Deputy Headteacher. I know that you will continue to support our new class teachers as they work together with you in providing the best education and well-being for your child.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Mrs Barnes on the safe arrival of Oliver on Monday 1st December, five days late but well worth the wait.



Mr Peeney has asked me to thank all parents, staff and pupils on his behalf, for the lovely Mass of Thanksgiving for the Governing Body which was celebrated last Thursday in school. He was truly touched by the generosity shown. It was a fitting way to mark the very hard work and commitment of the Governing Body over many years and I feel sure that we will remember them all in our prayers.

The Infants and Juniors are now busy preparing for their Nativity Plays and Carol Service and we look forward to welcoming as many families who can attend. Please choose to attend either of the performances as it may not be possible to attend both due to numbers.

Infants: Thursday 11th December at 9.15am or 2.15pm.

Juniors: Monday 15th December at 2.15pm.

Refreshments will be served in the dining hall after the celebrations.

Our final Whole School Mass will be this Friday 5th December at 9.05 a.m. and will be led by Year 3. As always, you and your family are most welcome.

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 12th December will be a non-uniform day to allow the children (and staff!) to wear a Christmas jumper or a Christmas t-shirt for the day. We are suggesting £1 donation which will be sent to the 'Save the Children Fund'. The government has promised to match every £1 raised by schools and so this is a very worthwhile event.



PTA Event

The next event will be the Infant and Junior Discos in the Church Parish Hall on Thursday **18th December**.



Infants 6—7.30pm

Juniors 8—9.30pm

Infant parents are asked to stay with their children and Junior parents will be asked to provide a telephone contact number.

School Website

Our school website is regularly updated with recent events that have taken place in school. School policies can also be found on the website too. Please do take the time to browse as it really does offer parents a good opportunity to keep up to date with the busy, productive school life.

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Pending Road Works

Birmingham City Council has informed us that road repairs will be carried out week commencing Monday 1st December for two weeks. A text message was sent to all parents to give them prior warning. The surrounding roads to our school will be affected. The Council has adequately positioned notice of these roadworks at the end of each road affected. I would ask that you consider where best to park during this disruption, to ensure the safety and punctuality of your children arriving at and leaving from school.

Parking

Despite my numerous requests for cars to be parked with due consideration for our neighbouring residents, I receive regular correspondence from residents (mainly near Word Hill) who are unhappy with how a small minority of parents park, particularly at the end of the school day. We need to remember that local residents should be able to leave their properties at



any time, without being blocked in by cars parked across their drives. Please consider arriving at school slightly earlier, which would allow you to park carefully, safely and legally.

Inspire Workshops



There has been a fantastic turnout for the 'Inspire eSafety Workshops' during the Autumn Term. We have one remaining eSafety workshop for Year 6 parents on Tuesday 20th January 2015. Parents have shared that they are now so much more well informed about how their children can use the internet to its best, ensuring safe practice at all times. I would like to thank Mr O'Connor for working alongside each class teacher to deliver these workshops.

Mrs Greatrex has requested a Parents' Information afternoon on Monday 2nd February 2015 at 2.45 pm. This will be to inform all parents of the end of year Assessments (SATs) which take place week beginning 11th May 2015. A separate letter will be issued to all Year 6 parents nearer the time.

Our Lady of Fatima Church Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 6pm and 8pm

Christmas Day: 9am and 11am

Boxing Day: 10am

The Parish Bazaar takes place this Saturday 6th December in the parish hall, Higgins Lane starting at 11.30 am- 2.30 pm. This is an important fundraiser for the Parish. There is a fancy dress for children, an important visitor (in red) will be there and there is the opportunity to capture the moment with a photograph. We have some books of raffle tickets (£5 per book) in the school office if you would like some. If you have any

tombola gifts or you would like to bake cakes for the cake stall, the parish committee would be most grateful.

Christmas Celebrations in School



Christmas Parties will be on the afternoon of Tuesday 16th December. Children may wear party clothes all day. Your child will bring home a party food box to be filled with party food you know your child will enjoy. This is in addition to their lunch. A very special visitor (in red, with a fluffy white beard) will be making a guest appearance at the parties.

Pantomime

On Wednesday 17th December the children will be treated to a wonderful pantomime production of 'the Wizard of Oz' in school.

Christmas Lunch

There will be a traditional Christmas lunch open to all pupils on Thursday 18th December. Parents of children who already have a cooked lunch at school need not order this meal, but those children who normally have a packed lunch but would like a Christmas lunch on that day must complete the form below by Friday 12th December, so that Mrs O'Brien can order the additional food required.

Please note: Snacks will not be sold on Thursday 18th December. There will still be a 'Fun Friday' lunch on Friday 19th December.

Christmas Hats

Your children are welcome to wear party hats for their parties and their Christmas lunch. These can be made at home and may remain in school to cover both events.



On Saturday 29th November during Mass at Holy Trinity Parish, Sutton Coldfield, Mrs Martin was awarded the **Benemerenti Medal** in honour for her

service to the Catholic Church and Catholic Education. This is a most prestigious medal, awarded by His Holiness Pope Francis. I felt

privileged to be able to attend the Mass with Mr Peeney on the school's behalf. We wish Mrs Martin continued happiness throughout her retirement.

And finally.... I would like to thank all pupils, parents and staff for their strong support during this first term of my new Headship. Our Lady of Fatima School is truly a very special place. On behalf of the staff, may I wish you all a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas with your families and friends.

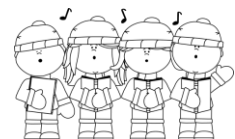
With God's blessings,

Mrs van Vliet



Diary Dates:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| December | Advent starts Sunday 30th November - 4 Sundays of Advent |
| Wed 3 | Last day for Reception applications for Sept 2015 to B'ham LA |
| Wed 3 | Finance and Full Academy Committee Meeting 6 pm |
| Thurs 4 | Year 3 visit to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery- Staffordshire Hoard |
| Fri 5 | Whole School Mass Feast of St Nicholas (led by Year 3) 9.05 a.m. All welcome. |
| Sat 6 | Parish Christmas Fayre starting at 11.30 am. ALL WELCOME. |
| Thurs 11 | Infant Nativity 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. |
| Fri 12 | Christmas jumper day -£1.00 donation to 'Save the Children Fund'
All donations will be matched by government funding. |
| Mon 15 | Junior Carol Service 2.15 p.m. |
| Tues 16 | Christmas Class Parties (afternoon) |
| Wed 17 | Christmas Pantomime- The Wizard of Oz |
| 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.

Child(ren)s name(s): _____ **Class:** _____

would like a Christmas lunch on Thursday 18th December . £2.05 per meal is enclosed.

Please return by Friday 12th December.

Signed: _____ (parent)