



Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — January 2015

'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

January's value is **tolerance**. As we begin a new year let us aim to practise tolerance of one another in all situations, so when difficult times lie ahead, we have some experience of it.

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas with your families and friends. On behalf of staff, I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity of cards and gifts. The end of last term was so exciting and incredibly busy and we now look forward to an equally busy term ahead.



On Tuesday we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with Mass when we thought of the visitors who travelled to see the new born king so many years ago. We now link our prayers and our thoughts to our value of the month- **tolerance**. We are grateful for all of God's blessings given to us each day. The Three Kings found Jesus, by journeying and searching and exercising tolerance with each other by working together to find Jesus. We hope to be able to exercise the same level of tolerance with each other as and when we are faced with daily challenges.

Welcome...

We welcome Mrs McGuinness (Year 4) and Mr Bagwell (Year 5) to our school. I am delighted that they have joined our school team. Miss Deen will be joining our team of Teaching Assistants, covering Mrs Barnes' maternity leave until the Summer term. Mrs O'Grady has also joined our Lunch Time Supervisors, ensuring that your children are safe and happy during lunch times. I know that you will continue to support all of our staff as they work together with you in providing the best education and well-being for your children.


Extreme Weather Conditions

Just a reminder about school closures in extreme weather conditions. We will still use the system of informing parents via the local radio stations, school website and the SMS text messaging system, so it is vitally important that we are informed of any changes to your mobile number.



Attendance

Congratulations to Year 4 for winning the Attendance Cup for last half term. As you can see the percentages were so close with a whole school overall percentage of **97.8%**. Well done everyone!

Year Group	% attendance
Year 4	98.5 
Year 2	98.2
Reception	97.8
Year 3	97.7
Year 1	97.5
Year 6	97.4
Year 5	97.3

Punctuality

We have a very small minority of families who regularly arrive at school after 8:55 a.m. Please consider allowing time for traffic by leaving home a few minutes earlier. It makes for a smoother start to the day when pupils are registered on time in class.

Christmas Jumper Day



On Friday 12th December we enjoyed a non-uniform day so that all children (and staff!) could wear a Christmas jumper or a Christmas t-shirt for the day. We raised £175 for 'Save the Children'. Thank you so much for your kind generosity. The government matched every £1 raised by schools and so this was a very worthwhile event.

Thank you also for donating £44.63 to Macmillan Cancer Care as a result of the refreshments following the Christmas services.

St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi Academy Directors



Following the recent parent elections I can now inform you that we have our full complement of Directors. Mrs Maxine Millward (a parent from St Joseph's) and Mr David Harris (a parent from St Mary's) have been duly elected. Thank you to those parents who exercised their right to vote alongside the other schools in the MAC.

School Website

I would like to draw your attention to our school website which is regularly updated with recent events that have taken place in school. School policies and procedures can 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. All newsletters are published on the website and can be referred to if the paper copy sent home is misplaced.

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School Meals

The Department of Education use a formula for allocating money to schools and the percentage 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. I would like to encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

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

School Themed Meals

American Themed Meal



On Thursday 15th January children who currently bring a packed lunch will be able to purchase a school meal with an American theme. Hot dogs, chocolate donuts and milkshakes always prove very popular. If your child would like a school meal on this day please send in £2.05 in an envelope clearly labelled 'American Meal' by Monday 12th January.

Chinese New Year Meal



Mrs O'Brien and her team always cook a festive meal to celebrate Chinese New Year and the children enjoy opening their fortune cookies! This year, the **Year of the Sheep** falls during the February half term, but we still intend to offer a special meal on Tuesday 10th February. Parents of children who bring a packed lunch can avail of this meal by sending £ 2.05 on or before Monday 2nd February so that Mrs O'Brien has time to order in advance. Please clearly label your child's envelope with 'Chinese Meal'.

Health for Life



Mrs Levack has applied, and been successful in securing a grant of £3,500 to fund teaching the children to adopt a healthier lifestyle. This is a whole school project and will involve looking at food standards, preparing and cooking food, gardening, growing vegetables (and eating them!) and learning how to substitute less healthy foods for healthier options. Further details will be sent out in a separate letter.

11:00 a.m Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

As you are aware children from Years 4-6 can volunteer to read at the 11:00 a.m Sunday Mass at church. I would like to thank those children and their families who already support their parish by reading at the Masses. Please consider encouraging your child to read when it is their class's turn to volunteer. Children from Years 4-6 may also like to consider becoming an altar server at church and in school. It is encouraging to see an increase of children attending the 11.00 a.m Mass and enjoying Mrs Hooper's liturgy.



Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation On Thursday 5th February we welcome Year 3 parents to a meeting in the school hall at 7 p.m. in preparation for the children's Sacrament of Reconciliation which will take place on Saturday 7th March. It is very important that all children are represented at this meeting.

PTA Quiz Night



The PTA's quiz night is Friday 6th February in the school hall. There's nothing wrong with a little healthy competition...so you may like to take time to swat up on your general knowledge and music from days gone by!

School Fund - IMPORTANT REMINDER

Our School Fund is very necessary to provide small everyday items for school and pupils' use and planned activities for example visiting theatre groups. It would be very much appreciated if a voluntary contribution of **£5 per family** (per term) was made to

the fund. I am sure that we can count on your support. There was a slight increase in the contributions made during the Autumn term, but it would be greatly appreciated if **all** families would consider contributing so that we can plan ahead for activities. Please return the attached slip with your contribution as soon as possible.



Parking

As a 'New Year's Resolution' I am hoping that parents will be courteous by parking with consideration for the safety of all our pupils and their families as well as our local residents. I would like to remind you that the staff car park should **never** be used by parents before, during or after school hours. In terms of ensuring safe access to the school, the school driveway should not be used to enter the school premises. We have deliveries at random times of the day and often the drivers reverse back down the driveway to leave our premises.

Inspire Workshops



The final e-Safety workshop for Year 6 parents will take place on Tuesday 20th January 2015 beginning at 9.10 am.



There will be an additional Parents' Information afternoon on Monday 2nd February 2015 at 2.45pm. This will be to inform all parents about the end of year assessments (SATs) which take place week beginning 11th May 2015. A letter will be issued to year 6 parents nearer the time.

PE: Swimming and Villa Coaching

Years 3 and 4 will be swimming on Friday afternoons starting Friday 16th January. Please ensure that your child packs their swimming kit the night before and that they also remember to bring it to school with them ready for their lesson.

Years 5 and 6 will begin Villa coaching lessons on Friday mornings from Friday 16th January. Weather permitting these lessons will take place outside, so please ensure that your child brings suitably warm clothing to wear.

Polite Reminder

Fashion haircuts are not allowed in school. Please refer to the School Prospectus on the website for further guidance. We do not encourage the wearing of earrings for safety reasons, particularly in PE. However, any earrings worn must only be small studs. Thank you for your support.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF TERM DATE:

The **children** will return to school in the Autumn Term 2015 on **Thursday 3rd September 2015** at 8.55 am.

Wednesday 2nd September will be the first of our five Teacher Days and children will not be expected in school on this day.

Dates for Diary –January- March 2015

There will be more dates to add as the term continues but these dates are available so far:

Mon 5 th Jan	Return to school Spring term 2015 3.35-4.55 pm Italian After School Club starts for Year 4 beginners.
Tues 6 th Jan	9.05 am School Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany led by Year 6
Tues 13 th Jan	Reception Class Hearing health checks 3.30-4.15 p.m. Yr 6 Makaton After School Club begins
Thurs 15 th Jan	'American' themed school lunch
Fri 16 th Jan	Years 3 and 4 swimming lessons begin (all term) Years 5 and 6 Villa Coaching begins
Sun 18 th Jan	11.00 a.m. 'Caring' Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church— for <u>all</u> Year 3 children & their families
Tues 20 th Jan	9.05 a.m. Year 6 Inspire Workshop - tea and coffee in BASC from 8.55 a.m
Wed 28 th Jan	Class Saint Feast Day - Saint Thomas Aquinas Year 5 - non-school uniform day
Mon 2 nd Feb	2.45 p.m Year 6 SAT's Parents' Meeting
Tues 3 rd Feb	Year 6 Able Writers' Day
Thurs 5 th Feb	9.05 a.m Year 1 Class Assembly 7 p.m Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents' Meeting in the school hall
Fri 6 th Feb	PTA Quiz (adults only) details to follow
Tues 10 th Feb	'Chinese' themed school lunch
Wed 11 th Feb	6 p.m School Academy Committee meeting
Thurs 12 th Feb	7 p.m Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Evening Concert at Birmingham Town Hall
Friday 13th Feb	3.30 p.m. Break up for Half Term
<i>Wed 18th Feb</i>	<i>10.00 am Mass for Ash Wednesday at Our Lady of Fatima Church</i>
Monday 23rd Feb	8.55 a.m. School re-opens
Wed 25 th Feb	KS2 Malachi workshops
Mon 2 nd Mar	Class Saint Feast Day - Saint Chad Year 6 - non-school uniform day
Sat 7 th Mar	11 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) — Year 3 at Our Lady of

Fatima Church

- Wed 11th Mar Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. **Parents only for all appointments**- please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
- Thurs 12th Mar Reception Class 'Mothers' Day' Assembly
- Mon 16th Mar Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. **Parents only for all appointments**- please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
- Tues 17th Mar St Patrick's Day- non- school uniform day- green/ orange clothes
- Tues 24th Mar Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
- Wed 25th Mar One Life Music workshops led by Dan Callow
6 p.m School Academy Committee Meeting
- Thurs 26th Mar 9.05 a.m. Year 3 'Sharing a Meal' Assembly followed by 'Brunch' for all Year 3 pupils and their parents (separate letter to follow)
- Fri 27th Mar 3.30 p.m. Last day of spring term—school closes for Easter Holiday
- Mon 13th Apr 8.55 a.m Children return to school after Easter holidays.**



SCHOOL FUND SPRING TERM 2015

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