



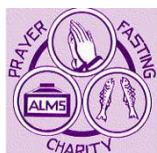
Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — March 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

March's value is **forgiveness**. There is no love without forgiveness and there is no forgiveness without love.



Our Journey through Lent

This is a very important time in the liturgical year and the children will continue their Lenten faith journey in school as they prepare for the most important celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Our preparation includes: Year 3 receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time (7th March), Service of Reconciliation and individual Confession for Years 4–6, the Stations of the Cross and on the last Thursday of term Year 3 will lead a special service 'Sharing a Meal' which all parents are welcome to attend. We remember the three important aspects of Lent: **Prayer, Fast and Almsgiving**.

Once again as a school we are supporting charities near to home as well as the wider world—Father Hudson's Society and the Catholic Primary Partnership's Rwanda Schools Appeal.


Your child will have received a collection box for Father Hudson's Society. Do encourage them to link their 'fasting' to 'giving'. We hope that the activities that the children engage in, in school each week, help them on their Lenten faith journey. Many of them are 'enjoyable' so that they recognise that helping others in greater need is not always a

painful sacrifice, even though sorting out their toys for toy sale might be a little painful at the time, they will be able to choose something *they* want to buy at the sale. The 'silver trail' where the whole school adds silver coins to an iconic picture to raise money is a very spiritually uplifting occasion. The Wednesday Word, class prayer bags and 'Walk with Me' calendars are useful ways that you can prepare at home as a family. Please check the Lenten diary dates sent out in the last week of last half term, so that you are aware of the weekly fund-raising activities. A copy of this can be found on our website under the Diary Dates section.

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Attendance

Congratulations once again to **Year 4** for winning the Attendance Cup for last half term. Given the amount of coughs, colds and high temperatures we had last half term, the class percentages were remarkably good, with an overall percentage of **97.5%**, which is still well above the national average of 96.1%. Well done everyone!

Year Group	% attendance
Year 4	98.2 
Year 3	97.8
Years 2 and 5	97.7
Year 1	97.2
Reception	97.1
Year 6	97.0

Parent Consultation Meetings

You will receive your Parents' Evening appointment letters next week for either of our Parent



Consultation Meetings taking place on Wednesday 11th and Monday 16th March. Classrooms will be open for parents to view classwork and meetings will take place in the school hall. May I suggest that you arrive early for your appointment so that you have enough time to look at your child's work before meeting with the class teacher? Please remember that we cannot offer supervision for children, so please make arrangements in advance for children to be supervised off premises.

Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall



I hope the parents and families who attended the Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall

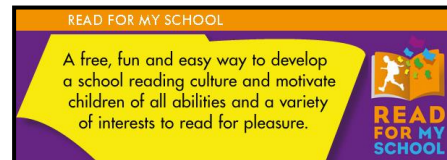
enjoyed the event especially our own children's performance of 'Your Song'. Mr O'Connor, Mr Bagwell and I were incredibly proud of the children, both in terms of behaviour and performance.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are collecting the Active Kids vouchers which can be redeemed against a wide range of active equipment. Thank you for your support in collecting these vouchers and bringing them into school.



KS2 'Read for my school'



Reading for pleasure is at the heart of this initiative, which aims to generate excitement about books and cultivate long-lasting positive attitudes towards reading. We always try to recognise the importance of reading so please do encourage your child to take part in this online reading initiative. All KS2 pupils have a log in and password to access the electronic books at:

www.readformyschool.co.uk

Health for Life

Our Health for Life project has started to take shape.



You may have noticed the arrival of some new raised beds ready for planting to take place over the next few weeks. Our first 'Health for Life Newsletter' will be sent out to parents later this week. It will inform you of the exciting plans we have for offering your children a greater awareness

and understanding of the benefits of a sustained healthy lifestyle.

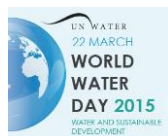
PTA St Patrick's Day Disco



The PTA is hosting their annual St Patrick's Day Disco on Friday 20th March 2015 in the school hall

from 6.30- 9 pm. There is always a great atmosphere at this event. Drinks and hot food can be purchased as well. We also have some very talented parents who enjoy Irish dancing, so please do your best to attend to raise further funds for school.

World Water Aid Day: £1 donation



Friday 20th March will be a non-school uniform day in support of World Water Aid Day. We often

take fresh water for granted and so this is an opportunity to think of those living without clean water. Even a small donation can help towards providing water wells, taps and pumps. Our

contributions will help towards giving the gift of safe, clean water. Dress in blue or in a 'water related' costume- Nemo, mermaids or pirates for example.

Arrangements for picking up children from school

Occasionally collection arrangements do change due to circumstances beyond your control. Should you wish somebody else to collect your child(ren) at short notice, please telephone the school office to inform us of the new arrangement. In terms of the safety of your children, the staff are extremely vigilant and will never hand children over to other adults unless the office staff have informed them first. Thank you for your co-operation.

Advance notice

The **photographer** will be coming into school on **Tuesday 14th April**. There will be an opportunity for individual and family photographs of sibling in their school uniform.

Dates for Diary: February - March 2015

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

Monday 23rd Feb 8.55 a.m. School re-opens

Tues 24th Feb Visiting athlete - workshops for all classes

Wed 25th Feb KS2 Malachi workshops

Mon 2nd Mar Class Saint Feast Day - Saint Chad **Year 6**- non-school uniform day

Year 5 Irish D & T workshops in preparation for St Patrick's Day Parade

Sat 7th Mar 11 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) — Year 3 at Our Lady of

Fatima Church

- Mon 9th Mar **Year 4** Irish D & T workshops in preparation for St Patrick's Day Parade
- 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
- Sun 15th Mar St Patrick's Day Parade- OLF are leading the parade- all welcome!**
- 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
- Fri 20th Mar Water Aid Day- non-school uniform day- 'water' themed costumes (mermaids, Pirates, Nemo or blue clothing)
- Fri 20th Mar PTA St Patrick's Day Disco 6.30-9pm. All welcome.
- 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.**

Reminder of the remaining Teacher Training Days 2014/15

Monday 15th June 2015

Monday 20th July 2015



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.