



Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — April 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

April's value is **courage**. Courage is always an act of love and strength.

Our Journey from Lent to Easter

Easter is a very important time in the church's



liturgical year and during Lent the children prepared themselves very well for this great Feast by remembering the three important aspects of Lent: **Prayer, Fasting and**

Almsgiving. During the last week of the Spring Term our preparations included: praying the Stations of the Cross, a Service of Reconciliation with individual Confessions for Years 4–6, taking part in the Lenten Retreat Day led by Dan Callow and Yvonne Stanley, a special 'Sharing a Meal' service, led by Year 3, which was most moving and finally almsgiving by donating coins during our annual Silver Coin Trail. This Lenten activity, along with other weekly activities raised a staggering **£1,753.65** which is to be equally shared between our chosen charities-Father Hudson's Society and the Catholic Primary Partnership's Rwanda Schools Appeal. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils and their families for their generosity. Practical tasks, together with prayer meant so much to our children as they learnt that

by giving to others, they receive huge rewards of satisfaction and spiritual growth.

World Water Aid



The Before and After School Club wanted to fund raise for this important cause, especially as it linked to our Creative Curriculum theme of 'Water' last term. Thank you to everyone who helped to raise **£321.15** on 20th March by wearing blue or water themed costumes. Some staff members just like an excuse to dress up too!


Parents' Evening

We had excellent **99% attendance** at the mid-year consultation meetings. This was an important opportunity for you as parents to gain an update about your child's progress and well-being. Thank you also for completing the Parent Survey. Your views and opinions are important to us and so it is reassuring to know what we do well and comments and suggestions for becoming even better are

always welcome. Please visit our website for statistical analysis of the completed surveys.

Attendance

Congratulations once again to **Year 4** for winning the Attendance Cup for the third time this year! Given the illness that can occur during the winter months, the class percentages were remarkably good, with an overall percentage of **97.4%**, 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	97.6
Year 1	97.2
Year 6	96.9
Reception	96.7

Our Lady of Fatima School Website

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk



Our school website is regularly updated. It is a great line of communication, so that parents and others who want to find out more about us are able to be kept up to date with news, information and events. Please do spend some time looking at our Events Page, where you will see the varied activities your children complete in school. At the bottom of the welcome page there is an itemised list of what has been added most recently.

Parking

I would once again like to thank parents who are thoughtful enough to park considerately on the roads leading to the school.

Can I please politely remind parents to be mindful of our neighbours on Word Hill, Spreadbury Close, Winchfield Drive and surrounding roads? May I ask that your parked cars do not obstruct any driveways? Parents should also note that the garages on Spreadbury Close and Walmead Croft are private property and that parking in front of them may be classed as trespassing.

There is no facility for parking on school premises when collecting your child from any After School Clubs.

I have also had communication from West Midlands Travel that some parents are parking in the bus lane on the Hagley Road and leaving their vehicles when dropping off and picking up their children from school. This is not permitted and could result in a fine.

Walk to School Week

During May there is a dedicated week when all children (and parents!) are encouraged to 'walk to school' or walk part of the way. Why wait until then? Apart from supporting a healthy lifestyle with increased exercise, walking some of the way to school on a regular basis would address some of our parking issues as well as adopting a healthier lifestyle. The weather is becoming milder now and it is also an opportunity for friends to walk together whilst keeping fit. Please do consider parking a little way from school and walking the rest of the way. This will require leaving home slightly earlier to avoid being late!

School Meals

There will be a slight increase (5p) in the price of school meals. From 13th April 2015 prices will be:



1 day £ 2.10

1 week £ 10.50

Change in lunch arrangements

School staff try to be as flexible as possible when parents change meal arrangements but please remember that it is important to give a week's notice if your child is changing to school meals or vice versa. If your child has a Friday school meal please still remember to send your money into school in a clearly labelled envelope on Mondays.

Health for Life



Our Health for Life project continues to take shape. Pupils and staff have been working hard planting and gardening to ensure that hopefully by the summer months we will have some plants/crops to sell. Please do not let your children run around near the raised beds or planting areas as this can lead to damaging our plants. By treating our plants respectfully the children will learn a greater understanding of the benefits of a cared for environment.



PTA St Patrick's Day Disco

Thank you to all children, parents and staff who attended the St PTA's St Patrick's Day disco.

There was a great atmosphere and we were treated to some Irish Dancing from the Scanlon School of Dancing. May I draw your attention to the PTA

noticeboard on the wall by Year 1. This is regularly updated by the PTA and gives information about forthcoming fundraising events.

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. In the Summer months, when the evenings are lighter, Year 6 pupils like to take the opportunity to walk home/ catch the bus with a friend, in preparation for transition to Year 7. Mrs Greatrex will need to be informed in writing if you wish your child to walk/catch the bus home. Thank you for your co-operation.



School Fund Contributions

We are grateful to those families who donate £5 each term towards extras to supplement your child's education. If you feel you can contribute during the Summer term, please send in your contribution with the slip at the end of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Summer Uniform

Many children will choose to switch to summer uniforms, now that the warmer weather is here. Our uniform is listed on the school website. Please

ensure that we maintain the high standards of presentation at our school by keeping to some basic uniform rules:

- Summer dresses if worn are light blue check or stripes.
- School shoes are important, not trainers. These must be suitable for wearing to run on our lovely field.
- Boys and girls may wear a white polo shirt instead of shirt and tie.
- Don't forget you can buy uniform online at Tesco's as well as Clive Marks or standard supermarkets.
- Avoid fashion haircuts or excessive hair accessories.
- Blue school caps or hats are available from office.

Polite Notice



Please ensure that your child is not running on the grass, near the plants or by the PTA shed before and after school. I would like to remind you that all children are supervised on the climbing /play equipment during school hours. Accidents have occurred after school when children have been handed over to parents by the school staff. Your child/ren should wait with you, until you are ready to leave the premises. Thank you.

Dates for Diary: April- July 2015

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

Mon 13 April	Start of Term School opens
Mon 13 April	Italian after school starts
Tues 14 April	School Photographs - individuals and siblings
Wed 15 April	Dance Club after school starts
Thurs 16 April	Class Saint Feast Day - Saint Bernadette Year 4 non-school uniform day
Thurs 16 April	Villa Coaching after school starts
Thurs 16 April	Year 3 Parents' First Holy Communion Meeting at 7.00pm in school
Mon 20 April	Community Police workshops- Years 4 and 5
Wed 22 April	Year 6 Able Mathematicians' workshop
Wed 22 April	Community Police workshops- Reception Class (i) and Year 2
Thurs 23 April	Year 6 Parents' Confirmation Meeting at 7.00pm in school
Sun 26 April	Year 6 Enrolment Mass at 11.00 a.m in Church
Tues 28 April	Community Police workshops-Reception Class (ii) and Year 1
Thurs 30 April	Years 5 and 6 Maths Challenge
Mon 4 May	May Day Bank Holiday - School closed

Sat 9 May	First Holy Communion Mass at 12.00 noon in Church (first date)
Mon 11 May	SATs Week
Wed 13 May	Academy Committee Meeting
Sat 16 May	First Holy Communion Mass at 12.00 noon in Church (second date)
Mon 18 May	WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK
Mon 18 May	May Procession at 2.00 pm in school
Tues 19 May	Years 5 and 6 Keyboard Day at the Mac, Cannon Hill- Parents welcome.
Wed 20 May	Year 6 to attend the Good Shepherd Mass at St Chad's Cathedral- a.m
Wed 20 May	Hagley Mass Band - p.m
Thurs 21 May	Year 5's Class Assembly
Fri 22 May	Break up for Half Term
Mon 1 June	School Re-opens
Tues 2 June	KS2 to visit Bear Creek- Edgbaston Reservoir
Wed 3 June	Community Police workshop- Year 6
Thurs 4 June	Year 5 Transition and Alton Castle Meeting at 7.00 pm in school
Sun 7 June	Going Forth Mass at 11.00 a.m in Church
Mon 8 June	Bikeability Week for Year 5
Wed 10 June	Year 6 visit to St Chad's Cathedral
Fri 12 June	Father Seamus celebrates 60 years as a priest- details of celebrations to follow
Mon 15 June	Teacher Training Day - School closed to pupils
Mon 15 June	Year 1 Phonic Screening checks
Tues 16 June	Reception Class visit to the Think Tank Museum
Wed 17 June	Community Police workshop- Year 3
Thurs 18 June	New Intake Evening- Reception Class Sept 2015 at 6.45 pm in school
Fri 19 June	Year 6 Illumination Mass at 9.05am in school
Wed 24 June	Hagley Dance Group a.m.
Tues 30 June	Year 1 visit Mount Pleasant Farm

Wed 1 July	Year 6 Transition Day to Secondary Schools
Thurs 2 July	Year 4's Class Assembly
Mon 6 July	Hagley Band Tour a.m
Tues 7 July	Year 6 Sacrament of Confirmation at 7 p.m in Church
Sat 11 July	PTA Summer Fayre
Mon 13 July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass 2 p.m in school
Thurs 16 July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly at 9.05 a.m in school
Fri 17 July	3.10 pm Farewell Bubbles on the field
Fri 17 July	End of Term School closes for Summer
Mon 20 July	Teacher Training Day - School closed to pupils

Pupils return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2015: Years 1-6



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SCHOOL FUND SUMMER 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.