



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — September 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



Our **value** of the month is **friendship**. Let us all try to extend the hand of friendship to our community.

Welcome

A warm welcome back to everyone! I hope that you all had a lovely summer break with your families and friends. I would like to extend a special warm welcome to our new children and their families. I know that the whole school community will help our new families to settle in well. I am sure that all the children are happy to be reunited with their friends.

Mass : Thursday 10th September

You are all invited to our first Mass of the new school year in the school hall starting at 9.05 am. We will dedicate the Mass to celebrating Our Lady's birthday which actually falls on 8th September. Please do join us in this school community worship.



Refurbishment

We continue to modernise and update the school to provide the children with the highest quality learning environment. This summer we have redecorated the hall and KS1 and KS2 corridors, installed more effective lighting in the school hall, fitted new fire doors to the hall, KS2 classrooms and the office areas and refurbished KS2 girls' and boys' toilets. Years 3 and 4 are also delighted with the arrival of new lockers for their belongings. Updating the school and making it the best environment we can possibly offer will also lead to maintaining and improving standards of learning

and teaching. We should all be very proud of our lovely school!

School Information

If there are any changes of address or telephone numbers please let Ms Murgatroyd or Mrs Hayden know ASAP. A current phone number is



essential in case the school needs to contact you urgently. Mobile phone numbers change frequently, so please make sure we have your current mobile number. An annual medical update form for Years 1-6 is being sent out with this newsletter. **Please return this as soon as possible, even if your child has no medical conditions (just write N/A).** We can then be certain that we have the most up-to-date information from you. If your child has an inhaler please make sure it is back in school after the holiday and that the 'use by date' will last for the whole term. May I also remind you that First Aiders may only give prescribed medicines if parents complete a school consent form.

School Nurse Drop In Clinic

Lindsey Davies and Paula Conlon-Swain, our school nurses, will be available in school every fortnight on Tuesday mornings from 8.30- 10.30 am, starting on 22nd September. Lindsey and Paula will be able to offer advice and support with any medical issues or other concerns such as dietary requirements.

School Procedures

If there are any problems or concerns that parents would like to discuss with a class teacher, staff are more than willing to meet you **after school by appointment**. Mornings are not really suitable for meetings without prior notice as staff are preparing for the school day and once the bell rings, their priority is the children. Other more urgent messages may, of course, be left with the office.

Attendance and Punctuality



We pride ourselves that our overall school attendance exceeds the national figure.

When we broke up in July, our attendance for the academic year of 2014-15 was 97.4%. The overall best attenders were the current Year 5. We also place importance on the punctuality of all children as this makes a good start to the day. The Infant and Junior doors will open from 8:45 a.m. to allow all children to arrive in their classroom by 8:55 a.m. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, we will contact you to arrange to make an appointment. Holidays during term time are strictly **unauthorised**. Today you will also receive a letter from me sharing Government guidelines regarding school attendance during term time.

Dinner Money / Other Money

When sending money into school, please ensure it is in a sealed envelope labelled with your child's name, class and what the money is for. **Money for different items should be sent in separate envelopes.** A reminder that school dinners are £10.50 per week and this should be handed in on **Monday morning**. Dinner money can be paid weekly or half termly by cheque (made payable to 'Education Catering' with your cheque card number and child's initials on the back). Children who usually have a packed lunch might like to avail of a Friday lunch which is paid for at the beginning of the

week - £ 2.10. There will be a special menu for all children on Thursday 1st October. Details to follow.



Details regarding entitlement to free school meals are available from the school office. The DfE use a formula for allocating money to schools and the % 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. We would encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/school_

Early Birds and Evening Owls Club

At present the club is full on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are limited places left for Monday and Friday mornings and Friday afternoons. There are cancellations on occasions, so it is always worth checking with Mrs Rickerby - 07805 511796 should you require child care before or after school. If you have booked places **but do not need them**, please let Mrs Rickerby know as soon as possible as we have a waiting list. **A reminder that sessions are chargeable when booked, even if they are not taken up.**



Premises & Safety

During the summer break the school has been cleaned very thoroughly by Mr and Mrs Rollason and we thank them for making it such a lovely, clean environment for the children to return to and be educated in. Please remember that the play equipment is not supervised before or after school and all children, including pre-

school children should not be using the equipment for safety reasons. The equipment left outside on the Reception playground, including the Mud Kitchen should also not be used before or after school.



A plea from Mrs Lake

If anyone would like to donate any two wheeled bicycles to suit 5-7 year olds, Mrs Lake would be extremely appreciative. She would be also thankful for any bicycle helmets. Thank you.



P.T.A. News : Diary Dates

PTA AGM - Thursday 17th September 7 p.m.

Welcome Disco - Friday 2nd October 6:30- 9pm

Our annual Summer Fair last July was a huge success. A tremendous total profit of £3,545 was raised. This included £1320 generated from the Summer Fair entry programme. A huge thank you to all PTA volunteers and parents, families and friends who supported this event.

The committed PTA has grown in numbers since last year but they are always ready to welcome new or existing parents - please consider whether you can volunteer to be a member of the P.T.A. or volunteer to help out at events - why not come along to the A.G.M. on Thursday 17th September to find out more?

The welcome disco on 2nd October is open to all families and is a great way for our new families to get to know each other but please remember that all children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

A polite reminder: as a public building, the law regarding no smoking covers all parts of the school premises including the playground and paths.

Alton Castle

Year 6 children will be taking part in a retreat between 23rd - 25th September. Further details for parents will follow.

The Pope App

Please follow the link:



<http://www.news.va/en/source/vatican.va>

to a new website, created and designed for us to keep in touch with what Pope Francis does and to listen to what he has to say. Please take a look and listen to Pope Francis' inspiring words of wisdom. This link is also available on the school's website: www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Internet Safety Yr 1-6



In line with our Internet Safety

Policy, an acceptable use form will be sent home with this newsletter today, to be read and signed and returned by Monday 14th September.

Inspire Workshops

A separate letter has already been issued to inform you of the Inspire Workshop dates. The workshops for most classes will focus on Healthy Lifestyles and will be led by class teachers and staff from Tesco's. Please make a note of the workshop for your child/ren so that you can make arrangements to attend.

Uniform

Your children have all returned to school looking extremely smart. Thank you for supporting our school uniform policy- a copy can be found on the school's website. Please ensure that all your child's uniform and PE kit is labelled. A list is attached to this newsletter as a reminder. This includes reference to fashion haircuts, hair accessories, jewellery etc. Please do not be persuaded by your child to allow fashion haircuts as these are not permitted in school.

Coats: As the British weather is so changeable, although the mornings may seem warm, children should bring a coat to wear at playtimes as the weather can change quickly.



Parking : A reminder to our new and existing families.

The car park in Winchfield Drive must never be used by parents at any time including when collecting from the after school club, regardless of inclement weather. Please make sure that this safety message is passed on to anyone who collects your child.

Please also remember to park with consideration on the roads surrounding the school so that local residents can gain access to their own properties. Parents should never park on any zig zag lines. Please consider leaving home a few minutes earlier so that

you have time to park safely and



walk your child into the school playgrounds. Parents should also avoid parking in the bus lane on the Hagley Road, as this is a parking offence and parking tickets and fines will be enforced by West Midlands Police. Swimming lessons take place on a Friday afternoon. I am mentioning this here as the coach delivers the children back to school just before the end of the school day. The coach will need to park as close as possible to the school drive entrance on Winchfield Drive, to ensure the children disembark safely. This will require extra consideration when finding a clear parking space. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Teacher Training Days

Dates agreed so far:

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Friday 16th October 2015

Monday 4th January 2016

Tuesday 12th April 2016

Monday 13th June 2016

Please note:

As the staff started back to school in September a day earlier than agreed by Birmingham City Council, the school will be closed to pupils on **Monday 11th April 2016**.



School Fund

Parents are asked to contribute £5 a term per family for school fund. If you haven't sent in your donation yet, please try to do so by the end of September. Thank you for your support and to those parents who have already sent this in. This contribution does help towards providing extra resources for your children.



Secondary School Transfer for Sept 2016

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Secondary School Meetings Parents in Year 6 will need to complete their secondary preference forms shortly. All of the schools are holding open evenings (Hagley High have an open 'Saturday' on 17th October 2015) and I would strongly advise parents to go along with their child to visit schools that you intend including on your preference form.

Parents are strongly advised to [apply online](#) or to have returned their Birmingham Local Authority Preference Form by 1st October. (If parents wish to view schools that are outside of Birmingham and whose open evenings fall after 1st October 2015 you may [apply online](#) by Monday 2nd November 2015. This will not disadvantage your application).

Primary School Applications for Sept 2016

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

If you have a child starting this school **next** September - you must apply by 4th December 2015- You should [apply online](#) to the local authority or return your completed preference form to School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service. If you live in Birmingham and your child attends a community or private nursery in the city, you should receive information from the local authority (Birmingham City Council) via post about how to start your child at school in the reception year for September 2016.

Information will be obtainable from the school shortly. If you live **outside** Birmingham you must apply to the local authority in which you live (i.e. the Council to which you pay your Council Tax) for their Preference Form. You should include this school on that form and return it to your local authority.

Also, if your child is Catholic, you will need to get a Supplementary Information Form from our school office and you must return it to us together with original proof of your child's baptism. You can do

this NOW - this information is used to rank children in order.



Aston Villa Tickets

Please collect Aston Villa Tickets for Schools for matches this term from the school office- £1.00 for children.

Diary Dates - September 2015:

Further dates will be added as available.

Mon 7 Sept	Reception Class start full-time
Thurs 10 Sept	Whole school Mass led by Yr 6 at 9.05 a.m. All welcome.
Fri 11 Sept	Start of AVFC curriculum football for Yrs 1 & 3
Fri 11 Sept	Swimming lessons begin for Yrs 5 & 6
Sun 13 Sept	Start of Children's Liturgy at 11.00 a.m. children's Mass
Thurs 17 Sept	Start of AVFC after school club
Thurs 17 Sept	PTA meeting in hall - AGM at 7 pm
Tues 22 Sept	9.10 am Year 4's Inspire Workshop
Wed 23 Sept	2 pm Year 6 visit to Alton Castle until Friday 25 th Sept
Tues 29 Sept	9.10 am Year 3's Inspire Workshop
October	(Month of the Rosary)
Thurs 1 Oct	9.05 am Blessing Service for Reception Class Secondary School applications submitted
Fri 2 Oct	6.30- 9pm PTA Welcome Disco in school hall
Tues 6 Oct	Year 2's Inspire Workshop: 9.10 am
Wed 7 Oct	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Mon 12 Oct	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.

Tues 13 Oct	9.10 am Reception Class Inspire Workshop
Wed 14 Oct	6 pm School Academy Committee Meeting
Fri 16 Oct	Teacher Day- School is closed to all pupils
Mon 19 Oct	Year 5 visit Safeside- leaving school at 8.45 am
Tues 20 Oct	9.10 am Year 1's Inspire Workshop
Wed 21 Oct	Harvest Service (led by Yr 5) for whole school 9.05 a.m. All welcome.
Fri 23 Oct	Break up for half term 3.30 p.m.
November	Dedicated Month for Holy Souls
Mon 2 Nov	Children return to school 8.45 a.m.
Tues 3 Nov	9.10 am Year 6's Inspire Workshop
Wed 4 Nov	Open Morning 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Mon 9 Nov	START OF BOOK WEEK
Tues 17 Nov	9.10 am Year 5's Inspire Workshop
Thurs 19 Nov	Year 3 Parents' Meeting for children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in the school hall 7 p.m.
Sun 22 Nov	Year 3 'Listening' Mass in Our Lady of Fatima Church 11.00 a.m. (This is also the Feast of Christ the King)
Tues 24 Nov	9.10 am Life Education Centre Workshop- details to follow
December	(Advent starts Sunday 29 November - 4 Sundays of Advent)
Fri 4 Dec	9.05 am Whole School Mass Feast of St Nicholas (led by Year 3) All welcome. Last day for Reception applications for Sept 2016 to B'ham LA
Tues 8 Dec	Year of Mercy begins
Wed 9 Dec	6.00 pm School Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 10 Dec	Infant Nativity 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
Mon 14 Dec	Junior Carol Service 2.15 p.m.
Tues 15 Dec	Christmas Class Parties (afternoon)
Weds 16 Dec	Christmas Lunch

Fri 18 Dec

Christmas Jumper Day

Break-up for Christmas Holiday 3.30 p.m.

Pupils back to school on **Tuesday 5th January 2016** - School opens for pupils **8.45 a.m.**

School Uniform 2015/16

The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged as it helps the child to identify more closely with the 'school family' and generally assists in promoting the public image of the school.

The winter uniform consists of:

BOYS Grey trousers, white shirt, royal blue pullover with school crest, grey socks, school tie, and sensible black shoes.

GIRLS Plain grey skirt/pinafore dress or trousers / culottes, white blouse, royal blue cardigan with school crest, white socks or grey woollen tights, school tie, sensible black shoes.

Summer Uniform:

BOYS Grey shorts or trousers. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

GIRLS Blue/white striped or check summer dress. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

School caps or sun hats can be purchased from the school office

P.E.

Boys and Girls: Navy shorts and plain white T-shirt. Pumps for indoor P.E. and dance.

Track suits may be worn for outdoor games during the winter months.

Training shoes which do not cover the ankles may be worn for outdoor games. They are not suitable for indoor P.E.

Swimming Costume and towel. One piece swimsuit for girls, swimming trunks (not shorts) for boys.

Book bags, pump bags, elastic ties and sun hats can be purchased from the school. Parents are free to obtain items from wherever they please with the exception of the school crest jumpers and cardigans which can be obtained from Clive Marks in Bearwood or Tesco online.

ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME.

ALL DRESS SHOULD ALWAYS CONFORM TO SAFETY.

Long hair should be tied back for hygiene reasons and especially during P.E., for safety reasons. Hair accessories should be simple and follow school colours. **'Fashion' haircuts are not appropriate** for school for boys or girls. Boys' hair should not be 'shaved' including with patterns and should be even in length (i.e. no 'Mohicans').

Children are asked not to wear jewellery apart from a watch as its loss can be upsetting. For safety and hygiene, the wearing of earrings is not allowed but if necessary, ear studs may be worn which must be removed for swimming lessons.

YEAR 6 ONLY

We have purchased some school logo hooded sweatshirts for Alton Castle. The children in Year 6 would then be able to wear these for outdoor P.E. lessons for the rest of the academic year.



SCHOOL FUND AUTUMN TERM 2015

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

Our Lady of Fatima School Term Dates - School Year 2015 - 2016

Autumn Term 2015	Spring Term 2016	Summer Term 2016
Thursday 03 September to Friday 23 Oct	Tuesday 05 January to Friday 12 February	Wednesday 13 April to Friday 27 May
Monday 02 November to Friday 18 Dec	Monday 22 February to Thursday 24 March	Monday 06 June to Friday 22 July

Teacher Training Days (school closed to pupils)

- 1) Wednesday 2nd September 2015
- 2) Friday 16th October 2015
- 3) Monday 4th January 2016
- 4) Tuesday 12th April 2016
- 5) Monday 13th June 2016

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