



# Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter October 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](http://www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

October's value is **equality**. Scripture says: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you'. Treat other people with the same concern and kindness we would like shown to us. This saying has come to be called the Golden Rule of life.



Last Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October marked the one year anniversary of our Multi Academy status. We have started to forge good working relationships with our other Academy schools, ensuring that the quality of Catholic education is enhanced. The Academy is planning an Anniversary Mass early in 2016- details to follow.



**October** is the month of the Rosary. Our school name is dedicated in honour of Our Lady. Please spend time with your child sharing prayers

from their class Prayer Book and praying the Rosary in your home as a family.



Last Thursday we officially welcomed our new Reception Class to Our Lady of Fatima School family during a special Blessing Service. It was an uplifting, prayerful occasion. Thank you to our new and existing parents

from Reception Class for allowing us the privilege of nurturing and educating your children through their primary years.

### Serving Christ in the Community

I would like to thank the children who regularly read at the 11.00 am Mass on Sundays at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Please encourage your child to volunteer to read at the Children's Mass. Thank you also to our regular Altar Servers who assist Father Seamus during all Masses. Mrs McGuinness is currently training several of our Junior children to become Altar Servers. This is a wonderful way of serving the school and church community.



### OCTOBER INSPIRE WORKSHOPS



Years 2, 3 and 4 have already enjoyed their 'Healthier Lifestyles' workshops. We have been lucky enough to work with Tesco's who has kindly donated all the food supplies. Remaining workshops dates are:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October- Year 2

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October- Reception Class

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October- Year 1

The children really do love their parents learning alongside them in school. Please make every effort to attend.

Reception Class parents are also invited to a meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.30 pm where Mrs Lake will share tips and ideas for making learning to read fun.

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### Parents' Evenings

The staff are looking forward to meeting you at Parents' Evening either on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October or Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. These 'meet and greet' meetings, which take place in the hall, are opportunities for you to find out how well your child has settled into their new classes. Annual Data Collection forms will also be issued so that our records are up to date. We are unable to supervise any children at these meetings, so please make alternative arrangements for your children to be looked after. Thank you.

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### OPEN DAY

Hagley RC High School has asked us to remind parents in Years 5 and 6 that they will be holding their annual Open Day on

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

**9.00 am to 12.00 pm.**

There will be demonstrations, performances and displays which reflect the range of opportunities offered at Hagley Catholic High School. A tour of the school is likely to take approximately 2 hours so it is advisable for visitors to arrive between 9:00am and 10:00 am.

### Harvest Celebration Service

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Harvest

Celebration Service in school on:

**Wednesday 21st October 2015 at 9.05 am**

Once again we will be supporting the **Fireside Centre** - a Birmingham charity for the homeless. We ask for donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries. These may be brought into school **on or after** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. I will send out more details in a separate letter.



We also like to support our global family and we do this by making a donation to the charity **CAFOD**.

This year we are asking parents to make a **coin donation** at the end of the service. Peter McCann, a representative from CAFOD will be attending our Harvest Service and will talk to the children about how their donations really do make a difference, especially with the current refugee crisis.

This year's theme for CAFOD fundraising is: *'Brighten Up for CAFOD to make the world a brighter place.'* On **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** children and staff are invited to wear the brightest clothing possible to further boost our Harvest appeal to raise money for CAFOD. Donations will be £1.50 and this will include a slice of cake from a staff 'Bake Off' organised by Mr O'Connor.



Last Year's 'Bake Off' was a huge success and so all staff will once again be busy baking cakes for the children. You may remember Miss O'Connell's cake was chosen by the School Council as the winning cake. I wonder



who will be crowned the winner this year. The pressure is on!

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### Operation Christmas Child

I am aware that it is only October and we do try not to think about Christmas until at least after half term, but planning ahead I will be sending out our annual 'Operation Christmas Child' slips before we break up. The team that collect the shoe boxes will collect them at the beginning of November. It is a lovely activity for the children to engage in during the half term break. Further details to follow.



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### School Admissions September 2016

Secondary School closing date: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 (Birmingham).

Our Open Morning for prospective parents here at Our Lady of Fatima School is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. If you are intending to apply for a place for your child, please provide the school office with your child's Baptismal Certificate by the end of term. Please remember to also complete the Local Authority form.

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### Year 3 Sacramental Preparation

**Advance Notice:** There will be a meeting for Year 3 parents on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7 p.m. All parents should attend. The dates for sacramental preparation have already been issued and can also be found on the school's website. On 19<sup>th</sup> November parents will be asked to opt for one of the two dates in May 2016 for First Holy Communion.

### POLITE REMINDER

For safety and emergency reasons may I remind parents once again that the staff car park should **never** to be used to drop off or pick up children during any time of the school day, including after school hours when collecting children from the After School Club. We prefer appointments to be made out of school hours but should there be a need to collect your child during the school day, please allow extra time so that cars can be legally parked on the surrounding roads to the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

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### Black History Week

We will be recognising the achievements of black men and women in history during a week of activities starting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Mrs McGuinness will lead a whole school assembly to raise awareness by learning more about the history and heritage of our communities.



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### Aston Villa Tickets for Schools



With the new sport in school initiative, Aston Villa Tickets for Schools are encouraging us to use their initiative to boost school fund and from this buy sport equipment for the school. They have issued us with 100 tickets so if you would like to buy some they are available for £1.00 each **at the end of the day** from the school office (the start of the school day is very busy). See attached for more details.

# ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB

Dear Parent

## **Tickets For Schools**

I am delighted to tell you we are continuing our participation in the Tickets For Schools scheme launched by Aston Villa Football Club. The scheme enables pupils to attend a home Premier League football match at Villa Park for just £1.

## **Taking Part**

If you are interested in taking part in Tickets For Schools, we will issue your child with a voucher for £1. This can be redeemed at the Aston Villa ticket office for an under 12 match ticket at a Barclays Premier League football match of your choice. Your child can attend **up to 10** football matches each football season with the Tickets For Schools scheme. Vouchers can be redeemed in person at the Aston Villa ticket office in person or by calling 0800 612 0970 and quoting the voucher number.

The great thing for Our Lady of Fatima School is that tickets are being donated to us free of charge by Aston Villa. As a result, all funds generated from the sale of vouchers will go directly into school funds!

## **Supervision**

So that children are appropriately supervised, children taking part in this offer must be accompanied to Villa Park by an adult and an adult can accompany up to 4 children. Aston Villa will sell one match ticket per voucher to an accompanying adult at reduced prices from £15, or an accompanying adult can also be a current Aston Villa season ticket holder.

## **Availability**

Full terms and conditions for Ticket For Schools and details of ticket availability can be found at:  
[www.avfc.co.uk/ticketsforschools](http://www.avfc.co.uk/ticketsforschools)

If you are interested in obtaining a voucher for your child then please contact the school office. For more information, please take a look at the Frequently Asked Questions on the Tickets For Schools website.

Going to a live football game is a very exciting experience and Aston Villa prides itself on being a safe and family friendly stadium. However, before making your decision, you should read the Top Ten Tips to Enjoying a Football game set out below.

Thanks again for supporting the school.

Mrs C van Vliet

Headteacher

Our Lady of Fatima School

## TOP TEN TIPS TO ENJOY A FOOTBALL MATCH

1. Check the weather report before you leave home and dress accordingly as you will be in the open air throughout the match.
2. If you have never been to a football match before you will need to understand that it is a very noisy place, 42,000 people can create quite a noise and smaller children might wish to wear ear muffs.
3. Traffic will be very heavy so plan your journey to and from Villa Park. You can find travel information at [www.avfc.co.uk](http://www.avfc.co.uk) in the "Villa Park" section, including information on parking, public transport and the Villa special bus service.
4. You also need to understand that whilst not condoned by the Club in anyway, some people in the audience may use language that is unacceptable so you may wish to consider who you bring to the match.
5. Remember that matches with an evening kick-off might finish a bit late for younger children.
6. As you will have children with you, make sure they have your emergency contact details with them, in case you become separated. Once you are at your seats, identify the nearest 'Tickets for Schools' support worker and stand steward in case you need help.
7. When you get to Villa Park identify a place outside Villa Park (for example the big screen outside North Stand or the car park outside the Holte Pub) as a place to meet if you accidentally get separated. Do the same once you are inside Villa Park and identify where the nearest fire exit is.
8. Ensure that nobody within your group wears colours/kit of the away team as these tickets are for the home areas and it could cause problems.
9. There are food kiosks in and outside Villa Park which are open before and during the match but not afterwards so ensure you get your warm drinks when you can.
10. If you wish to visit the Club's retail store, it will be open well before the match but not always after night matches. Souvenir programmes can be purchased from the vendors all around Villa Park.

Thank you to those families who have already contributed to the Autumn Term's School Fund. Your £5.00 termly family donation enables us to buy additional resources for your children. Please consider contributing if you haven't already done so.



### SCHOOL FUND AUTUMN TERM 2015

I attach my family contribution of £5 / other £ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Autumn Term 2015.

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.

**Diary Dates:** Further dates will be added as available.

**Please note there will be a Teacher Training Day on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

**October (Month of the Rosary)**



- Thurs 1 Oct 9.05 am Blessing Service for Reception Class
- Thurs 1 Oct Secondary School applications submitted
- Fri 2 Oct 6.30- 9pm PTA Welcome Disco in school hall
- Sun 4 Oct Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Tues 6 Oct Year 2's Inspire Workshop: 9.10 am
- Tues 6 Oct 8.30- 10.00 am School Nurse in school
- Wed 7 Oct Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm **Parents only for all appointments** - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
- Fri 9 Oct Football match OLF v Woodhouse at 3.40 pm here at school
- Sun 11 Oct Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Mon 12 Oct Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm **Parents only for all appointments** - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
- Tues 13 Oct 9.10 am Reception Class Inspire Workshop
- Tues 13 Oct Football Tournament at The Blue coat School a/m
- Wed 14 Oct 6 pm School Academy Committee Meeting
- Thurs 15 Oct Football match OLF v Chad Vale at 3.40 pm here at school
- Fri 16 Oct Teacher Day- School is closed to all pupils**
- Sun 18 Oct Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Mon 19 Oct Year 5 visit Safeside- **leaving school at 8.45 am**
- Mon 19 Oct Black History Week
- Tues 20 Oct 9.10 am Year 1's Inspire Workshop
- Tues 20 Oct 8.30 -10.00 am School Nurse in school
- Wed 21 Oct Harvest Service (led by Yr 5) for whole school 9.05 a.m. All welcome.
- Thurs 22 Oct Staff Bake Off Cake Sale
- Thurs 22 Oct Children and Staff wearing 'bright clothing' to raise money for CAFOD

Fri 23 Oct Cross Country Sports for some KS2 at Hagley High School

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.

Fri 6 Nov PTA Firework Disco 6.30-9.00 pm

Sun 8 Nov Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Mon 9 Nov **START OF BOOK WEEK** -separate details to follow

Thurs 12 Nov Year 4's Class Assembly 9.05 am

Sun 15 Nov Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Tues 17 Nov Year 5's Inspire Workshop 9.10 am

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

Sun 29 Nov Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

**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

Sun 6 Dec Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

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.

Sun 13 Dec Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Mon 14 Dec	Junior Carol Service 2.15 p.m.
Tues 15 Dec	Christmas Class Parties pm
Weds 16 Dec	Christmas Lunch
Thurs 17 Dec	Christmas pantomime in school
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.**