



# Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

## Newsletter — November 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)

November's value is **consideration**. There is a famous saying: a little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.

November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls. We remember all our loved ones who have passed away in our prayers. May they rest in peace.



### Saints' Display and Mission Statement

We are delighted that our new House Saints' Display board has been installed in the front entrance, along with our school's Mission Statement in the hall. Please come into school and take a look.

### Harvest Celebration Service

Thank you to all families for your generosity and kindness in supporting our Harvest Celebrations. We had a fantastic turnout of parents and families at the service, tremendous support for the Fireside Centre with food and toiletries and an amazing £500 was raised for CAFOD. Mr McCann, an Education Director from CAFOD, who was a guest at the service, spoke so highly of the commitment of our school community with their generous contributions to CAFOD. I



would also like to thank the parents who kindly transported the food items to the Fireside Centre.

### Operation Christmas Child

Thank you very much if you have already sent in your Christmas Parcel for 'Operation Christmas Child'. The boxes will be collected early on **Friday 27th November** so if you would like to create a gift parcel with your child please send it in to school by **Wednesday 25th November**. Just before half term the children brought home labels for the Christmas



boxes, but should you have misplaced it or you require another one please contact the school office to request another one. There is a two page worksheet attached to this newsletter that can be coloured in / completed by your child and inserted into the box if they would like to communicate with the recipient of the box! Please remember to insert **£3.00** inside the box to cover the cost of postage overseas. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## School Admissions September 2016

Applications for Reception in September 2016 should be made to the local authority where the parent and child live by 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015. All applications should be acknowledged. If you have a sibling starting next September remember that you also need to submit a supplementary form (available from school office / website) to the school with a copy of their baptismal certificate.



### Year 3 Sacramental Preparation Meeting

There will be an important meeting for Year 3 parents on **Thursday 19th November** at 7 p.m. in the school hall. We would like all parents to attend. At this meeting parents will be asked to indicate a preferred date, either 7th or 14th May 2016 for First Holy Communion.

### First Holy Communion Preparation Mass

Sunday 22nd November is the Feast of 'Christ the King', which marks the end of the liturgical year. The 11.00 a.m. Mass on this day will be a special Mass for Year 3 children and their families. It is wonderful to see so many of our children regularly in attendance at Mass. Mrs Hooper continues to deliver the children's Liturgy at 11.00 Mass on Sundays.

### Book Week

'Book Week' begins next week with many exciting activities planned. A separate letter was issued just before half term outlining details of these activities. On Friday 13th all children (and grown-ups!) are invited to dress up as 'Superheroes'



to conclude the week of celebration. There is no charge for this non-uniform day. We extend a warm welcome to you if you are free to come into school from 3.00 pm- 3.25 pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> to read with your children. This is a lovely opportunity for you to share books with your child(ren) and to promote the importance of finding time to read during our very busy lives.

The school Book Fair will also be open from **Monday 9<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November from 3.30- 4.15 pm.** We are given 60% commission for all books sold, so please do come in to the school hall to take a look. If there are any parents willing to sell books for about half an hour after school, please let the office know of your availability. Thank you.

### E Safety



Mr O'Connor has worked tirelessly towards a school accreditation for E-Safety. We found out in October that Our Lady of Fatima School has now achieved the European E Safety Label. This is a great achievement, which demonstrates our commitment as a school to Internet safety.


Did you know we have a whole section of our website dedicated to E-safety? In this section you can find 'help guides', links to other useful websites and also videos to help make sure your children are always safe when using the Internet. We have found that the NSPCC has a very useful resource:

<http://www.o2.co.uk/help/nsppc>

It mentions that there is a free helpline for parents (**0808 800 5002**) where guidance, help and support can be offered 'over the phone' about:

- setting up parental controls on your computer or other devices
- adjusting privacy settings
- understanding social networks
- concerns about online gaming

## Parking

Please remember to park with  consideration on the roads surrounding the school so that local residents can gain access to their own properties. Several parents have recently blocked residents' driveways on Word Hill. **Parents should never park on any zig zag lines.** On Fridays the coaches that transport the children back from their swimming lesson arrive back to school at 3.20 p.m. It is imperative that your children's safety is not in any way compromised by inconsiderate parking. Parents are also still parking in the bus lane on the Hagley Road. This is illegal and fines may be issued. Please consider arriving a few minutes early so that you have time to park safely and legally. Thank you.

---

## PTA Firework Disco- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November

6.30- 9pm.

We are hoping for a good turnout for the Firework Disco this Friday and that we will be blessed with good weather. Thank you in advance to all the PTA members who work so hard to always make it a most enjoyable occasion, to the fantastic team who set up the firework display and to the staff who support the event especially Mr Rollason for ensuring the safety of the school site. Please remember that parents have responsibility for the safety and behaviour of their own children at all PTA events.



---

**Dates for the Diary** are attached for this term, please check any that are relevant to you or your child, especially with Christmas Nativity Plays, Carol Services and Masses. Remember the school website is a useful way of checking for updates.

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

Sometimes you will need to press the 'refresh' button to get the most up to date information.

---

## Inspire Workshops



There has been a fantastic turnout of parents for the 'Inspire Healthier Food Workshops' and we have one last final workshop for Year 5 on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Tesco's in Quinton has provided all food plus two staff members to help lead these workshops alongside class teachers. We are most grateful for their support in promoting healthier food choices. We have valued your feedback and so far it has overwhelmingly indicated that parents find these sessions very useful. Most of all, the children love the time they get to spend with you! Thank you for your support.

## Life Education Workshop

Parents in Years 1,2,5 and 6 have already received a separate letter giving details of a further workshop dealing with health and life choice issues. These workshops are due to take place on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November**. Places are limited so please do return your response slip to indicate your interest in these sessions.

---

## Malachi- Coffee morning/afternoon

You will have also received a letter outlining the support Malachi can offer families. There are two opportunities on **Tuesday 1st December at 9.00am or 2.15 pm** to have a cup of coffee and to meet a team leader to chat and hear more about what Malachi can offer families. Please do consider coming along. The times have been selected to fit around dropping off/picking your children up from school.

### Collection Arrangements- darker evenings

For safety reasons we 'hand out' the children to parents/relatives/childminders at the end of the school day. If there is a change in circumstances please **write** to your child's class teacher, so that they are aware of the new arrangements. We do not encourage children in Year 6 to walk home after staying for clubs now that it is getting darker after school.

For safety reasons children will be brought into the hall to wait if the person who collects them is not on the playground.



**School Fund** - Have you sent in your school fund this term?


We use the school fund to supplement lots of small items and some bigger ones, for example the theatre group visits like the one in December. So far records show that just over half of families have contributed to school fund this term. Please can I ask all remaining families to make their £5.00 contribution as soon as possible? We keep a record of all amounts that come in to the office so if you are not sure if you have already contributed please ask. Thank you.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

The Parish Bazaar takes place on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November** in the parish hall, Higgins Lane starting at 11.30 am- 2.30 pm. This is an important fundraiser for the Parish. There is a fancy dress for children, an important visitor (in red) will be there and there is the opportunity to capture the moment with a photograph. We will soon have some books of raffle tickets (£5 per book) in the school office if you would like some.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Congratulations to our oldest children in Year 6 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 **98%**. Well done everyone!

Year Group	% attendance
Year 6	98.2 
Reception	98.1
Years 1 and 3	98
Year 2,4 and 5	97.9

Punctuality is also improving and fewer are arriving to school late after the bell at 8.55 am. Please remember that school is open for the children from 8.45 am each morning.

### Themed Lunches



Mrs O'Brien and the kitchen staff will be cooking a special menu on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November** to celebrate Bonfire Night and also on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November** for Remembrance Day. Should your child usually have a packed lunch, but would like to take advantage of having a cooked meal on either or both of these dates, please send in the correct money- £2.10 per meal in a named envelope as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.



### Polite Reminders

As the colder, wet weather looms children are asked to come to school with waterproof coats, hats, scarves and gloves- all to ensure that they are

well wrapped up. Our cloakrooms and lockers are tightly spaced for this additional clothing and footwear. All children are encouraged to bring a book bag **only** to school and this is an adequate size for keeping their reading books, homework books and any correspondence inside.

Therefore oversized bags/back packs are **not** required. They can end up on the floor and then this can become dangerous as the straps can be a tripping hazard.

A number of pupils have recently been forgetting to bring their swimming kit to school. Years 5 and 6 have swimming lessons this half term and these lessons always take place on a Friday. Please encourage your child to be pro-active in organising the packing of their swimming kit and then remembering to bring it into school ready for their lesson. Thank you.

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.

<b>Diary Dates</b>	<b>Further dates will be added as available.</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Dedicated Month for Holy Souls</b>
Mon 2 Nov	After School Code Club begins
Tues 3 Nov	Science After School Club begins
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	<b>START OF BOOK WEEK</b> -separate letter has been issued
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
Sat 28 Nov	Christmas Bazaar at OLF Church Hall 11.30 am -2.00pm
Sun 29 Nov	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
<b>December</b>	<b>(Advent starts Sunday 29 November - 4 Sundays of Advent)</b>
Tues 1 Dec	Malachi Hope coffee morning/afternoon for all parents 9.00 am/2.15 pm
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.**





# All about me!

## This is what I look like



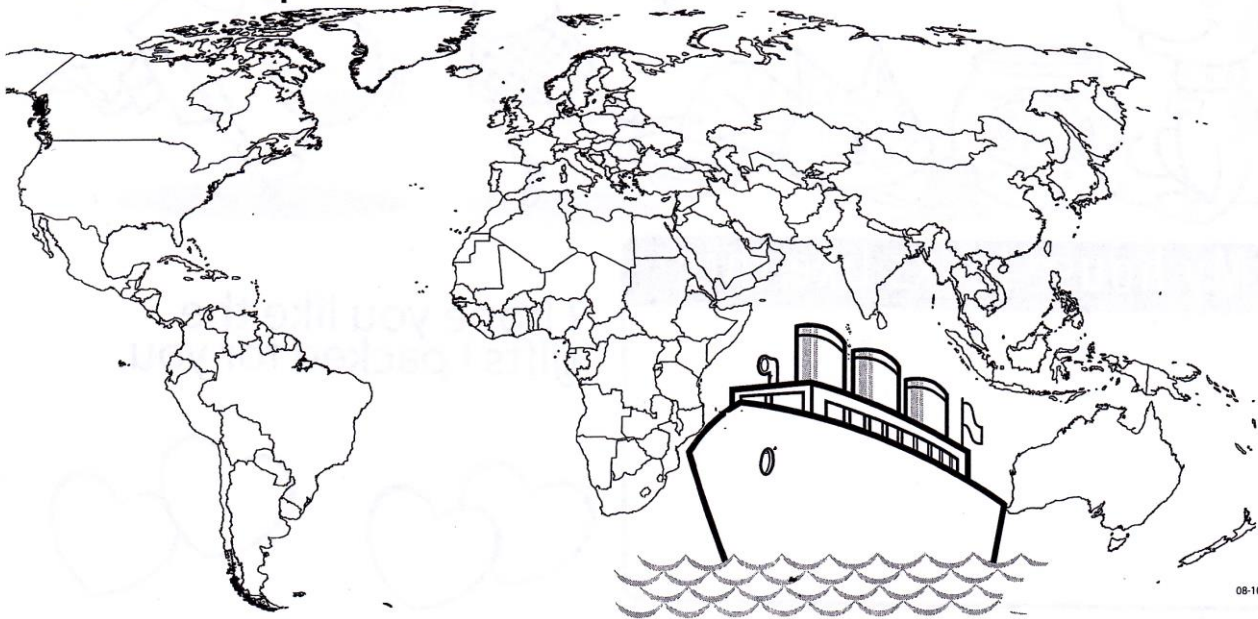
I live in the town of \_\_\_\_\_

**Hi!** I would like to introduce myself to you.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am very glad to meet you. I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old. This is a map of my country - the United Kingdom. I coloured the county where I live. My shoe box has taken a fantastic journey to find you!



**Here is a map of our world.** I coloured the country where I live.







There are lots of things I like.



**My Favourite:**

drink is \_\_\_\_\_

colour is \_\_\_\_\_

food is \_\_\_\_\_

animal is \_\_\_\_\_

toy is \_\_\_\_\_

When I have free time,  
I like to \_\_\_\_\_

At school, I like to \_\_\_\_\_

In my family, I have

\_\_\_\_\_ brothers

\_\_\_\_\_ sisters

\_\_\_\_\_ pets



**My house looks like this**

I hope you like the gifts I packed for you.

