



Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — December 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

December's value is **patience**. During this season of Advent we are asked to wait patiently for the coming of the Saviour.

Patience with others is **love**, patience with yourself is **hope**, patience with God is **faith**.

Advent

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent. The children are all busy preparing for their Christmas celebrations here in school, but let us also remember that even amid our busy preparations we must make time to prepare spiritually as we wait to celebrate the Saviour's birth.



Year of Mercy

Every **25 years** the Pope declares a Holy Year of Jubilee. This year the Holy

Father, Pope Francis made an

announcement for an Extraordinary Jubilee for a Year of Mercy. Pope Francis has chosen Tuesday 8th December as the beginning of the Year of Mercy as this is the date of The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In Rome at St. Peter's Basilica, there is a sealed Holy door which will be opened on Tuesday 8th December, for Pilgrims to walk through during the Jubilee year. Mercy is a theme that is very much a

part of Pope Francis' apostolic mission. Pope Francis wants to look upon people mercifully and then make decisions. We must try hard to show mercy, love and compassion. This follows with the teaching of Jesus as he too, looked upon the people with mercy, love and compassion. In his teachings, particularly the Parables, Jesus always explained the true nature of God's mercy. Throughout this year in school the children will be learning more about the Year of Mercy and how they can show mercy towards one another.

A great big THANK YOU

I would like to thank all pupils, parents and relatives for their tremendous generosity during this term. You have all made a special difference to the lives of others by your charitable donations.



We raised £500 from our Harvest Bake Off and voluntary cash donations.



The Book Fair raised an incredible £1135 this year enabling us to have free books

worth **£673**. All children will benefit from this.



The poppy appeal raised £275 for the Royal British Legion. This was just short of the amount raised by a leading supermarket in Harborne. Lessons in class allowed the children to gain a true understanding of the true significance of Remembrance Day.



We sent **118** christmas boxes to Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia, through the Operation Christmas Child scheme. This practical task of giving meant so much to our children as they learnt that by giving to others, they receive huge rewards of satisfaction and spiritual growth. Thank you all for your tremendous support.

Extreme Weather Conditions

Just a reminder about school closures in extreme weather conditions. We will still use the system of informing parents via the local radio stations, school website and the SMS text messaging system so please do let us know if you have changed your mobile number.



The Infants and Juniors are now busy preparing for their Nativity Play and Carol Service and we look forward to

welcoming as many families who can attend. Please choose to attend either of the Nativity performances as it may not be possible to attend both due to numbers. We appreciate that parents like to share these precious moments with family who cannot attend so we have not introduced a 'no filming / photographs' policy, but please remember that these images are for **private viewing only** and must not be displayed on public social media

locations.

Infants' Nativity: Thursday 10th December at 9.15am or 2.15pm.

Juniors' Carol Service: Monday 14th December at 2.15pm.



A Whole School Mass for the feast of St Nicholas will take place in school this Friday 4th December at 9.05 a.m. It will be led by Year 3. As always, you and your family are most welcome.

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 18th December will be a



non-uniform day to allow the children (and staff!) to wear a Christmas jumper or a Christmas t-shirt for the day. We are suggesting £1 donation which will be sent to the 'Save the Children Fund'. The government has promised to match every £1 raised by schools and so this is a very worthwhile event.

PTA Event

The next event will be the Infant and Junior Discos in the Church Parish Hall on Thursday **17th December**.

Infants 6—7.30pm

Juniors 8—9.30pm

Infant parents are asked to stay with their children and Junior parents will be asked to provide a telephone contact number.



School Website

Our school website is regularly updated with recent events that have taken place in school. School information and policies can also be found on the

website. Details of our Academy Committee are under the 'Who's Who' section. Should you wish to contact a committee member please arrange this through the school office. Please do take the time to browse the website as it really does offer parents a good opportunity to keep up to date with the busy, productive school life.

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Safety Message

An increasing number of families are walking down the drive to access the school. I have explained to all the children that this is dangerous and that the only way to access school from Winchfield Drive should be by the path at the side of the drive. Our priority is to ensure that you and your children are kept safe at all times and therefore we ask for your co-operation in this matter. Thank you.

Inspire Workshops



There has been a fantastic turnout for the 'Healthier Eating Inspire Workshops' during the Autumn Term. 96% of parents were able to attend. This support is tremendous and it goes without saying from the feedback we received from your children, they loved working alongside you to prepare (and eat!) healthier snacks. I hope that you have been able to encourage your children to choose healthier options and explore new tastes. I have written to Sonia and Sandra at Tesco's to thank them for not only providing all the food items, but also for the generous time they spent working with you all.

Mrs Workman and Mr Bagwell will be holding Parent Information Meetings to inform all parents of the significant changes to the end of year Assessments (SATs) which take place in Summer 2016. A separate

letter will be issued to all Year 2 and 6 parents nearer the time.

Our Lady of Fatima Church Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 6pm and 8pm

Christmas Day: 9am and 11am

Boxing Day: 10am



The **Parish Bazaar** took place on last Saturday in the parish hall. Thank you to the many families that supported it.

Christmas Celebrations in School



Fun Lunch Week

Mrs O'Brien and her staff are planning special Christmas menus for the last week of term- Monday 14th- Friday 18th December. This will include our traditional Christmas lunch open to all pupils on **Wednesday 16th December**. Parents of children who already have a cooked lunch at school need not order this meal, but those children who normally have a packed lunch but would like a Christmas lunch on that day must complete the form below by Friday 11th December, so that Mrs O'Brien can order the additional food required. If your child normally has a packed lunch, but would like to take the opportunity of having a cooked dinner on any or all of these dates please complete the forms attached.

Please note: Snacks will not be sold on Wednesday 16th December.

Christmas Parties will be on the afternoon of Tuesday 15th December. Children may wear party clothes all day. Your child will bring home a party food box to be filled with party food you know your child will enjoy. This is **in addition to**, **not instead of** their lunch. A very special visitor (in red, with a

fluffy white beard) will be making a guest appearance at the parties. **Christmas Hats**



Your children are welcome to wear party hats for their parties and their Christmas lunch. These can be made at home and

may remain in school to cover both events.

Pantomime

On Thursday 17th December the children will be treated to a wonderful pantomime production of 'Dick Whittington' in school.

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.

December	(Advent starts Sunday 29 November - 4 Sundays of Advent)
Tues 1 Dec	Malachi Hope coffee morning at 9.00 am
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
Wed 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**

And finally.... I would like to thank all pupils, parents and staff for their continued support. Our Lady of Fatima School is really a very special place and it is truly the people that make the place alive and vibrant. On behalf of the staff, may I wish you all a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas with your families and friends.

With God's blessings,

Mrs van Vliet



Please note: No payment is required for children in KS1.

Only complete if your child does not usually have a school meal.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH ONLY

Child(ren)s name(s): _____ **Year:** _____

would like a **Christmas lunch** on Wednesday 16th December . £2.10 per meal is enclosed.

Please return by Friday 11th December.

Signed: _____ (parent)

CHRISTMAS FUN WEEK LUNCH

Child(ren)s name(s): _____ **Year:** _____

would like a Christmas fun lunch on:

Monday 14th December

Tuesday 15th December

Wednesday 16th December (Traditional Christmas Lunch)

Thursday 17th December

Friday 18th December

£2.10 per meal is enclosed (£10.50 for the week).