



# Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

## Newsletter — January 2016

'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)

This half term's virtues are '**compassionate and loving**'. Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by just actions and forgiving words.

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas with your families and friends. On behalf of staff, I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity of wishes, cards and gifts. The end of last term was not only exciting preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but also incredibly busy and so we now look forward to an equally busy term ahead.

virtues for living and learning. At our weekly Congratulations Assembly on a Friday, a child from our school family will be chosen for showing the virtues of being **compassionate and loving**. You will notice in the front entrance the new 'cloud tags' that symbolise these virtues shaped in the form of a tree.



Please support your child by talking about these important virtues and how they can experience them in their lives and incorporate them as part of their family and school lives.



### Catholic Schools Pupil Profile

You may be aware of the introduction of the Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile. This is a Birmingham Archdiocese wide programme centred around eight statements and sixteen associated virtues. The focus for this half term will be the virtues of being '**compassionate and loving**'.

Previously at Our Lady of Fatima School we have focussed on one of the Gospel Values each month, as being fundamental to all Catholic education, and these Gospel Values are embodied within the



Yesterday we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with Mass, when we remembered the visitors who travelled to see the new born king so many years ago. We are grateful for all of God's blessings given to us each day. The Three

Kings found Jesus, by journeying and searching and exercising compassion and love towards each other by working together to find Jesus. We hope to be able to exercise the same level of compassion and love towards each other as and when we are faced with daily challenges.

### Extreme Weather Conditions

A reminder about school closures in

extreme weather conditions. A decision

will be made by **7.30 am** and we will use

the SMS text messaging system to inform parents

of any pending closure. We will also display a

message on the front page of our website. It is

vitaly important that the school office is informed

of current mobile telephone numbers. An updated

School Closure Policy has been posted on the school


website offering more detailed information.

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### Attendance

Congratulations to **Year 5** who were the worthy winners of the Attendance Cup for last half term. The percentages were so close with a whole school overall percentage of **97.9%**. Well done everyone!

Year Group	% attendance
Year 5	98.3 
Reception Class and Year 2	98.2
Years 1, 3 and 4	97.8
Year 6	97.2

### Punctuality

We still have a very small minority of families who regularly arrive at school after 8:55 a.m. All pupils

who arrive after 8.55 a.m must enter school via the office entrance and be signed in by an adult. I will be contacting parents to try to solve any issues regarding punctuality. Please consider allowing time for traffic by leaving home a few minutes earlier. Persistent lateness does not make for a good start to the school day and it is important that all pupils arrive in time for registration at 8.55 am. A reminder that pupils can come into school from 8.45 a.m when a teacher is present on duty.

### Charitable Donations



We raised £146 for 'Save the Children' on 18<sup>th</sup> December when we all wore Christmas jumpers and £88.40 for Macmillan Cancer Care as a result of the refreshments following the Christmas services. Thank you for your generosity.

### Payments to School by cheque

As from **5th January 2016** cheques that were previously written to 'Our Lady of Fatima School' must now be written to 'SNOMAC'.

There is no change to cheques written for school dinners (Education Catering) or to the Before and After School Club (Our Lady of Fatima School Club).

### 11:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

As you are aware children from Years 4-6 can volunteer to read at the 11:00 a.m Sunday Mass at church. I would like to thank those children and their families who regularly support their parish by reading at the Masses. These opportunities to read occur once every three to four weeks. Please

consider encouraging your child to read when it is their class's turn to volunteer. Some children from Years 4-6 have also been preparing to become altar servers at church and in school. Early in January Mrs McGuinness will be meeting with Mr Peter Rollason, Our Lady of Fatima Church's lead Altar Server, so that they become more familiar with serving the parish in a church setting. It is encouraging to see many children attending the 11.00 a.m Mass and enjoying Mrs Hooper's liturgy.

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### Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation



On Tuesday 2nd February we welcome Year 3 parents to a meeting in the school hall at 7 p.m. in preparation for the children's Sacrament of Reconciliation which will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. It is very important that **all** children are represented at this meeting as important information will be shared.

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### School Website

Our school website is regularly updated with events, policies, news items and other information. School policies and procedures can be found on the website too. Please do take the time to browse as it really does offer parents a good opportunity to keep up to date with the busy, productive school life. All newsletters are published on the website and can be referred to if the paper copy sent home is misplaced.

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

### School Meals

The Department of Education use a formula for allocating money to schools and the percentage 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. I would like to encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>

Mrs Hayden in the School Office will be able to offer any further information you might need.

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### School Themed Meals: American Themed Meal



On Thursday 21st January children who currently bring a packed lunch will be able to purchase a school meal with an American theme. Hot dogs, chocolate donuts and milkshakes always prove very popular. If your child would like a school meal on this day please send in £2.10 in an envelope clearly labelled 'American Meal' by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

### Chinese New Year Meal

Mrs O'Brien and her team always cook a festive meal to celebrate Chinese New Year and the



children always enjoy opening their fortune cookies! This year is the Year of the Monkey and there will be a special Chinese meal on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. Parents of children who bring a packed lunch can avail of this meal by sending £ 2.10 on or before Monday 1st February so that Mrs O'Brien has time to order

food supplies in advance. Please clearly label your child's envelope with 'Chinese Meal'.

On **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February** there will be a special 'Pancake Day' meal. If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like a school meal to celebrate Pancake Day, please send £2.10 into the school office in an envelope marked 'Pancake Day Meal'.

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### School Fund

Our School Fund is very necessary to provide small everyday items for school and pupils' use and planned activities for example visiting theatre groups. It would be very much appreciated if a voluntary contribution of **£5 per family** (per term) was made to the fund. It would be greatly appreciated if **all** families would consider contributing so that we can plan ahead for activities. Please return the attached slip with your contribution as soon as possible.

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In May 2016 there will be significant changes to the testing and assessment process for **Year 6** children. For this reason there will be an additional Parents' Information afternoon on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016** at 2.45 pm. This will be to inform parents about the end of year assessments (SATs) which take place week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016. A letter will be issued to Year 6 parents nearer the time.

### Health for Life



Mrs Levack has been invited to a Presentation Awards Ceremony with some KS2 children on 26<sup>th</sup> January to recognise the achievements of the Health for Life Project. This initiative, together with our 'Healthier Eating' Inspire workshops, and the importance of daily exercise has taught the children to adopt a healthier lifestyle. The children have learnt how to substitute less healthy foods for healthier options. The Before and After School Club 'Gardening Gang' also work hard with Mrs. Khatun to make sure that the herb garden is well maintained and looked after. Mrs Levack will continue to update you in separate newsletters as the growing season gets underway this term.

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### Parking Issues

Just before the Christmas holidays I received a phone call from West Midlands Travel requesting once again that parents do not park in the bus lane on the Hagley Road by school. They have confirmed that penalty notices will be issued and so this is just a polite reminder that cars should always be legally parked with the safety of our pupils and other pedestrians in mind. I would like to remind you that the staff car park should **never** be used by parents before, during or after school hours. In terms of ensuring safe access to the school, the school driveway should not be used to enter the school premises. We have deliveries at random times of the day and often the drivers reverse back down the driveway to leave the premises.



### PE: Swimming and Villa Coaching

**Years 3 and 4** will be swimming on Friday afternoons starting Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Please ensure that your child packs their swimming kit the night before and that they also remember to bring it to school with them ready for their lesson. In the Autumn Term some children from Years 5 and 6 did not bring their swimming kits on a Friday and this caused additional problems. If children are well enough to attend school, they should take part in most forms of exercise. Please see your child's class teacher in advance if you are concerned.

**Year 2** will begin Villa coaching lessons on Friday afternoons from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Weather permitting these lessons will take place outside, so please ensure your child brings suitably warm clothing to wear.

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### Uniform

All children should have returned to school in full winter uniform which includes a shirt/blouse and a tie. Polo shirts should only be worn as summer uniform. Please

refer to the School Prospectus on the website for further guidance. We do not encourage the wearing of earrings for safety reasons, especially in PE. However, any earrings worn must only be small studs. Thank you for your support.

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### PTA Quiz Night

The PTA's adult quiz night is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January in the school hall. There's always healthy competition on the evening ...so you may like to take time to start revising and reading newspapers, sports pages and learning all the names of those musical tunes!



### ADVANCE NOTICE OF TERM DATE:

The children will return to school in the Autumn Term 2016 on **Tuesday 6th September 2016** at 8.55 am.

### Dates for Diary —January- March 2016

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

Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Return to school
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.05 am School Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany led by Year 6
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Swimming lessons start for Years 3 and 4
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School Nurse available 8.30-10.00 am
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	KS1 Science Club begins 3.35-4.30 pm
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Villa After School Club begins
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 3 'Caring Mass' -Preparation Mass for First Holy Communion- 11.00 am At Our Lady of Fatima Church.
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	9.05 am Year 3's Class Assembly
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	'American' themed school lunch
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Year 6 SATs meeting 2.45 pm in school
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Maths Workshop day for some pupils in Year 6
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Feast Day of our Academy Saint - Saint Nicholas Owen
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School Nurse available 8.30-10.00 am
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	PTA Quiz (adults only)- details to follow
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Year 3's Class Feast Day- St Brigid. Non-uniform day for <b>Year 3 ONLY</b>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Writers' Workshop all day for some pupils in Year 6
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	7 p.m Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents' Meeting in the school hall
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.05 am Year 1's Class Assembly
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12.15 pm Anniversary Academy Mass at St Chad's Cathedral- Year 5 attending
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7 pm Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Evening Concert at Birmingham Town Hall
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	SNOMAC KS2 Tag Rugby at Our Lady of Fatima
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	'Chinese' themed school lunch available
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School Nurse available 8.30-10.00 am
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	'Pancake Day'- school themed lunch available
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6 pm School Academy Committee Meeting
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.05 am Yr 4 leading Mass for Ash Wednesday  (Lenten Activities to follow in a separate letter)

Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.30 p.m. Break up for Half Term
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	8.55 a.m. School re-opens.
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	School Nurse available 8.30-10.00 am
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Reception Class's Eye tests
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Years 3 and 4 Malachi workshops
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6 pm Birmingham Catholic Schools' Swimming Gala
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Year 6's Class Feast Day- St Chad. Non-uniform day for <b>Year 6 ONLY</b>
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	9.05 am Reception Class's Mothers' Day Assembly
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. <b><u>Parents only for all appointments</u></b> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) — Year 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	School Nurse available 8.30-10.00 am
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	SNOMAC KS2 Netball at Our Lady of Fatima
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. <b><u>Parents only for all appointments</u></b> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	SNOMAC Games Event for Years 5 and 6 at Hagley High School
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St Patrick's Feast Day- non-school uniform day- green/ orange clothes
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6.30 - 9pm PTA St Patrick's Night Disco
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	School Nurse available 8.30-10.00 am
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	9.15 am Years 3-5 Passion Play- all welcome
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	6 p.m School Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3.30 p.m. Last day of Spring term—school closes for Easter Holiday

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Apr

8.55 a.m Children return to school after Easter holidays.



SCHOOL FUND SPRING TERM 2016- Cheques to be paid to SNOMAC

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.