



Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — February 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

'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.



As we begin the new month of February we look forward to slightly lighter mornings and slightly lighter evenings. Yesterday we celebrated the Feast of Candlemas. In the Gospel for the day we heard about Simeon who praised God because he had seen the 'light of the nations'. We are once more reminded that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Year of Mercy



JUBILEE OF MERCY

This Jubilee Year of Mercy is a pilgrimage for us all. It is a renewed opportunity for everyone to experience the great mercy of God. The mercy of God is central to the faith and life of Pope Francis. It is his experience of God's mercy and the numerous ways Pope Francis shows others the mercy that he has received, that makes him such a notable figure in our world today.

As a school we will be undertaking a range of activities together as we continue on this pilgrimage. Mrs McGuinness and the Liturgy Group meet every Monday evening and they are in the process of planning and creating one of the first physical signs to mark this special year, which is a Door of Mercy. In our school this will be the main hall doors from the Junior corridor. As the children enter through the door they will experience God's mercy and learn about this through prayer, meditation and Collective Worship. As they leave through the door they will take God's mercy to others through their words and deeds to all those they meet.

Ash Wednesday

To mark the beginning of the season of Lent, Year 4 will be preparing a Mass on Wednesday 10th February to which you are all most



welcome. During Lent we are called to remember the three important aspects of : **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving**. On Tuesday 23rd February we welcome Margot Scotford who will lead an assembly for the Good Shepherd Appeal. Children will be given a self-assembly collecting box. Please support your child and encourage them through Lenten sacrificial giving and abstinence to put money that might otherwise have been spent on sweets and treats into the collecting box. Last year schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham raised more than £54,000 for Father Hudson's much needed work. It helps those in need of all ages, regardless of race or religion, through the Family Support Service in schools, care for disabled adults and elderly people, support for lonely, disadvantaged and vulnerable people in society and by finding foster parents for children in care. There is more information online at: www.fatherhudsons.org.uk. We will also be donating money to the Catholic Primary Partnership's Rwanda Schools' Appeal. More details will follow in a separate Lenten Newsletter.



Tim Peake's Art Project



Our Lady of Fatima School has been successful in being chosen as one of a few schools in the Midlands to take part in the Tim Peake Primary Project. This is an excellent boost for the

school and recognises all of the hard Science work going on in classrooms and after school. Later in the year, each class will be planting seeds that have been taken up to the International Space Station, but before that we have a couple of other exciting announcements.

Firstly, we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the European Space Agency to work with the creative artist Garry Jones to create an exhibition about life on the International Space Station. We are still finalising details, but we hope that the exhibition of children's work will be on display in John Lewis, Grand Central, Birmingham during the Easter holidays.



Secondly, after our spectacular performance last year, our school has been asked if we could take part in the **2016 St Patrick's Day Parade**. Please be sure to put Sunday 13th March into your diary so that you can join us at the Parade. We will need your help.

In order to complete our top secret outfits and equipment we will need :

- Plastic water / fizzy drink bottles
- Clean food containers (nut free)
- Any old wires and cabling
- Old computer keyboards
- Anything that could be used to create a Space Station or a rocket!

School Themed Meals

A reminder that Mrs O'Brien and her team are offering a Chinese Meal to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Year of the Monkey on **Monday 8th February**. Also on **Tuesday 9th 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 for each meal into the school office in envelopes clearly marked 'Chinese Meal' and/or 'Pancake Day Meal'.

Parent Consultation Meetings

You will receive your Parents' Evening appointment letters straight after the half term holidays for either of our Parent Consultation Meetings taking place on **Thursday 3rd and Wednesday 9th March**. Classrooms will be open for parents to view classwork and meetings will take place in the school hall. May I suggest that you arrive early for your appointment so that you have enough time to look at your child's work before meeting with the class teacher? Please remember that we cannot offer supervision for children, so please make arrangements in advance for children to be supervised off premises.



KS2 'Read for my School'



A separate letter 'Read for my School' has already been sent out to all KS2 parents so please check your child's book bag if you have not come across the letter. We always try to recognise the importance of reading, so please do encourage your child to take part in this online reading initiative. All KS2 pupils have a log in and password to access the electronic books at: www.readformyschool.co.uk

School Fund – please read

Thank you to all the parents who have already responded by contributing towards school fund. It would be very much appreciated if a voluntary contribution of £5 per family (per term) was made to the fund by all families.

If you haven't done so already, please return the attached slip with your contribution as soon as possible. All donations are recorded so please fill in your child(ren)s name(s) on the attached slip. A final reminder will be sent to parents who have not replied by half term.

Punctuality

Our attendance and punctuality is exceptionally good and this contributes strongly to the children's ability to progress. Any child who does not arrive in time to enter the school through the correct entrance and is



brought in through the office entrance **must be signed in by an adult**, who must provide an explanation for the lateness. This is to audit our pupils' punctuality, particularly if they have already been marked absent by the class teacher on the register. Please make sure that your child arrives in plenty of time to enter school through the correct entrance for their class. Doors open at 8.45 in the morning. It can be really unsettling for the children if they

arrive in their classroom after registration has taken place.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are once again collecting the Active Kids vouchers which can be redeemed against a wide range of 'healthy lifestyle' equipment. Thank you in advance for your support in collecting these vouchers and bringing them into school.

Dates for Diary: February - March 2016

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

Mon 1 st Feb	Year 3's Class Feast Day- St Brigid. Non-uniform day for Year 3 ONLY
Tues 2 nd Feb	Able Writers' Workshop all day for some pupils in Year 6
Tues 2 nd Feb	7 p.m Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents' Meeting in the school hall
Thurs 4 th Feb	9.05 am Year 1's Class Assembly
Thurs 4 th Feb	12.15 pm Anniversary Academy Mass at St Chad's Cathedral- Year 5 attending
Thurs 4 th Feb	Yr 3/4 Football Tournament after school
Thurs 4 th Feb	7 pm Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Evening Concert at Birmingham Town Hall
Fri 5 th Feb	SNOMAC KS2 Tag Rugby at Our Lady of Fatima
Sun 7 th Feb	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 8 th Feb	'Chinese' themed school lunch available
Mon 8 th Feb	Girls' Football tournament after school
Tues 9 th Feb	School Nurse available 8.30-10.00 am
Tues 9 th Feb	'Pancake Day'- school themed lunch available
Tues 9 th Feb	6 pm School Academy Committee Meeting
Wed 10 th Feb	9.05 am Yr 4 leading Mass for Ash Wednesday (Lenten Activities to follow in a separate letter)
Thurs 11 th Feb	2.45 pm Year 2 SATs Parents' Meeting
Fri 12 th Feb	3.30 p.m. Break up for Half Term

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



SCHOOL FUND SPRING TERM 2016

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

Cheques to be made payable to SNOMAC.

Eldest child in school _____ Year _____ .

We will return this slip to you to acknowledge your contribution.

Received in school by _____

Thank you for your support.