



## Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — April 2016

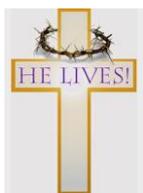
'We welcome everyone into our community to live, love and learn together in the light and example of Jesus Christ'

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

### 'Eloquent and Truthful'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **eloquent** in what they say of themselves and **truthful** about themselves and to all they meet.

#### Our Journey from Lent to Easter to Pentecost



Easter is a very important time in the church's liturgical year and during Lent the children prepared themselves very well for this great Feast by

remembering the three important aspects of Lent: **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving**. During the last week of the Spring Term our preparations included: praying the Stations of the Cross in class, a Service of Reconciliation with individual Confessions for Years 4–6, a most emotional dramatization of the Passion of Jesus Christ depicting his trial, suffering and death. The most generous almsgiving of donations for our Lenten appeals has so far raised the phenomenal amount of **£1,783.61** which is to be shared between our chosen charities - Father Hudson's Society and the Catholic Primary Partnership's Rwanda Schools Appeal. Any filled Good Shepherd boxes can be returned to school by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils and their families for their generosity. Practical tasks, together with

prayer, mean so much as by giving to others, huge rewards of satisfaction and spiritual growth are received. This half term the children will be discovering more about the liturgical feast of Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, marking the birthday of the church.

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#### Tim Peake Science Space Primary Project



We were very excited that until 10<sup>th</sup> April Our Lady of Fatima School hosted a Big Space Exhibition at John Lewis in the Grand Central Shopping Centre, right in the centre of Birmingham. The exhibition was opened on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April - thank you to the pupils, families and staff who attended. The European Space Agency has funded this wonderful project that shows space suits, food, rockets, a mission control and a training academy for all prospective space cadets. Each class worked with Garry Jones from 'Off Your Trolleys Art' to learn about the many different aspects of the International Space Station. They built the whole

exhibition from scratch before it was shipped off to John Lewis where the whole community of Birmingham (and beyond) were able to see our work. I received really positive feedback from many pupils and their families who visited the exhibition during the Ester holidays.

### Parents' Evening

We had excellent **99% attendance** at the mid-year consultation meetings. This was an important opportunity for you as parents to gain an update about your child's progress and well-being. Thank you for the support that you offer; by working in partnership we ensure that we offer each child the very best education , personalised to their needs.

### Attendance

Congratulations once again to **Year 2** for winning the Attendance Cup for the second consecutive time this year! Given the illness that can occur during the winter months, the class percentages were remarkably good, with an overall percentage of **97.3%**, which is still well above the national average of 96.1%. Well done everyone!

| Year Group           | % attendance   |
|----------------------|--|
| Year 2               | 97.8  |
| Year 1               | 97.7   |
| Year 4               | 97.6   |
| Year 5               | 97.5   |
| Year 6               | 97.2   |
| Reception and Year 3 | 96.5   |

### Our Lady of Fatima School Website



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

Our school website is regularly updated. It continues to be a great line of communication, so that parents and others who want to find out more about our school are able to be kept up to date with news, information and events. Please do spend some time looking at our Events Page, where you will see the varied activities your children complete in school. At the bottom of the welcome page there is an itemised list of what has been added most recently.

### Parking

As we start the summer term and the weather should hopefully be warmer and drier, I am hoping that some families may take the opportunity to walk to school, or part of the way to school. This would certainly help to alleviate the congestion on the surrounding roads before and after school. I would once again like to thank parents who are thoughtful enough to park considerately on the roads leading to the school.



Can I please politely remind parents to be mindful of our neighbours on Word Hill, Spreadbury Close, Winchfield Drive and surrounding roads? May I ask that

your parked cars do not obstruct any driveways? Parents should also note that the garages on Spreadbury Close and Walmead Croft are private property and that parking in front of them may be classed as trespassing. I have been informed that some residents have been taking note of offending vehicle registrations and passing these details on to the authorities.

There is no facility for parking on school premises

when collecting your child during the school day or from any After School Clubs.

Despite several polite requests some parents still insist on parking in the bus lane on the Hagley Road, and leaving their vehicles when dropping off and picking up their children from school. This is an offence and parking fines will be issued if parents continue to break the law.

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### Advance Notice of Walk to School Week

During May there is a dedicated week when all children (and parents!) are encouraged to 'walk to school' or walk part of the way. Why wait until then? Apart from supporting a healthy lifestyle with increased exercise, walking some of the way to school on a regular basis would address some of our parking issues as well as adopting a healthier lifestyle. The weather is becoming milder now and it is also an opportunity for friends to walk together whilst keeping fit. Please do consider parking a little way from school and walking the rest of the way. This will require leaving home slightly earlier to avoid being late!

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### School Meals

There will be a slight increase (5p) in the price of school meals. From 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 prices will be:



**1 day**            **£ 2.15**

**1 week**           **£ 10.75**

### Change in lunch arrangements

The School Council School has suggested that there should be a greater selection of food for all children who choose to have a 'fun meal'. As this meal is usually offered to children each Friday, the kitchen staff must offer meat free options which

can be limiting in terms of choice. It has therefore been agreed that the 'fun meal' will now be offered each **Tuesday** to all children. We will continue to offer a meat free option every Friday. If your child currently has packed lunches but would like to have a cooked meal each Tuesday, please send in £2.15 on Mondays in a sealed envelope, clearly labelled 'Tuesday Lunch'. We hope that this new arrangement proves to be as popular as the School Council hopes it will be.

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### Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday



On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April the Queen celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. To celebrate this there will be a non-

school uniform day (free of charge) for pupils to dress in red, white and blue. Lessons will incorporate British History so that the children gain a better understanding of British values. A royal lunch will be provided and this will be open to all pupils who usually bring a packed lunch. Please send £2.15 in a sealed, envelope labelled 'Royal Lunch', if you wish your child to have a cooked lunch on this day.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April it will be the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death- another opportunity for the children to learn more about this famous British playwright.

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### Health for Life



Our Health for Life project **Health for Life** continues to go from strength to strength. The committee have been busy preparing and planting crops and more planting will take place during the

summer term. Please do not let your children run around near the raised beds or planting areas as this can lead to damaging our plants. By treating our plants respectfully the children will learn a greater understanding of the benefits of a cared for environment. Mrs Levack will issue a newsletter later this term to update you with more news.

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### PTA

Thank you to all children, parents and families who attended the PTA's St Patrick's Day disco. This event raised approximately £630. The next event is a Quiz Night for KS2 pupils in the church hall on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April from 6-8pm. The PTA will keep you informed of other fundraising events in the summer term, but have asked me to pre-warn you of the proposed date for the Summer Fair which will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016. This is a huge fundraiser for the school and the PTA is already in the process of planning this event. It is, however, dependent on additional volunteers who can commit to helping beforehand and on the day to ensure that the Fair is successful. We appreciate that there are many 'Friends of the PTA' who cannot commit to being full members, but who are willing to help out at certain events. If you feel that you could offer some time at the Summer Fair, please let the office staff know and they will pass details on to Louise Rouse, Chair of the PTA.

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### Arrangements at the end of the school day for Year 6

In the Summer months, when the evenings are lighter, Year 6 pupils like to take the opportunity to walk home/ catch the



bus with a friend, in preparation for transition to Year 7. Mr Bagwell will need to be informed **in writing** if you wish your child to walk/catch the bus home. Children who do commute to and from school without parents are permitted to carry a mobile phone with them for emergencies only. This must be switched off when entering the school grounds and handed in to Mr Bagwell until the end of the school day. This applies only to Year 6 pupils. Any child from another class found in possession of a mobile phone will have it removed and kept in the school office to be collected by their parents at the end of the school day. Thank you for your co-operation.

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### Congratulations!



Well done to Sam and Reuben in Year 5 who won a competition to design a famous GB Olympian to compete in the Gadget Show's 'Robo Olympics'. Their winning designs were put on display at Gadget Show Live at the NEC over the Easter break and they were given a bundle of free tickets to take their family and friends there to see the exhibitions.

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### School Fund Contributions

We are grateful to those families who donate £5 each term towards extras to supplement your child's education. If you feel you can contribute during the Summer term, please send in your contribution with the slip at the end of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## Our Lady of Fatima Church Spring Fair

There will be a Spring Fair at the church hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 from 11 am-4.30 pm. If you wish to donate any good quality items, these can be left at the back of church any day leading up to this event. The Liturgy Group will be there running a 'Lucky Dip' stall. Please support this event if you can.



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### Summer Uniform

At the beginning of the summer term, we encourage pupils to start to wear summer uniform, now that the warmer weather is on its way. Our uniform is listed on the school website. Please ensure that we maintain the high standards of presentation at our school by keeping to some basic uniform rules:

- Summer dresses if worn are light blue check or stripes.
- Grey shorts or trousers for the boys.
- School shoes are important, not trainers.  
These must be suitable for wearing to run

on our lovely field.

- Boys and girls may wear a white school polo shirt instead of shirt and tie.
- You can buy uniform online at Tesco's as well as Clive Marks or standard supermarkets.
- Please avoid fashion haircuts or excessive hair accessories.
- Blue school caps or hats are available from office. No fashion caps are to be worn.

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### Polite Notice

Please ensure that your child does not run on the grass, near the plants or by the PTA shed before and after school. I would like to remind you that all children are supervised on the climbing /play equipment during school hours. Accidents have occurred after school when children have been



handed over to parents by the school staff. Your child/ren should wait with you, until you are ready to leave the premises. Thank you.

### Dates for Diary: April- July 2016

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

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Wed 13 April   | Start of Term School opens   |
| Thurs 14 April | Yr 3 First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting at 7pm in school                      |
| Fri 15 April   | Yr 4's and Yr 5's Class Feast Days- Non-uniform day for <b>Yr 4 &amp; 5 ONLY</b> |
| Sun 17 April   | Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church                     |
| Mon 18 April   | Year 4 and 5 football tournament- Northfield 3.30-5.30pm                         |
| Thurs 21 April | Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday royal meal                                     |
| Thurs 21 April | Years 5/6 football tournament at Four Dwellings School                           |
| Thurs 21 April | Villa coaching after school starts   |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Thurs 21 April    | Year 6 Confirmation Parents' Meeting at 7.00pm in school            |
| Sun 24 April      | Year 6 Enrolment Mass at 11.00 a.m in Church                        |
| Tues 26 April     | External NFER testing for Year 6                                    |
| Thurs 28 April    | Years 5 and 6 Maths Challenge                                       |
| Fri 29 April      | Yrs 3 and 4 Able Maths Day at Harborne Primary School               |
| Sun 1 May         | Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church        |
| <b>Mon 2 May</b>  | <b>May Day Bank Holiday - School closed</b>                         |
| Wed 4 May         | Visiting theatre company for Year 1 pm                              |
| Sat 7 May         | First Holy Communion Mass at 12.00 noon in Church (first date)      |
| Sun 8 May         | Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church        |
| Mon 9 May         | Year 6 SATs Week  |
| Sat 14 May        | First Holy Communion Mass at 12.00 noon in Church (second date)     |
| Sun 15 May        | Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church        |
| Mon 16 May        | WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK   |
| Mon 16 May        | May Procession at 2.15 pm in school                                 |
| Thurs 19 May      | Fun themed school meal day  |
| Thurs 19 May      | Year 5 and 6 Girls' Tag Rugby at Four Dwellings 3.30-5.30 pm        |
| Sun 22 May        | Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church        |
| Tues 24 May       | Year 6 to attend the Good Shepherd Mass at St Chad's Cathedral- a.m |
| Wed 25 May        | Year 5's Class Assembly 9.05 am. All welcome                        |
| Wed 25 May        | Academy Committee Meeting   |
| Thurs 26 May      | Hagley Mass Band Tour - a.m   |
| Thurs 26 May      | PTA Sponsored Bounce p.m  |
| Thurs 26 May      | Netball team playing at Shenley Academy 3.30-5.30 pm                |
| Fri 27 May        | PTA Cake Sale p.m   |
| <b>Fri 27 May</b> | <b>Break up for Half Term</b>                                       |
| Mon 6 June        | School Re-opens   |
| Mon 6 June        | Bikeability Week for Year 5 pupils                                  |
| Thurs 9 June      | Year 5 Transition and Alton Castle Meeting at 7.00 pm in school     |
| Sun 12 June       | Going Forth Mass at 11.00 a.m at Our Lady of Fatima Church          |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Mon 13 June</b> | <b>Teacher Training Day- School closed to all pupils</b>          |
| Tues 14 June       | Year 1 Phonic Screening checks begin for the week                 |
| Wed 15 June        | Bear Creek Activity Day at Our Lady of Fatima School              |
| Thurs 16 June      | New Intake Evening- Reception Class Sept 2016 at 7 pm in school   |
| Sun 19 June        | Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church      |
| Mon 20 June        | Athletics competition at Shenley Academy 3.30-5.30 pm             |
| Fri 24 June        | Year 6 Illumination Mass at 9.05am in school                      |
| Fri 24 June        | Netball Tournament at Our Lady of Fatima School                   |
| Sun 26 June        | Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church      |
| Mon 27 June        | Year 6 visit to St Chad's Cathedral- preparation for Confirmation |
| Wed 29 June        | New Reception Class 2016 half day visits (1)                      |
| Thurs 30 June      | Year 2's Class Assembly 9.05 am. All welcome.                     |
| Fri 1 July         | Sports' Festival at Lordswood School                              |
| Sun 3 July         | Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church      |
| Mon 4 July         | Sports' Day 1.35 pm   |
| Tues 5 July        | New Reception Class 2016 half day visits (2)                      |
| Wed 6 July         | Year 6 Transition Day to Secondary Schools                        |
| Wed 6 July         | Year 6 Sacrament of Confirmation at 7 pm in church                |
| Thurs 7 July       | Year 6 Maths Workshops at Hagley High School a.m                  |
| Sat 9 July         | PTA Summer Fayre  |
| Sun 10 July        | Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church      |
| Mon 11 July        | Hagley Band Tour a.m  |
| Wed 13 July        | Academy Committee Meeting   |
| Fri 15 July        | Quinzone Music Afternoon 1 pm                                     |
| Sun 17 July        | Year 3 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church      |
| Mon 18 July        | Year 6 Leavers' Mass 2 p.m in school                              |
| Mon 18 July        | Parents' Evening- appointments upon request.                      |
| Thurs 21 July      | Year 6 Leavers' Assembly at 9.05 a.m in school                    |
| Fri 22 July        | 3.10 pm Farewell Bubbles on the field. End of summer term.        |

**Pupils return to school on Tuesday 6th September 2016**



**SCHOOL FUND SUMMER TERM 2016**

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

Eldest child in school \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make cheques payable to SNOMAC.

Received in school by \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support.**