



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — September 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

'Curious and Active'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **curious** about everything and **active** in their engagement with the world; changing what they can for the better.

Welcome

A warm welcome back to everyone! I hope that you all had a lovely summer break with your families and friends. I would like to welcome our new children and their families to our school and parish community. I am sure our new families will settle into our school community really well. It seems that all the children are delighted to be reunited with their friends and ready for another successful and happy year at school.



We also extend a very warm welcome to our new Parish Priest, Father Craig and hope that he will be very happy at Our Lady of Fatima Parish.

Mass : Monday 12th September

You are all invited to our first Mass of the new school year in the school hall starting at 9.05 am. Year 6 will lead this Mass and it will be dedicated to celebrating Our Lady's birthday which actually falls on 8th September. This will be Father Craig's first school Mass and so it would be lovely if you could join us in this school community worship.



Thank You



Father Seamus was incredibly touched by your generosity and prayers to celebrate his retirement. I believe he has not quite put his feet up yet and has been assisting in other parishes since leaving Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Father Seamus spent eleven really happy years in Quinton and I know that our school and its community holds a special place in his heart. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for Father Seamus at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 6 pm on **Saturday 1st October 2016**, followed by a celebration in the parish hall. Father Seamus would love to see you there, so please make a note of the date in your diary. Please remember Father Seamus in your daily prayers.

New Parish Website

Please visit the new parish website to read current information about the parish and the latest newsletters. www.catholicquinton.org.uk

The Pope App



Please follow the link: <http://www.news.va/en/source/vatican-va> to a website, created and designed to keep in touch with what Pope Francis does and to listen to what he has to say. Please take a look

and listen to Pope Francis' inspiring words of wisdom.

This link is also available on the school's website:

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Pope Francis also has a Twitter account and his daily messages are most poignant: Pope Francis@Pontifex.

School Information

Please inform Ms Murgatroyd or Mrs Hayden if there are any changes of address or telephone numbers. It is essential that we have a current



contact number in case the school needs to contact you urgently. Mobile phone numbers change frequently, so please make sure we have your current mobile number. An annual medical update form for Years 1-6 is being sent out with this newsletter. **Please return this as soon as possible, even if your child has no medical conditions (just write N/A).** We can then be certain that we have the most up-to-date information from you. If your child has an inhaler please make sure it is back in school after the holiday and that the 'use by date' will last for the whole term. May I also remind you that First Aiders may only give prescribed medicines if parents complete a school consent form.

School Nurse Drop In Clinic

This service began last year and has proved hugely popular. Our school nurses, are available in school every fortnight on Tuesday mornings from 8.30- 10.30 am, starting on 13th September. They will be able to offer advice and support with any medical issues or other concerns such as dietary requirements.

Appointments can be made through the school office, although they are not always necessary and you can just 'drop in' between the hours the nurses are in school.

School Procedures

If there are any problems or concerns that parents would like to discuss with a class teacher, staff are more than willing to meet you **after school by**

appointment. Mornings are not really suitable for meetings without prior notice as staff are preparing for the school day and once the bell rings, their priority is the children. Urgent messages may, of course, be left with the office staff.

Attendance and Punctuality



We pride ourselves that our overall school attendance continues to exceed the national figure. When we broke up in July, our attendance for the academic year of 2015-16 was 97.1%. This is 0.3% lower than 2014-15. The overall best attenders were the current Year 2. Attendance is regularly monitored and will be challenged should it fall below 93%. Holidays during term time remain strictly **unauthorised.**

We also place importance on the punctuality of all children as this makes a good start to the day. The Infant and Junior doors open from 8:45 a.m. to allow all children to arrive and settle in their classroom by 8:55 a.m. Last year a small minority of the same families frequently arrived after 8.55 a.m. Entry to the school after 8.55 a.m is by the school office. Late children **must** be accompanied by an adult as they have to be signed into school with a reason given for their lateness. A late start to the school day can have an adverse effect on your child's learning and so I would urge all families to leave home a little bit earlier in the mornings to ensure a prompt arrival at school.

Please consider making medical and dental appointments for your children outside of school hours or during the school holidays. We have noticed a growing number of children attending non-emergency appointments during the school day.

Most medical establishments are helpful in accommodating appointments out of school hours. Thank you for your continued co-operation in this matter.

Dinner Money / Other Money

When sending money into school, please ensure it is in a sealed envelope labelled with your child's name, class and what the money is for. **Money for different items should be sent in separate envelopes.**



A reminder that school dinners are £10.75 per week and this should be handed in on **Monday morning.**

Dinner money can be paid weekly or half termly by cheque (made payable to 'SNOMAC' (with your child's initials on the back). Children who usually have a packed lunch might like to avail of a cooked meal each Friday. This should be paid for at the beginning of the week - £ 2.15. There will be a special themed menu for all children on **Thursday 6th October**. Details to follow.

Details regarding entitlement to free school meals are available from the school office. The DfE use a formula for allocating money to schools and the % 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. We would encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

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

Congratulations!

Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Smith, our kitchen staff, recently won a special recognition award for excellent school service, presented by Cityserve. This award is richly deserved and justly recognizes the hard work, time and commitment our cooks put into



making school meals so appetizing. They also put tremendous amount of effort into our themed menus throughout the year. Well done Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Smith.

Early Birds and Evening Owls Club

At present the club is full most mornings but has availability each afternoon. There are cancellations on occasions, so it is always worth checking with Mrs Rickerby - 07805 511796 should you require child care before or after school. If you have booked places **but do not need them**, please let Mrs Rickerby know as soon as possible as we have a waiting list. **A reminder that sessions are chargeable when booked, even if they are not taken up.**



Premises & Safety

During the summer break the school has been thoroughly cleaned by Mr and Mrs Rollason and we thank them for making it such a lovely, clean environment for the children to return to and be educated in. Floodlit lighting has been installed outside the Before and After School Club to enable the outdoors to be utilized more during the winter evenings.

Please remember that the large play equipment is not supervised before or after school and all children, including pre-school children should not be using the equipment for safety reasons. The equipment left outside on the Reception playground, including the Mud Kitchen should also not be used before or after school.

May I also remind you that dogs are not allowed on any part of the school premises, even if they are kept on a lead. Thank you.



PTA AGM - Thursday 22nd September 7 p.m

Welcome Disco - Friday 23rd September 6:30- 9pm

Our annual Summer Fair last July was a huge success.

A tremendous total profit of nearly £3,000 was raised. A huge thank you to all PTA volunteers and parents, families and friends who supported this event.

The committed PTA has grown in numbers since last year but they are always ready to welcome new or existing parents - please consider whether you can volunteer to be a member of the P.T.A. or volunteer to help out at events - why not come along to the A.G.M. on Thursday 22nd September to find out more?

The welcome disco on 23rd September is open to all families and is a great way for our new families to get to know each other but please remember that all children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

Alton Castle

Year 6 children will be taking part in a retreat between 19th-21st September. Further details for parents will follow.

Internet Safety Yr 1-6



In line with our Internet Safety

Policy, an acceptable use form will be sent home with this newsletter today, to be read and signed and returned by Monday 12th September.

Inspire Workshops

A separate letter will be issued to inform



you of the Autumn Inspire Workshop dates. The workshops for Years 1-6 will focus on Maths Reasoning and Calculation Strategies. Please make a note of the workshop for your child/ren so that you can make arrangements to attend.

Uniform

Your children have all returned to school looking extremely smart. Thank you for supporting our school uniform policy- a copy can be found on the school's website. Please ensure that all your child's uniform and PE kit is labelled. A list is attached to this newsletter as a reminder. This includes reference to fashion haircuts, hair accessories, nail varnish, jewellery etc. **Please do not be persuaded by your child to allow fashion haircuts as these are not permitted in school.**

Parking : A reminder to our new and existing

families. The car park in Winchfield Drive must never be used by parents at any time including when collecting from the after school club, regardless of inclement weather. Please make sure that this safety message is passed on to anyone who collects your child. Please also remember to park with consideration on the roads surrounding the school so that local residents can gain access to their own properties. Parents should never park on any zig zag lines. Please consider leaving home a few minutes earlier so that



you have time to park safely and

walk your child into the school playgrounds. Parents should also try to avoid parking in the bus lane on the Hagley Road, as this is a parking offence and parking tickets and fines will be enforced by West Midlands Police.

Swimming lessons take place on a Friday afternoon, with the children returning to school at 3.25pm. The coach will need to park as close as possible to the school drive entrance on Winchfield Drive, to ensure the children disembark safely. This will require extra consideration when finding a clear parking space. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Teacher Training Days

Monday 5th September 2016

Thursday 13th October 2016

Friday 14th October 2016

Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Monday 12th June 2017



School Fund

Parents are asked to contribute £5 a term per family for school fund. Please try to send in your donation by the end of September. Thank you for your support and to those parents who have already sent this in. This contribution does help towards providing extra resources for your children.



Secondary School Transfer for Sept 2017

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Secondary School Meetings Parents in Year 6 will need to complete their secondary preference forms shortly. All of the schools are holding open evenings (Hagley High have an open 'Saturday' on 15th October 2016) and I would strongly advise parents to go along with their child to visit schools that you intend including on your preference form.

Parents are strongly advised to [apply online](#) or to have returned their Birmingham Local Authority Preference Form by 1st October. (If parents wish to view schools that are outside of Birmingham and whose open evenings fall after 1st October 2016 you may [apply](#)

[online](#) by Monday 31st October 2016. This will not disadvantage your application).

Primary School Applications for Sept 2017

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

If you have a child starting this school **next** September you should [apply online](#) to the local authority or return your completed preference form to School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service. If you live in Birmingham and your child attends a community or private nursery in the city, you should receive information from the local authority (Birmingham City Council) via post about how to start your child at school in the reception year for September 2017. Information will be obtainable from the school shortly. If you live **outside** Birmingham you must apply to the local authority in which you live (i.e. the Council to which you pay your Council Tax) for their Preference Form. You should include this school on that form and return it to your local authority.

Also, if your child is Catholic, you will need to get a Supplementary Information Form from our school office and you must return it to us together with original proof of your child's baptism. You can do this NOW - this information is used to rank children in order.

Diary Dates: September - December 2016: Further dates will be added as available.

Mon 5 Sept

Teacher Day (1)- School closed to pupils

Tues 6 Sept

All pupils return to school. Rec class half days begin for the week

Sun 11 Sept

Education Sunday

Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Mon 12 Sept

Whole School Mass- Yr 6 to lead

Mon 12 Sept	6 pm MAC Full Board Meeting
Tues 13 Sept	School Nurse visits begin x fortnightly
Fri 16 Sept	SNOMAC Year 4 and 5 tag rugby at OLF
Sun 18 Sept	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 19 Sept-21 Sept	Yr 6 Alton Castle
Thurs 22 Sept	PTA AGM 7pm in school
Fri 23 Sept	6.30- 9pm Welcome Disco ALL VERY WELCOME!!!
Sun 25 Sept	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 26 Sept	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Tues 27 Sept	9.10 am Yr 5 Inspire Workshop
Wed 28 Sept	Bear Creek adventure day in school
Thurs 29 Sept	Year 4 football after school at Shenley

October (Month of the Rosary)

Sat 1 Oct	6 pm Mass of Thanksgiving for Father Seamus at OLF church
Sun 2 Oct	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 5 Oct	SNOMAC Years 4 and 5 basketball at OLF
Wed 5 Oct	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Thurs 6 Oct	9.05 am Reception Class' Blessing Service
Sun 9 Oct	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 11 Oct	9.10 am Year 3 Inspire Workshop
Wed 12 Oct	9.05 am Harvest Service led by Year 5
Wed 12 Oct	6 pm OLOF ARC meeting
Thurs 13 Oct	Teacher Day (2) School closed to pupils
Fri 14 Oct	Teacher Day (3) School closed to pupils
Sun 16 Oct	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 17 Oct	Black History Week
Tues 18 Oct	9.10 am Yr 2 Inspire Workshop
Wed 19 Oct	Year 6 Door of Mercy Pilgrimage Retreat Day at St Chad's
Wed 19 Oct	SNOMAC Cross Country Years 3, 4 and 5 at Hagley

Thurs 20 Oct 2.15 pm Rec Class Learning to read workshop

Fri 21 Oct 3.30 pm PTA Cake Sale

HALF TERM

Mon 31 Oct 9.40 am Yr 1,2,3 anti flu treatment

November

Dedicated Month for Holy Souls

Wed 2 Nov 9.30- 11.30 am Open Morning

Fri 4 Nov 6.30 pm PTA Firework Disco

Sun 6 Nov Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Mon 7 Nov Book Week starts

Mon 7 Nov 6 pm MAC Full Board meeting

Thurs 10 Nov 9.05 am Year 4's Assembly

Fri 11 Nov SNOMAC KS1 Multi Skills

Fri 11 Nov 11.00 am Observe 2 mins silence

Sun 13 Nov Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Tues 15 Nov 9.10 am Year 4 Inspire Workshop

Thurs 17 Nov 7 pm FHC Meeting in school hall

Sun 20 Nov 11.00 am in church Year 3 Listening Mass

Tues 22 Nov 9.10 am Year 1 Inspire workshop

Sun 27 Nov Advent begins

Sun 27 Nov Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Wed 30 Nov SNOMAC KS1 Multi Skills

December

Thurs 1 Dec Years 5 and 6 after school Basketball at Shenley

Sun 4 Dec Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Mon 5 Dec 6 pm Full MAC Board Meeting

Tues 6 Dec 9.05 am St Nicholas Feast Day Mass Year 3

Wed 7 Dec 6 pm OLOF ARC Meeting

Sun 11 Dec Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Mon 12 Dec 9.15 am and 2.15 pm Infant Nativity

Thurs 15 Dec 9.15 am Carol Service

Thurs 15 Dec Christmas lunch

Thurs 15 Dec	PTA Disco in church hall
Fri 16 Dec	PTA Film night
Sun 18 Dec	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 19 Dec	Christmas Parties and Santa's visit
Tues 20 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
	Break-up for Christmas Holiday 3.30 p.m.

Pupils back to school on **Wednesday 4th January 2017** - School opens for pupils **8.45 a.m.**

School Uniform 2016/17

The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged as it helps the child to identify more closely with the 'school family' and generally assists in promoting the public image of the school.

The winter uniform consists of:

BOYS Grey trousers, white shirt, royal blue pullover with school crest, grey socks, school tie, and sensible black shoes.

GIRLS Plain grey skirt/pinafore dress or trousers / culottes, white blouse, royal blue cardigan with school crest, white socks or grey woollen tights, school tie, sensible black shoes.

Summer Uniform:

BOYS Grey shorts or trousers. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

GIRLS Blue/white striped or check summer dress. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

School caps or sun hats can be purchased from the school office

P.E.

Boys and Girls: Navy shorts and plain white T-shirt. Pumps for indoor P.E. and dance.

Track suits may be worn for outdoor games during the winter months.

Training shoes which do not cover the ankles may be worn for outdoor games. They are not suitable for indoor P.E.

Swimming Costume and towel. One piece swimsuit for girls, swimming trunks (not shorts) for boys.

Book bags, pump bags, elastic ties and sun hats can be purchased from the school. Parents are free to obtain items from wherever they please with the exception of the school crest jumpers and cardigans which can be obtained from Clive Marks in Bearwood or Tesco online.

ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME.

ALL DRESS SHOULD ALWAYS CONFORM TO SAFETY.

Long hair should be tied back for hygiene reasons and especially during P.E., for safety reasons. Hair accessories should be simple and follow school colours. **'Fashion' haircuts are not appropriate** for school for boys or girls. Boys' hair should not be 'shaved' including with patterns and should be even in length (i.e. no 'Mohicans').

Children are asked not to wear jewellery apart from a watch. For safety and hygiene, the wearing of earrings is not allowed but if necessary, ear studs may be worn which must be removed for swimming lessons.



SCHOOL FUND AUTUMN TERM 2016

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

Eldest child in school _____ Class _____.

Please make cheques payable to SNOMAC.

Received in school by _____

Thank you for your support.

Our Lady of Fatima School Term Dates - School Year 2016 - 2017

Autumn Term 2016	Spring Term 2017	Summer Term 2017
Tuesday 05 September to Friday 21 Oct	Wednesday 4 January to Friday 17 February	Monday 24 April to Friday 26 May
Monday 31 October to Tuesday 20 Dec	Monday 27 February to Friday 7 April	Monday 05 June to Friday 21 July

Teacher Training Days (school closed to pupils)

- 1) Monday 5th September 2016
- 2) Thursday 13th October 2016
- 3) Friday 14th October 2016
- 4) Tuesday 3rd January 2017
- 5) Monday 12th June 2017