



Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — December 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

'Intentional and Prophetic'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **intentional** in the way they live and **prophetic** in the example they set others, rooted in Gospel values.

Advent

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



Don't be afraid to ask God for forgiveness. God is pure mercy." Our Holy Door will remain a feature of the school as it is a prayerful reminder of how we can all pray for others as we walk through it.

S48 Religious Education Inspection



You should have received the final report following the rigorous process of the S48 Inspection of Religious Education in October 2016. It is also available for viewing on the school's website: www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

I am delighted to be able to share with you that the Inspectors confirmed all our judgements of outstanding in Catholic Life, School Worship, Religious Education and Leadership. It was particularly noted how supportive parents and families are by the huge numbers that attended the Harvest Service. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the whole school community for their hard work, commitment and dedication, ensuring that your children receive the very best faith filled education at all times. Your children truly are a credit to you and the school. You will

End of the Year of Mercy

Sunday 20th November- The Feast of Christ the King saw the end of the Year of Mercy. We believe that the children have

greatly benefitted from Pope Francis's message to look upon people mercifully and then make decisions.

They have tried hard to show mercy, love and compassion, following Jesus's example in his teachings, where he always explained the true nature of God's mercy. Throughout this year in school the children have learnt how they can show mercy towards one another. Even though this special year is ending, Pope Francis wants us to remember that, "In life we all make many mistakes.



receive a paper copy of the full report and it will also be available for viewing on the school's website.

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School Monitoring Visit

Our School Improvement Partner, Mrs Barkway, visits the school at least four times a year to monitor that the education and welfare of all children is of the highest standards. I am delighted to report that Mrs Barkway's judgement of the Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare (PDBW) of pupils confirms the school's judgement of outstanding. She spent a large majority of the day with the children in lessons, meetings, in the lunch hall and on the playground. I am immensely proud of all the children at Our Lady of Fatima School- they never fail to amaze me with their achievements.

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.



So far we have raised **£111.85** from voluntary Harvest cash donations. There will be a 'Bake Off' in the new year with proceeds going towards CAFOD...watch this space!



The Book Fair raised an incredible **£1212** this year enabling us to have free books worth **£727**. All children will benefit from this.



We are still waiting for the final figure donated to the poppy appeal for the Royal British Legion. I will inform you of this as soon as we know.



We sent **128** christmas boxes to **Belarus** through the Operation Christmas Child scheme. This exceeds last year's total by 10 which is fantastic. 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.

Groupcall Xpressions

Thank you to those parents who have signed up to use the free app for non-urgent messages. We also now have the software in place to send emails instead of texts for non-urgent messages. Please add the school email address (enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk) and the groupcall email address (3303374@groupcall.alert.com) to your address book. Both of these facilities help us to reduce our school costs. If you have a smartphone or tablet we would encourage you to sign up to Xpressions. Please ask in the office if you have misplaced the instructions.

Eligibility for Free School Meals

The DfE 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. We would encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

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

or give the school office your NI number and date of birth and Mrs Hayden will do this on your behalf.

Extreme Weather Conditions

Just a reminder about school closures in extreme weather conditions. We will still use the system of informing parents via the **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: Monday 12th December at 9.15am or 2.15pm.

Juniors' Carol Service: Thursday 15th December at 9.15pm.



A Whole School Mass for the feast of St Nicholas will take place in school this Tuesday 6th December at 9.05 a.m. It will be led by Year 3. As always, you and your family are most welcome.

PTA Event

Thank you to the many families who supported the Firework Disco. The PTA's next event will be the Infant and Junior Discos in the Church Parish Hall on Thursday **15th 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 an emergency 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

After School Code Club

Code Club is a nationwide network of volunteer-led

after school clubs for children aged 9-11. We are looking for parents with coding skills to



volunteer to run a club alongside Mr O'Connor at school for an hour a week next term. All the materials and support you will need to help children become excited about digital making will be provided. For more information, please contact Mr O'Connor through the school office.

Inspire Workshops

There has been a great turnout for the 'Calculation Strategies



Inspire Workshops' during the Autumn Term. Year 3's workshop will take place on Tuesday 10th January 2017, but of the 5 classes whose workshop has already taken place, 90% of parents were able to attend. This support is tremendous and it goes without saying from the feedback we received from your children, they love working alongside you to share with you what they can do. We hope we have been able to pass on some useful information and tips when supporting your child's learning at home through homework activities.

In the new year Mrs Workman and Mr Bagwell will be holding Parent Information Meetings to inform all parents about the end of Key Stage Assessments (SATs) which take place in Summer 2017. A separate letter will be issued to all Year 2 and 6 parents nearer the time.

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

Our Lady of Fatima Church Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 5.30pm and 8pm

Christmas Day: 9am and 11am

Boxing Day: 10am



Christmas Celebration Meals in School



Mrs O'Brien and her staff are planning special Christmas menus for the last two days of this term- Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December. Our traditional Christmas lunch is open to all pupils on **Thursday 15th 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 15th December must complete the form below by **Monday 5th 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 Christmas themed lunches on either or both of the dates please complete the forms attached.

Please note: Snacks will not be sold on Thursday 15th December.

Christmas Jumper Day



Tuesday 20th 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 a £1 donation which will be sent to the 'Save the Children Fund'. Through UK Aid Match the government has promised to match every £1 raised by schools and so this is a very worthwhile event.

Christmas Parties will be on the afternoon of Monday 19th 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. There will be a special guest appearance from a gentleman dressed in red, with a fluffy white beard at the class 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 **Monday 19th December** the children will be treated to a wonderful pantomime

production of 'Aladdin' in school. This has been funded by the PTA- thank you to all families who have supported their events this year to enable this to be possible.

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.

(Advent starts Sunday 28 November)

December

- Sun 4 Dec Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Mon 5 Dec Sing and Play Club singing at Over 60's Club at OLF church hall
- 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
- Thurs 8 Dec Year 3 visiting Santa at Baskerville School a.m
- 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
- Tues 13 Dec School Nurse 9.15-11.15 am
- Wed 14 Dec Years 5 and 6 after school Basketball at Shenley
- Thurs 15 Dec 9.15 am Carol Service
- Thurs 15 Dec Christmas lunch
- Thurs 15 Dec PTA Disco in church hall
- Sun 18 Dec Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Mon 19 Dec Christmas Panto, 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.**

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



Thank you to those families who have already contributed to the Autumn Term's School Fund. Your £5.00 termly family donation enables us to buy additional resources for your children. Please consider contributing if you haven't already done so.

SCHOOL FUND AUTUMN TERM 2016

I attach my family contribution of £5 / other £ _____ for the Autumn Term 2016.

Eldest child in school _____ Year _____ .

Please make all cheques payable to SNOMAC.

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

Received in school by _____ Thank you for your support.

Christmas Themed Lunch Order:

CHRISTMAS FUN LUNCHES

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

would like a Christmas fun lunch on:

Monday 19th December

Tuesday 20th December

Wednesday 15th December (Traditional Christmas Lunch)

£2.15 per meal is enclosed (KS2 pupils only. KS1 pupils do not pay- universal free meals)

Please return by Monday 5th December.

Signed: _____ (parent)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH ONLY

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

would like a **Christmas lunch** on Thursday 15th December. £2.15 is enclosed.(KS2 pupils only. KS1 pupils do not pay- universal free meals)

Please return by Monday 5th December.