



Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — January 2017

'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

This half term's virtues are '**grateful and generous**'. Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, now and in the future.



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 ; we now look forward to an equally busy term ahead.



On Friday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with Mass, when we remember 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 tirelessly and working together to find Jesus. We hope to be able to exercise the same level of perseverance in our faith when we are faced with daily challenges.

Mass will be celebrated in the school hall at **9.05 am on Friday 6th January** to mark this special

feast day. You and your families are most welcome to join us.

Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile



It has been a year since we started to learn more about the sixteen catholic virtues. The focus for this half term will be the

virtues of being '**grateful and generous**'.

These virtues are fundamental to catholic education and are embodied within the virtues for living and learning. During our Friday Congratulations Assembly, a child from our school family is selected each week for living and sharing the virtues of the half term. You will notice around school that we have displayed photographs of the children demonstrating the sixteen virtues. This was commented upon most favourably during our recent Inspection for Religious Education. 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.

Our Lady of Fatima School's 50th Anniversary



This is a very exciting year for the school as 2017 marks 50 years since the school opened. We intend to hold a host of celebrations in the summer term and will keep you all well informed. Bishop Robert Byrne will celebrate a 50th Anniversary Mass in school on **Wednesday 19th July at 9.05 am**. Please make a note of this date in your diary so that you might be able to make arrangements to attend this special Mass. This Mass will also be dedicated to Year 6 as they prepare to leave our school for pastures new.

Extreme Weather Conditions

We have had quite a mild winter so far; however, I would like to remind you about school closures in extreme weather conditions. It is our aim to keep the school open if at all possible, bearing in mind the safety of all children, parents and staff and the school outdoor environment. 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 vitally important that the school office is informed of current mobile telephone numbers. The School Closure Policy is available on the school website offering more detailed information.




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Attendance

Congratulations to **Year 4** who were the worthy winners of the



Attendance Cup for last half term. The percentages were close with a whole school overall percentage of **97.2%**. Well done everyone!

Year Group	% attendance
Year 4	97.8 
Year 5	97.5
Year 3	97.4
Year 2	97.1
Reception Class and Year 6	96.9
Year 1	96.1

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 £138 for 'Save the Children' on 20th December when we all wore Christmas jumpers and £338 for St Chad's Sanctuary as a result of the refreshments following the Christmas services. Thank you as always for your generosity.

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.



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 the parish by reading and serving at 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 KS2 have also been preparing to become altar servers at church and in school. Towards the end of January these children will start to serve at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Please remember them in your prayers. It is encouraging to see many children and families attending the 11.00 a.m Mass. Attending Mass is a wonderful way of developing one's faith and relationship with God.

During the Spring term classes will be attending the 10 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church on

selected Tuesdays. Please make a note of the dates and join us here at school to walk with the children (leaving at 9.05 am) or at church for 10 am.

Year 6 Thursday 19th January

Year 5 Tuesday 28th February

Year 4 Thursday 30th March

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation



On Thursday 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 4th March. It is very important that **all** children are represented at this meeting as important information will be shared.

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. Under the 'Who's Who' section there is a tab for information about our school academy committee. Also at the very bottom of the school's website homepage there is a link to our Academy website which in turn, leads to the other schools' websites within our academy. 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 life in all of our schools. 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

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.

School Themed Meals: American Themed Meal



On Thursday 19th 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 £2.15 in an envelope clearly labelled 'American Meal' by Monday 16th January. (KS1 pupils who currently bring a packed lunch but would like a cooked lunch on this day need to inform the office- no payment required).

Chinese New Year Meal- Year of the Rooster



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 Rooster and there will be a special Chinese meal on **Thursday 26th January** (Chinese New Year is actually on Saturday 28th

January 2017). Parents of children who bring a packed lunch can avail of this meal by sending £2.15 on or before Friday 20th January so that Mrs O'Brien has time to order food supplies in advance. Please clearly label your child's envelope with 'Chinese Meal'.

Pupil 'Bake Off'



In response to pupils requesting a 'Pupil Bake Off', we will be holding a 'Bake Off' on Friday 17th February 2017. This is a great way to use up sugary ingredients in preparation for Lent which begins on 1st March. A separate letter will be issued nearer the time including entry forms. The staff will be submitting cakes too but this year their cakes will not be judged. If the pupils are anything like the staff in past years, there is always fierce competition to win. All pupils' entries will be judged and sold; all donations to CAFOD. Time to get out the cake recipe books and look for a winning recipe!



School Fund



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.

In May 2017 Years 2 and 6 will be **SATS** tested to assess attainment at the end of both Key Stages. There will be an additional Parents' Information afternoon for Year 6 parents on **Monday 30th January 2017** at 2.30 pm and a meeting for all Year 2 parents on **Thursday 9th February 2017** at 2.30 pm. These meetings will inform you about arrangements for the end of year assessments (SATs) and what the children can expect to happen. Year 2 assessments take place during May 2017 and Year 6 tests take place week beginning 8th May 2017. It is vitally important that all pupils in Years 2 and 6 attend school to enable these assessments to take place.

Parking Issues

West Midlands Travel has once again requested 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 have scheduled a meeting with our Community Police Officer in January to see if we can work together to improve the parking issues we currently experience. I would like to remind you that the staff car park should **never** be used by parents before, during or after school hours, no matter if parents believe that they will only be 'a few moments'. 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. Thank you to the many parents who do park safely and legally.

Swimming



Years 3 and 5 will be swimming on Fridays this term. 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. 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.

PTA Events



The PTA continue to organise great fundraising events. These are not only successful due to their preparations and hard work but also to the many families who support the events. Advance notice of future events this term:

Friday 17th March 6.30 pm St Patrick's Day Disco

Friday 31st March 3.40 pm Film Night

The PTA would like to remind all parents that they are responsible for their children at PTA events- thank you to all parents for their support.

I would like to thank the PTA for arranging a customer token collection at Waitrose in Harborne. The tokens collected raised £300 for school fund. This is a most welcome donation.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

To ensure the safeguarding of all children it is important that your child's class teacher and /or the school office are informed if there is a change to collection arrangements. We do appreciate that collection arrangements can change at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. In these cases please

telephone the **school office** so that we can effectively pass the message onto your child's class teacher. Please do not email this information as we cannot guarantee that emails are all read and acted upon before the end of the school day. We wish to assure you that if there is any doubt at all about collection arrangements we will contact you directly before releasing your child.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF TERM DATE:

The children will return to school in the Autumn Term 2017 on **Tuesday 5th September 2017** at 8.55 am.

Dates for Diary : January- April 2017

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

Wed 4 th Jan	Return to school
Fri 6 th Jan	9.05 am School Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany
Tues 10 th Jan	Year 3's Inspire workshop- 9.05 am
Wed 11 th Jan	SNOMAC Year 3 trampolining at Hagley High School pm
Wed 11 th Jan	After school dance club begins for Years 5 and 6
Thurs 12 th Jan	Woodgate Valley Fire Station visiting Year 4 at 2pm
Thurs 12 th Jan	Years 3 and 4 after school Villa Coaching begins
Fri 13 th Jan	SNOMAC Year 3 trampolining at Hagley High School pm
Fri 13 th Jan	Swimming lessons for Year 5 begin
Fri 13 th Jan	After school handball club begins
Sun 15 th Jan	Year 3 -First Holy Communion Preparation Mass at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 17 th Jan	Reception Class eye tests a.m.
Tues 17 th Jan	School nurse available 8.30-10.30 am
Thurs 19 th Jan	Year 6 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
Thurs 19 th Jan	'American' themed school lunch
Fri 20 th Jan	Swimming lessons for Year 3 begin

Sun 22nd Jan	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 23 rd Jan	Feast Day of our Academy Saint - Saint Nicholas Owen
Thurs 26th Jan	Able Maths workshops for some Year 3 and Year 4 pupils
Thurs 26 th Jan	9.05 am Year 2 Class Assembly
Thurs 26 th Jan	'Chinese' themed school lunch
Sun 29 th Jan	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 30 th Jan	Year 6 SATs meeting 2.30 pm in school
Tues 31st Jan	School nurse available 8.30-10.30 am
Wed 1 st Feb	Years 5 and 6 Athletics at Shenley Academy- after school
Thurs 2 nd Feb	7 p.m Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents' Meeting in the school hall
Sun 5 th Feb	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 8 th Feb	School Academy Committee Meeting 6 pm
Thurs 9 th Feb	Year 2 SATs meeting 2.30 pm in school
Sun 12 th Feb	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 14 th Feb	Good Shepherd Appeal Assembly for children a.m
Thurs 16 th Feb	12.15 pm Anniversary Academy Mass at St Chad's Cathedral- Year 5 attending
Thurs 16 th Feb	7 pm Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Evening Concert at Birmingham Town Hall
Fri 17 th Feb	Bake Off cake sale- proceeds to CAFOD
Sat 18th/Sun 19 th	Parish visit by Bishop Robert Byrne (Lenten Activities to follow in a separate letter)
Fri 17th Feb	3.30 p.m. Break up for Half Term
Mon 27th Feb	8.55 a.m. School re-opens
Tues 28 th Feb	Year 5 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
Wed 1 st Mar	Ash Wednesday Mass 9.05 am in school- all welcome
Thurs 2 nd Mar	Year 6's Class Feast Day- St Chad. Non-uniform day for Year 6 ONLY
Fri 3rd Mar	SNOMAC Tag Rugby- OLF v St Joseph's
Sat 4 th Mar	11 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) — Year 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Sat 4 th Mar	Birmingham Catholic Schools' Swimming Gala 6-9 pm
Sun 5 th Mar	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 6 th Mar	Birmingham Catholic Partnership Appeal for Rwanda- assembly for children a.m
Mon 6 th Mar	Year 6 - Music for Youth at the Symphony Hall
Mon 6 th Mar	Netball coaching begins after school for Years 5 and 6
Wed 8 th Mar	SNOMAC Basketball OLF v St Joseph's
Wed 8 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 12 th Mar	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sun 12 th Mar	St Patrick's Day Parade
Tues 14 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.
Fri 17 th Mar	St Patrick's Feast Day- non-school uniform day- green/ orange clothes
Fri 17 th Mar	PTA St Patrick's Day Disco 6.30-9 pm
Sun 19 th Mar	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Thurs 23 rd Mar	9.05 am Reception Class's Mothers' Day Assembly
Sun 26 th Mar	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 28 th Mar	Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
Thurs 30 th Mar	Year 4 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
Fri 31 st Mar	SNOMAC Year 5 Tag Rugby St Mary's v OLF
Fri 31 st Mar	PTA Film Night 3.40-5.40 pm
Sun 2 nd Apr	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 4 th Apr	7 p.m Year 3 First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting in the school hall
Wed 5 th Apr	School Academy Committee Meeting 6 pm
Thurs 6 th Apr	Year 3 'Sharing a Meal' Service at 9.05am followed by breakfast for Year 3 Parents and children
Fri 7 th April	3.30 pm Break up for the Easter holidays
Mon 24 th Apr	8.55 a.m Children return to school after Easter holidays.



SCHOOL FUND SPRING TERM 2017- 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.