



# Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — February 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](http://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.



As we begin the new month of February we look forward to slightly lighter mornings and much lighter evenings. Today we celebrate the Feast of Candlemas. In the Gospel for the day we learn about Simeon who praised God because he had seen the 'light of the nations'. This is yet another reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World.

## Altar Servers



Last Sunday six new altar servers met with Father Craig after the 11 am Mass so that they could familiarise themselves with serving at church. They have been very well prepared in school to be able to serve the parish community in this way. The parish will welcome these new altar servers alongside our existing altar servers this

weekend for the first time. Please remember them in your prayers.

## The Pope App

Please follow the link:

<http://www.news.va/en/source/vatican.va>



to a website, created and designed for us 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](http://www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

## 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 **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March** and



**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### Our Lady of Fatima School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



This year we will be celebrating 50 years since the school opened. We are planning many celebrations to mark this very special occasion. We are hoping to put together an exhibition of memorabilia from the many years since the school opened and so we are asking for your help. Many parents were also pupils at our school and may have kept some old photos/memories of either the school or the local area. We would ensure that anything submitted for the exhibition would be looked after. We are also looking to secure an area to display memorabilia for the public to see at John Lewis. These memories can be anything from a photo to an artefact from the 1960s- records / fountain pens / pencil cases / exercise books etc. Please let others know; the more we spread the word, the more we'll have to exhibit.

### School Bake Off



Time to get out the cook books to make preparations for the Our Lady of Fatima School's 'Great Bake Off'. The children are invited to take part in the Bake Off on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February but must register an interest by completing an entry form. More details will follow in a separate letter.

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### Advance Notice: St Patrick's Day Parade



Our school has once again been asked to take part in the **2017 St Patrick's Day Parade**. Our float will be a 40 foot lorry and it will need filling with lots of families. It will have a 60's theme to tie in with the school's celebrations. Please be sure to put **Sunday 12th March** into your diary so that you can join us at the Parade. More details to follow.

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### PTA News

The recent KS2 Quiz was a great success with a Year 5/6 team winning by one point! Thank you to those children who supported this event.



The next PTA event will be the St Patrick's Day disco in the school hall on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March** from **6.30-9 pm**. Please come along and have a

great time whilst supporting the fundraising for the school.

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### School Themed Meals

Mrs O'Brien and her team are offering a Valentine's Day meal on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** and a



special 'Pancake Day' meal on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**. If your



child usually has a packed lunch but would like a school meal on either or both of these days please send £2.15 for each meal into the school office in envelopes clearly marked 'Valentine's Day meal and/or 'Pancake Day Meal'. KS1 pupils do not need to pay as payment is covered by the universal free school meals.

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### E-Safety



Mr O'Connor will lead a whole school assembly at the start of E-Safety Week to inform and remind the children about the importance of staying safe online. It will also repeat what to do if they ever feel unsafe when using the internet. Following the assembly and class activities the children will bring home an NSPCC parents' guide so that you can support your children at home, making sure that they stay safe at all times. I would recommend that you do read this useful and current guidance; I meet with many parents

who raise concerns about inappropriate activity on social media sites. By working and communicating together we will ensure that all pupils will take responsibility for their own safety online, with your and the school's support.

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### 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.

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### Punctuality and appointments



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. I would also like to remind you to try to make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Medical practitioners are usually most accommodating and will see children after school. Appointments during the school day lead to lost opportunities for continuous learning. Please provide proof of any medical appointment made and be prepared to show this to the office staff. Thank you for your co-operation.

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### Polite Reminder

I have noticed a few boys' 'fashion haircuts' in school. May



I remind parents that school policy states no

tramlines, patterns or number 1 haircuts. Girls' hair accessories should be blue, in keeping with the school uniform colours. Children can be quite persuasive and so I am asking for your co-operation and support in adhering to agreed school policy. Thank you.

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### Toys, Games and Books



I will be writing a separate letter to you about our fundraising plans for our Lenten charities. We will be having a 'Toy Sale' after half term and so I thought it was a good idea to pre-warn you of this so that during half term, the children might have a good clear out of any toys, games and books that they no longer use. Any unwanted items can be brought into school ready for the sale.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### Dates for Diary: February- April 2017

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

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Years 5 and 6 Athletics at Shenley Academy- after school
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	7 p.m Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents' Meeting in the school hall
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School Academy Committee Meeting 6 pm
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 2 SATs meeting 2.30 pm in school

Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Good Shepherd Appeal Assembly for children a.m
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School nurse available 8.30-10.30 am
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Valentine's Day themed meal
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12.15 pm Anniversary Academy Mass at St Chad's Cathedral- Year 5 attending
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7 pm Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Evening Concert at Birmingham Town Hall
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bake Off cake sale- proceeds to CAFOD
<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>3.30 p.m. Break up for Half Term</b>
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> /Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parish visit by Bishop Robert Byrne
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 6 reading at 11 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>8.55 a.m. School re-opens</b>
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 5 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Ash Wednesday Mass 9.05 am in school- all welcome  (Lenten Activities to follow in a separate letter)
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Year 6's Class Feast Day- St Chad. Non-uniform day for <b>Year 6 ONLY</b>
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	SNOMAC Tag Rugby- OLF v St Joseph's
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 noon Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) — Year 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Birmingham Catholic Schools' Swimming Gala 6-9 pm
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Birmingham Catholic Partnership Appeal for Rwanda- assembly for children a.m
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 6 - Music for Youth at the Symphony Hall
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Netball coaching begins after school for Years 5 and 6
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	SNOMAC Basketball OLF v St Joseph's
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. <b><u>Parents only for all appointments</u></b> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St Patrick's Day Parade

- Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Mar Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. **Parents only for all appointments**- please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Mar St Patrick's Feast Day- non-school uniform day- green/ orange clothes
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Mar PTA St Patrick's Day Disco 6.30-9 pm
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 9.05 am Reception Class's Mothers' Day Assembly
- Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Mar Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
- Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 4 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
- Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Mar SNOMAC Year 5 Tag Rugby St Mary's v OLF
- Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Mar PTA Film Night 3.40-5.40 pm
- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Apr 7 p.m Year 3 First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting in the school hall
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Apr School Academy Committee Meeting 6 pm
- Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Apr Year 3 'Sharing a Meal' Service at 9.05am followed by breakfast for Year 3  
Parents and children
- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> April 3.30 pm Break up for the Easter holidays
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Apr 8.55 a.m Children return to school after Easter holidays.



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**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ .

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

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

Thank you for your support.