



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — March 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

'Attentive and Discerning'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **attentive** to their experiences and to their vocation and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

Our Journey through Lent



It was lovely to see so many parents at Mass which was celebrated in school on Wednesday 1st March to mark the start of the Lenten season.

Lent is a very important time in the liturgical year and the children will develop their Lenten faith journey in school as they prepare for the most important celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Our preparations include: Year 3 receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Saturday (4th March), Service of Reconciliation and individual Confession for Years 4–6, Year 3 leading a 'Sharing a Meal' service and an assembly to share the story of Jesus' Passion through the Stations of the Cross. We are called to remember the three important aspects of Lent: **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.**

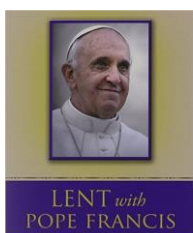
Once again as a school we are supporting charities near to home as well as the wider world—Father Hudson's Society and the Catholic Primary

Partnership's Rwanda Schools' Appeal.

Your child has already brought home a collection box for the Good Shepherd Appeal. The week before the half term holidays, Margot Scotford, a representative from Father Hudson's Care led an assembly about the Good Shepherd Appeal to share with the children how their charitable donations are spent. Please support and encourage your child to link their 'fasting' to 'giving'. We hope that the activities that the children engage in, in school each week, help them on their Lenten faith journey. Please refer to the Lenten newsletter to keep you informed with our weekly fundraising events, a copy of which is available on the school's website under the Diary Dates section. These events aim to be as enjoyable as possible so that the children recognise that helping others in greater need does not have to be a painful sacrifice.

The Toy Sale will take place on **Monday 20th March 2017**; please encourage your child to donate toys and books they no longer want to make this sale successful.

The 'silver trail' where the whole school adds silver coins to an iconic picture to raise money is a very spiritually uplifting and prayerful occasion. Parents are welcome to come into school on Thursday 30th March at 3.30pm to add silver coins to the trail. The Wednesday Word, class prayer bags and 'Lent 2017 Walk with Me' calendars are also useful ways that you can prepare at home as a family.



Pope Francis says: 'Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. Let us find inspiration in the meaningful story of Lazarus (Luke 16 v 19-31), for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life.'

Goodbye and Good Luck

Mrs Greatrex will be leaving Our Lady of Fatima School at the end of this term to teach at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic School. Since recently moving house Mrs Greatrex has secured a teaching position closer to home. Miss Fayne, who already teaches Year 5 on Thursdays, will increase to full time teaching in Year 5 as from 24th April 2017. The transition of teaching and learning will be smooth as the children already know Miss Fayne and she also knows the children very well indeed. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Greatrex continued success at her new school. She will be greatly missed by the whole school community but

hopefully she will come back to visit us when she can.

'Bake Off'




Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the recent 'Bake Off'

which was tremendously successful. **87** pupils submitted a cake entry. The standard was extremely high and Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Smith (our kitchen staff) had a very difficult and challenging job to choose a winning entry. Congratulations to Lola in Reception Class who was crowned the winner and who received a WHS voucher as her prize. Thank you to all pupils and parents who bought the cakes raising £292 for CAFOD. We thank you for your generosity. Roll on next year!

Attendance

Congratulations to **Year 3** for winning the Attendance Cup for last half term. Given the amount of coughs, colds, high temperatures, chickenpox and upset tummies we had last half term, the class percentages were amazing, with an overall percentage of **97.3%**, which is still well above the national average. Practically all classes had an attendance above 97%. Well done everyone!

Only a very small minority of children's education at Our Lady of Fatima School is affected by poor attendance. Teachers will inform you of your child's attendance figures if they are causing concern during the Parent Consultation evenings in March.

Year Group	% attendance
Year 3	97.6 
Year 5	97.5
Year 2	97.4
Year 4	97.2
Reception	97.1
Year 6	97.0
Year 1	96.9

I would also like to urge 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 hours. Appointments during the school day lead to lost opportunities for continuous learning. We now require proof of any medical appointments made, so please be prepared to show these to the office staff if you are unable to make an appointment outside school hours. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation Meetings will take place on

Wednesday 8th March and Tuesday

14th March. Confirmed appointments will be issued on Friday 3rd 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. Places may be



available in the Before and After School Club- please contact Mrs Rickerby 07805 511796 should you wish enquire about child care provision.

Year 5 Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church



Due to unforeseen circumstances Father Craig has asked if the Year 5 Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church can be re-

scheduled to **Tuesday 7th March at 10 am.** All parents are most welcome to join us at church or walk with Year 5 to the church, leaving at 9 am.

The parishioners were so pleased when Year 6 attended Mass at church in January. Year 4 will be attending Mass on Thursday 30th March. All parents are most welcome.

School Photographs

On **Thursday 16th March** individual and family photographs of school siblings will be taken. Please ensure that your child arrives in school in full school winter uniform including a shirt (not polo shirt) and tie.

St Patrick's Day Parade



Our school is taking part in the **2017 St Patrick's Day Parade.**

It is proving to be bigger and better than ever. 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 anniversary celebrations. Garry from 'Off Your Trolley' will be working with classes once again to

ensure that the float is eye catching and memorable. Please support us at the Parade on **Sunday 12th March**. Mr O'Connor will issue further details nearer the time.

St Patrick's Day Themed Lunch



If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like a school meal on **Thursday 16th March** to celebrate St Patrick's Day, please send £2.15

for the meal into the school office in a clearly labelled envelope marked 'St Patrick's Day Meal'. KS1 pupils do not need to pay as payment is covered by the universal free school meals scheme.

PTA St Patrick's Day Disco



The PTA is hosting their annual St Patrick's Day Disco on Friday 17th March 2017 in the school hall from

6.30- 9 pm. Drinks and hot food can be purchased as well. We also have some very talented parents who enjoy Irish dancing, so please do come along to have a great night whilst raising further funds for school.

Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall

I hope the parents and families who attended the Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall enjoyed the event, especially our own children's performance of 'Footloose'. School staff and academy representatives were incredibly proud of the children, both in terms of behaviour and their quality performance. Well done to Year 5!

Community Police Update

I met with Sgt David Taylor from Quinton Neighbourhood Policing Team in February. We discussed many ways that the Community Police could support schools by delivering assemblies and workshops highlighting safety issues including travel, safer use of the internet and making the right choices.



You can find out about what is happening in your area by registering via your email address to news alerts on www.wmnow.co.uk

Towards the end of the meeting the issue of inconsiderate parking was discussed; Sgt Taylor agreed to make random visits at dropping off/picking up times to encourage the small minority of parents/adults who park without due regard to the safety of our pupils to be more considerate. Instant parking fines will be issued if cars are found to be illegally parked.

New Routes to Fostering



Do you have time and energy to support a young person? Have you ever considered fostering?

Margot Scotford from Father Hudson's Care has asked me to draw your attention to a website which offers more information about the rewards and benefits of fostering.

www.foster-carers.org.uk or information can be gained by calling 01675 434025 or by emailing newroutesfostering@fatherhudsons.org.uk

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers



Once again we are collecting the Active Kids vouchers which can be redeemed against a wide range of equipment. Thank you for your support in collecting these vouchers and bringing them into school.

At the end of the school day

I have received an increasing number of complaints from local residents that some pupils are running across grassed areas and private gardens at the end of the school day. Please keep your children close to you once they are dismissed so that they are not tempted to run onto surrounding private property. This is in keeping with demonstrating our school catholic virtues at all times. Thank you for your co-operation.

Reminder of the remaining Teacher Training Day 2016/17

Monday 12th June 2017

Dates for Diary: March- April 2017

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

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|---------------------------|--|
| Wed 1 st Mar | Ash Wednesday Mass 9.05 am in school- all welcome
(Lenten Activities were issued in a separate letter) |
| Thurs 2 nd Mar | Year 6's Class Feast Day- St Chad. Non-uniform day for Year 6 ONLY |
| Fri 3 rd Mar | SNOMAC Tag Rugby- OLF v St Joseph's |
| Sat 4 th Mar | 12 noon 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 after school for Years 5 and 6 until 3 rd April |
| Tues 7 th Mar | Year 5 attending 10 am Mass at OLF church. All welcome. |
| 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	School Nurse available 9-11 am
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.
Thurs 16 th Mar	School photographs - individuals and siblings a.m
Thurs 16 th Mar	St Patrick's Day school themed lunch
Thurs 16 th Mar	OLF v Chad Vale football match 4pm
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
Thurs 23 rd Mar	Able Writers' workshop at Harborne Primary School
Sun 26 th Mar	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 27 th Mar	Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
Wed 29 th Mar	SNOMAC Year 3 Indoor athletics pm
Thurs 30 th Mar	Year 4 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
Thurs 30 th Mar	Years 3 and 4 WBA tournament after school
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
Fri 31 st Mar	Years 5 and 6 handball competition at Shenley Academy after school
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	Easter Bonnet Parade
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 _____ Year _____ .

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

Received in school by _____

Thank you for your support.