



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — September 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)

## 'Eloquent and Truthful'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **eloquent** in what they say of themselves and **truthful** about themselves and to all they meet.

### Welcome



A very warm welcome back to everyone! I hope that you all had a lovely summer break with your

families and friends despite the mixed weather. I would like to extend a special warm welcome to our new children and their families. I know that the whole school community will help our new families to settle in well. I am sure that all the children are happy to be reunited with their friends.

We also welcome Miss Boulton and Mr Smith to our school community and hope that they will be very happy teaching at Our Lady of Fatima School. Mrs Liddy will also be joining the staff as a Teaching Assistant, as well as her existing position as a Lunchtime Supervisor. May I ask you to remember in your prayers the current Year 7 pupils starting their Secondary Schools. They will be feeling excited, but may also be feeling a little anxious about their new settings.

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### Mass : Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

You are all invited to our first Mass of the new school year in the school hall starting at 9.05 am. We will dedicate the Mass for the intentions of our whole school community as we begin this new school year together. Please do join us in this school community worship.



### Centenary Year of Our Lady of Fatima



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

marks the end of the centenary celebrations of

the apparitions of Our Lady to Blessed Sister Lucia, Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta at Fatima on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of each month between May and October 1917.

The parish will be celebrating this special occasion with a Mass on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7 pm**, celebrated by Bishop Robert Byrne. Please do consider sharing this momentous occasion by attending the Mass with your family. More details will follow in October's newsletter.

Let us accompany Our Lady of Fatima in the way that she asked the three young children to do, through prayer and penance, praying the Rosary with our families for the conversion of hearts and peace in the world.

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### Parish Website

Please visit the parish website to read current information about the parish and the latest newsletters. [www.catholicquinton.org.uk](http://www.catholicquinton.org.uk)

The parish also has a Twitter account which is regularly updated: **OLFQuinton**

## The Pope App

Please follow the link:



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

to a new 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)

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

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## 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. Please remember that the outdoor 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.

The safety of all pupils and staff is of paramount importance. We have therefore improved the security of the school site by having electric gates fitted to the main entrance of the school. The gates will remain locked at all times when the children are in school. Should you wish to gain access to school during the school day, adults will need to use the intercom by the pedestrian gate. A reminder that only delivery vehicles will be given access to the school driveway.

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## School Information

If there are any changes of address or telephone numbers, please let the office staff know ASAP. A current phone number is **essential** 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 known 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 or any other medication 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.

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## School Nurse Drop In Clinic

Our school nurse will be available in school every month on Tuesday mornings from 8.30- 10.30 am, starting on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Many parents find this service invaluable. Appointments can be made via the school office or parents can just drop into school. The nurse will be able to offer advice and support with any medical issues or other concerns such as sleeping routines or dietary requirements.



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## School Appointments

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. Other more urgent messages may, of course, be left with the office.

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## Attendance and Punctuality

We pride ourselves that our overall school attendance exceeds the national figure.



When we broke up in July, our overall attendance for the academic year of 2016-17 was 97.1%. This has ever so slightly decreased from 2015-16. The overall best attenders were the current Year 3.

We also place importance on the punctuality of all children as this makes a good start to the day. The Infant and Junior doors will open from 8:45 a.m. to allow all children to arrive in their classroom by 8:55 a.m. Please make sure your child starts the school day well by being present when the register is called in the classroom at 8.55 am. Should your child's attendance fall below 95%, we will contact you to arrange to make an appointment. Holidays during term time are strictly **unauthorised**. Today you will also receive an attendance leaflet, which I would urge you to read. It is in line with the Government guidelines regarding school attendance and punctuality during term time.

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### **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.** It is helpful if the correct change is brought into school for snack money. A reminder that school dinners are £11.25 per week for KS2 pupils (Universal Free School Meals for Reception and KS1 pupils) 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 have a Friday lunch which is paid for at the beginning of the week - £ 2.25. There will be a special menu for all children on Thursday 5th October. Details to follow.

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### **Free School Meal Entitlement**

All Infant pupils are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. In addition to this entitlement 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.** Details regarding entitlement to free school meals are available from the school office. 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\\_](https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/school_)

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### **Early Birds and Evening Owls Club**

At present the club is full every morning. However, there are limited places available each evening. 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.**



### **P.T.A. News: Diary Dates**

P.T.A A.G.M - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 7 p.m.

Welcome Disco - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 6:30-9pm

Our annual Summer Fair last July was a huge success. A tremendous total profit of over £2,000 was raised. A huge thank you to all P.T.A volunteers and parents, families and friends who supported this event. The committed P.T.A 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 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September to find out more?

The welcome disco on 29<sup>th</sup> 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. A polite reminder: as a public building, the law regarding no smoking/vaping covers all parts of the school premises including the playground and paths.

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### Alton Castle

Year 6 children will be taking part in a retreat between 20th - 22nd September. Further details for parents will follow.

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### Internet Safety Yr 1-6



In line with our Internet Safety

Policy, an acceptable use form will be sent home with a letter today. The form needs to be signed and returned to school by Monday 18th September.

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### Inspire Workshops

A separate letter has already been issued to inform you of the Inspire Workshop dates. The workshops for most classes will focus on Catholic Life and Child Led Worship and will be led by class teachers and when available, Father Craig. Please make a note of the workshop for your child/ren so that you can make arrangements to attend.

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### Uniform

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

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### Parking : A reminder to our new and existing families.



Please 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 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. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

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### Teacher Training Days

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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### 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.

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### Secondary School Transfer for Sept 2018

<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 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017) and I would strongly advise parents to go along with their child to visit schools that you intend including on your preference form.

Parents must [apply online](#) or have returned their Birmingham Local Authority Preference Form by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

**Primary School Applications for Sept 2018**  
<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

If you have a child starting this school **next** September - you must apply by 15th January 2018. 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 2018. 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 2017- December 2017: Further dates will be added as available.**

Mon 4 Sept	<b>Teacher Day (1)- School closed to pupils</b>
Tues 5 Sept	<b>Teacher Day (2)- School closed to pupils</b>
Wed 6 Sept	All pupils return to school. Rec class half days begin for the week
Sun 10 Sept	Education Sunday Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 11 Sept	6 pm MAC Full Board Meeting
Thurs 14 Sept	Whole School Mass- Yr 6 to lead (Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross)
Sun 17 Sept	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 19 Sept	School Nurse monthly visits to begin
Tues 19 Sept	P.T.A AGM 7pm in school
Wed 20 Sept-22 Sept	Yr 6 Alton Castle
Sun 24 Sept	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 26 Sept	9.10 am Year 2 Inspire Workshop
Fri 29 Sept	6.30- 9pm Welcome Disco ALL VERY WELCOME!!!

<b>October</b>	<b>Month of the Rosary</b>
Sun 1 Oct	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 3 Oct	9.10 am Year 4 Inspire Workshop
Wed 4 Oct	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.
Thurs 5 Oct	9.05 am Reception Class' Welcome and Blessing Service
Thurs 5 Oct	Themed school lunch day
Sun 8 Oct	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 9 Oct	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
Wed 11 Oct	6 pm OLOF Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 12 Oct	9.05 am Harvest Service led by Year 6
Fri 13 Oct	<b>Teacher Day (3)- School closed to pupils</b>
Fri 13 Oct	Our Lady of Fatima's 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church-6pm
Sun 15 Oct	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 16 Oct	Black History Week
Tues 17 Oct	9.10 am Yr 6 Inspire Workshop
Thurs 19 Oct	2.30 pm Reception Class Introduction to Reading Parents' Meeting
Fri 20 Oct	3.30 pm PTA Cake Sale
	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Mon 30 Oct	Pupils return to school
Mon 30 Oct	9.40 am Yr 1,2,3 anti flu treatment (awaiting confirmation for Reception)
Tues 31 Oct	9.10 am Year 1 Inspire Workshop
<b>November</b>	<b>Dedicated Month for Holy Souls</b>
Wed 1 Nov	9.05 am Mass for the Feast of All Saints led by Year 4
Thurs 2 Nov	9.30- 11.30 am Open Morning
Fri 3 Nov	6.30 pm PTA Firework Disco
Sun 5 Nov	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 6 Nov	Book Week starts
Mon 6 Nov	6 pm MAC Full Board meeting

Thurs 9 Nov	9.05 am Year 2's Assembly
Sun 12 Nov	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 14 Nov	9.10 am Year 3 Inspire Workshop
Fri 17 Nov	Stringables
Sun 19 Nov	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 21 Nov	9.10 am Year 5 Inspire Workshop
Tues 21 Nov	7 pm FHC Meeting in school hall
Sun 26 Nov	11.00 am in church Year 3 Mass of Enrolment for First Holy Communion
Thurs 30 Nov	KS2 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

## **December**

Sun 3 Dec	Advent begins- Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 4 Dec	9.05 am Whole School Mass led by Year 3
Mon 4 Dec	6 pm Full MAC Board Meeting
Wed 6 Dec	6 pm OLOF Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 7 Dec	KS1 Nativity 9.15 am and 2.15 pm
Sun 10 Dec	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Thurs 14 Dec	9.15 am Carol Service
Thurs 14 Dec	PTA Disco in church hall
Sun 17 Dec	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 19 Dec	Christmas Pantomime a.m
Wed 20 Dec	Christmas Dinner day
Thurs 21 Dec	Christmas Parties and Santa's visit pm
Fri 22 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
	<b>Break-up for Christmas Holiday 3.30 p.m.</b>

Pupils back to school on **Monday 8th January 2018** - School opens for pupils **8.45 a.m.**

## School Uniform 2017/18

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, sensible black shoes.

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' or include patterns and should be even in length.

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.

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**SCHOOL FUND AUTUMN TERM 2017**

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.**