



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — November 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)

## 'Learned and Wise'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be *learned*, finding God in all things; and *wise* in the ways they use their learning for the common good.



November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls. We remember in our prayers all our loved ones and those people from our parish community who have died. May they rest in eternal peace.

### Mass to celebrate the feast of All Saints

Thank you for Year 4 who led a beautiful whole school Mass on Wednesday. It was lovely to see many parents and parishioners in attendance. During November we also think of the many Saints and especially the recently canonised Saints Jacinta and Francisco.

### Harvest Celebration Service

Thank you to our families and pupils for your generosity and kindness in supporting our Harvest Celebrations.



We had a wonderful turnout of parents and families at the service, tremendous support for the Fireside Centre with food and toiletries and £86.23 was raised for CAFOD from the retiring collection. Mr McCann, Education Director from CAFOD, spoke so

highly of the commitment of our school community with their generous contributions to CAFOD. The annual 'bake off' will take place early in the Spring term with all proceeds going to CAFOD. Details for this will follow separately.

### School Uniform

The children have returned to school after the half term holidays looking very smart indeed. Full winter uniform should now be worn by all pupils until the start of the summer term. This includes a suitable waterproof coat.



Please support the school guidance on acceptable haircuts/styles/accessories. Children can be very persuasive but they are fully aware of what is acceptable. All school uniform items should be labelled, especially jumpers, cardigans, hats, scarves and gloves.



We encourage the children to be independent when looking after their own clothing items at all times. Mislaid items are more likely to be found if they are labelled. Full school uniform

details can be found on our website:

[www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk](http://www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

Our cloakrooms and lockers are tightly spaced for this additional clothing and footwear. All children are encouraged to bring a book bag **only** to school and this is an adequate size for keeping their reading books, homework books and any correspondence inside.


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'My Nametags' is a company that produces name labels. Orders can be placed using their website [www.mynametags](http://www.mynametags). If you place an order please quote school number **21750** (not our school name) and the school will then receive commission on your order.

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### Attendance

Congratulations to Year 6 who won the attendance cup for the first half of the Autumn term.

Year Group	% attendance
Year 6	98.5 
Year 2	98.3
Year 5	98.2
Reception Class	98.1
Year 4	97.9
Year 3	97.6
Year 1	96.2

Overall attendance was **97.8%** which is really good, but as always, we are aiming to improve this by July 2018 and so we ask for your support by ensuring that all children attend school regularly and on time. **138** (66%) children had 100% attendance during the September and

October. On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October we had 100% attendance from all children for the first time in a very long time. Well done to everyone!

Whilst we fully understand that children cannot help being ill, we are able to administer prescribed medication as required throughout the school day. There has been an increase of children attending non-emergency appointments during the school day. Most medical establishments are helpful in accommodating appointments out of school hours or during school holidays.

Holiday requests cannot be authorised during term time. This includes 'long weekends' where a child is absent on a Friday and/or Monday. We want the very best for all of our children and good attendance is paramount for pupil well-being and educational outcomes. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

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### Operation Christmas Child



Before half term I sent out a letter about 'Operation Christmas Child'

together with box labels. The boxes will be collected early on **Wednesday 22nd November** so if you would like to create a gift parcel with your child please send it in to school by **Tuesday 21st November**. Should you require any further information or replacement labels, please contact the school office. There is a two page worksheet attached to this newsletter that can be coloured in / completed by your child and inserted into the box if they would like to communicate with the recipient of the box. Alternatively they could write a short letter to the recipient. Please remember to insert

the voluntary donation of **£5.00** inside the box to cover the cost of processing and postage overseas. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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### School Admissions September 2018

Applications for Reception in September 2018 should be made to the local authority by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

All applications should be acknowledged by the L.A. If you have a sibling applying to start next September remember that you also need to submit a supplementary form (available from school office / website) to the school with a copy of their baptismal certificate (if applicable).

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### Year 3 Sacramental Preparation Meeting



There will be an important meeting for Year 3 parents on **Tuesday 21st November** at 7 p.m. in the school hall.

We would like all parents to attend. At this meeting parents will be asked to indicate a preferred date, either 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 for First Holy Communion.

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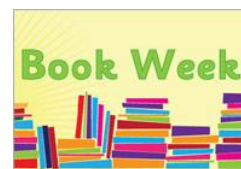
### First Holy Communion Preparation Mass

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November is the Feast of 'Christ the King', which marks the end of the liturgical year. The 11.00 a.m. Mass on this day will be a special Mass for Year 3 children and their families. It is wonderful to see so many of our children regularly in attendance at Mass.

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### Book Week

'Book Week' begins next week with many exciting activities planned. A separate letter



was issued just before half term outlining details of these activities. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> all children (and grown-ups!) are invited to dress up as a character from a fantasy story. There will be no charge for this non-uniform day. We extend a warm welcome to you if you are free to come into school from 3.00 pm- 3.25 pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> to read with your children. This is a lovely opportunity for you to share books with your child(ren) and to promote the importance of finding time to read during our very busy lives. The school Book Fair will also be open from **Monday 6<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**November from 3.30- 4.15 pm.** We are given 60% commission for all books sold, so please do come in to the school hall to take a look. If there are any parents willing to sell books for about half an hour after school, please let the office know of your availability. Thank you.

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### Collection Arrangements- darker evenings

For safety reasons we 'hand over' the children to parents/relatives/childminders at the end of the school day. If there is a change in circumstances please **write** to your child's class teacher, so that they are aware of the new arrangements. We do not encourage children in Year 6 to walk home after staying for clubs now that it is getting darker after school. Should you be delayed at the end of the school day, please contact the school office so that we are aware of your arrangements. For safety reasons children will be brought into the hall to wait if the person who collects them is not on the playground.

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## November themed lunches

Mrs O'Brien and the kitchen staff will be cooking special menus during a selection of days in November.

**Monday 6th November: Bonfire themed meal**



**Thursday 9th November: Remembrance Day themed meal.**



**Wednesday 22nd November: Roast Dinner meal**



Should your KS2 child usually have a packed lunch, but would like to take advantage of having a cooked meal on any or all of these dates, please send in the correct money- £2.25 per meal, in a named envelope as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. Pupils in Reception and KS1 who usually have a packed lunch, but would like a themed lunch on any or all of the days just need to inform the office of their preferred arrangements.

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## PTA News



The PTA has agreed to donate funds raised to purchase a life-saving defibrillator which is now situated in the KS2 corridor. We hope we never have to use it, but are grateful for the reassurance that it has been installed in case of emergencies. We are enormously grateful to all families who continue to support PTA events to enable funds raised to be spent on additional items for the school and its safety of the school community.

**PTA Firework Disco- Friday 3rd November  
6.30- 9pm.**

We are hoping for a good turnout for



the Firework Disco this Friday and that we will be blessed with good weather. Thank you in advance to all the PTA members who work so hard to always make it a most enjoyable occasion, to the fantastic team who set up the firework display and to the staff who support the event especially Mr Rollason for ensuring the safety of the school site. Please remember that parents have full responsibility for the safety and behaviour of their own children at all PTA events. ***A polite reminder that smoking/vaping is not permitted on the school premises.***

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## Websites/Communication

Please take time to browse our school website which gives up to date information about school events and policies.

[www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk](http://www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

The parish website is also regularly updated and also offers a lot of new information.

[www.catholicquinton.org.uk](http://www.catholicquinton.org.uk)

The parish also has a twitter account : OLFQuinton where updates about parish life and thoughts for the day can be found.

Father Craig has now moved house. The new presbytery address is: The Presbytery, 64 Ansell Way, Harborne, B32 2AT. He can also be contacted on a new parish mobile number: 07718 827 427 or the landline number 0121 427 2772.

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## Inspire Workshops

There has already been a fantastic turnout of parents for the 'Inspire Catholic Life and Collective Worship workshops' from Years 1, 2, 4 and 6. Remaining dates for the workshops are as follows:



Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November Year 3

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November Year 5

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January Reception Class

We value your feedback and so far it has been most positive indicating that parents find these sessions very useful. Most of all, the children love the time they get to spend with you! Thank you for your support.

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### Parish Bazaar



This will take place on

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** in the parish hall, Higgins Lane.

This is an important fundraiser for the Parish. An special visitor (dressed in red) may make a special appearance and there is the opportunity to capture the moment with a photograph. We will soon have some books of raffle tickets (£5 per book) in the school office if you would like some.

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**School Fund** - Have you sent in your school fund this term?

We use the school fund to supplement lots of items and activities for your children. So far records show that more than half of our families have contributed to school fund this term. Thank you. Please can I ask all remaining families to make their £5.00 contribution as soon as possible? We keep a record of all amounts that come in to the office so if you are not sure if you have already contributed please ask. Thank you.

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### November

### Dedicated Month for Holy Souls

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	Science Ambassadors' Day at Our Lady and St Kenelm's Primary School
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. All welcome.
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
Tues 14 Nov	8.30-10.30 am School Nurse Clinic
Fri 17 Nov	1.30 pm Stringcredibles
Sun 19 Nov	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 20 Nov	School nurse- Reception Class height, weight and hearing tests
Tues 21 Nov	9.10 am Year 5 Inspire Workshop
Tues 21 Nov	7 pm FHC Meeting in school hall
Tues 21 Nov	Year 3 and 4 Gymnastics Competition 3.45-5.45 pm
Wed 22 Nov	National Roast Dinner day

Wed 22 Nov Collection of Christmas shoeboxes  
 Fri 24 Nov 7-9 pm PTA Craft Fayre  
 Sun 26 Nov 11.00 am in church Year 3 Mass of Enrolment for First Holy Communion  
 Tues 28 Nov 8.30-10.30 am School Nurse Clinic  
 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  
 Fri 8 Dec 3.30-5.30 pm PTA Film Night  
 Sun 10 Dec Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church  
 Tues 12 Dec 8.30-10.30 am School Nurse Clinic  
 Wed 13 Dec Year 3 to visit Santa at Baskerville School  
 Thurs 14 Dec 9.15 am KS2 Carol Service  
 Thurs 14 Dec PTA Christmas 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

**Break-up for Christmas Holiday 3.30 p.m.**

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

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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 2017**

I attach my family contribution of £5 / other £ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Autumn Term 2017.

Eldest child in school \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ .

We will return this slip to you to acknowledge your contribution. Please make cheque payable to SNOMAC.

Received in school by \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you for your support.