



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — December 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

'Learned and Wise'

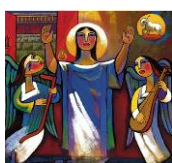
Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be *learned*, finding God in all things; and *wise* in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

Advent

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent. As the children are all busy preparing for their Christmas celebrations here in school, may we also remember that even amid our busy schedules and Christmas preparations, we should make time to prepare spiritually as we wait to celebrate the Saviour's birth.



Advent Preparation of Prayer: Walk With Me



This year's Diocesan Walk with Me journey of prayer focuses on the words of 'Watching, Listening and Welcoming.' Watching: Advent invites us to keep watch and stay awake. We are to be alert and watchful for all signs of the coming of the Saviour into our world, the signs of his abiding presence. We are asked to listen: God sends messages to us long before we catch sight of His presence in our lives. Listening to those quiet words of the Lord prepares us intimately for His coming. Finally, we are asked to welcome: we are encouraged to see Advent from God's perspective. God wants to be

with us, for we are God's beloved, chosen people. We welcome this coming of our God. God waits... He never forces himself upon us. Love never does that. Love is patient, kind and gentle. That is why, in the fullness of time, God sent His Only Son to us.

Inspire Workshops- Thank you

I would like to extend my thanks to Father Craig for joining parents for most of our workshops about Catholic Life and Child Led Worship. The children thoroughly enjoyed working with their parents and were able to share how they plan and deliver collective worship in class. We appreciate the arrangements parents made to enable them to work with their children in school. The final workshop for Reception Class will take place on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 9.10 am.

Christmas Services



The Infants and Juniors are now busy preparing for their Nativity Play and Carol Service

and we look forward to welcoming as many families who can attend. Please choose to attend either of the Nativity performances as it may not be possible to attend both due to numbers. We appreciate that parents like to share these precious moments with family who cannot attend and are aware that these events may be photographed or filmed, but please remember that these images are for **private viewing only** and **must not** be displayed or shared on public social media locations, in line with our E-Safety policy.

KS1 Nativity: Thursday 7th December at 9.15am or 2.15pm.

KS2 Carol Service: Thursday 14th December at 9.15pm.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all pupils, parents and relatives for their tremendous generosity during this term. You have all made a special difference to the lives of others by your charitable donations.



So far we have raised **£86.23** from voluntary Harvest cash donations. There will be a 'Bake Off' in the new year with proceeds going towards CAFOD...watch this space!



The Book Fair raised an incredible **£1056** this year enabling us to have free books worth **£633**. All children will benefit from this.



We are waiting for the final figure donated to the poppy appeal for the Royal British Legion. I will inform you of this as soon as we know.



We donated an amazing **109** Christmas boxes through the Operation Christmas Child scheme. This is a tremendous amount of

Christmas boxes - THANK YOU so much for your generosity and kindness. This practical task of giving meant so much to our children as they learnt that by giving to others, they receive huge rewards of satisfaction and spiritual growth.

Hagley Pyramid Concert

Tickets for the Year 5 performance at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday 15th February 2018 are available to purchase from school for £10 each ticket. If you are struggling to find a Christmas present for grandparents, friends or family, a ticket to the concert would make a lovely Christmas gift. Please make cheques payable to SNOMAC.

Eligibility for Free School Meals



The DfE 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. We would encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/school>
or give the school office your NI number and date of birth and Mrs Hayden will do this on your behalf.

Extreme Weather Conditions

Just a reminder about school closures in extreme weather conditions. We will still use the system of informing parents via the **school website** and the **SMS text messaging system**, so it is vital that you let us know if you have changed your mobile number.



PTA Events

Thank you to the many families who supported the Firework Disco which raised over £500. The PTA Christmas Market night held at the church hall on 24th November was a huge success. There will be a children's 'Film Night' in the school hall on Friday 8th December from 3.35-5.30 pm. A separate flyer has been issued with further details.



The PTA's Christmas Infant and Junior Discos will take place in the Church Parish Hall on **Thursday 14th December**.

Infants 6—7.30pm

Juniors 8—9.30pm

Infant parents are asked to stay with their children and Junior parents will be asked to provide an emergency telephone contact number.

School Website



Our school website is regularly updated with recent events that have taken place in school. School information and policies can also be found on the website. Events that take place during school time and after school. Details of our Academy Committee are under the 'Who's Who' section. Should you wish to contact a committee member

please arrange this through the school office.

Please do take the time to browse the website as it really does offer parents a good opportunity to keep up to date with the busy, productive school life.

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Parent and Baby/Toddler Group



Mrs Lake and Mrs Rickerby have started a new group which meet every month on a Friday in the Before and

After School Club from 8.55 am until 10.30 am. The first meeting proved really popular and gave parents an opportunity to get together whilst their children played together. If you would be interested in joining, please contact Mrs Lake or Mrs Rickerby.

Advance Notice- Year 2 and Year 6 Parents

In the new year Mrs Workman and Mr Bagwell will be holding Parent Information Meetings to inform all parents about the end of Key Stage Assessments (SATs) which take place in Summer 2018. A separate letter will be issued to all Year 2 and 6 parents nearer the time.

The **Parish Bazaar** took place last Saturday in the parish hall. Mrs McGuinness and the Altar Club supported the Bazaar by running a 'lucky dip' stall, which proved very popular. Thank you to the many families that supported the Bazaar.

Our Lady of Fatima Church Christmas Services

The fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on 24th December which is Christmas Eve, so to fulfil the Sunday obligation, as Catholics, we are obliged to attend



Mass on Sunday as well as on Christmas Day.

Mass times over the Christmas period are as follows:

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Saturday 23rd December

6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 24th December

10 am Mass

(NB: No Mass at 9 am or 11 am)

Christmas Eve: Sunday 24th December

5.30 pm: Vigil Mass for Christmas

8 pm : Readings and Carols

8.30 pm: Christmas Mass

Christmas Day: Monday 25th December

9 am: Dawn Mass

11 am: Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Celebration Meals in School



Mrs O'Brien and her staff are planning special Christmas menus for the last week of this term- Monday 18th - Friday 22nd December. Our traditional Christmas lunch is open to all pupils on **Wednesday 20th December**. Parents of children who already have a cooked lunch at school need not order this meal, but those children who normally have a packed lunch but would like a Christmas lunch on 20th December must complete the form below by **Monday 11th December**, so that Mrs O'Brien can order the additional food required. Reception Class and KS1 pupils' payment is covered by Universal Free School Meals, but they still need to order a Christmas lunch, should they want one. If your child normally has a packed lunch, but would like to take the opportunity of having Christmas themed lunches on during the last week of this term please complete the forms attached.

Please note: Snacks will not be sold on Wednesday 20th December.

Christmas Parties will be on the afternoon of **Thursday 21st December**. Children may wear party clothes all day. Your child will bring home a party food box to be filled with party food you know your child will enjoy. No foods containing nuts please. This is **in addition to, not instead of** their lunch. There will be a special guest appearance from a bearded gentleman dressed in red at the class parties.

Christmas Hats

Your children are welcome to wear party hats for their parties and their Christmas lunch. These can be made at home and may remain in school to cover both events.



Pantomime

On **Tuesday 19th**

December the children will

be treated to a wonderful pantomime production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in school. This has been funded by the PTA- thank you to all families who have supported their events this year to enable this to be possible.



Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 22nd December will be a non-uniform day to allow the children (and staff!) to wear a Christmas jumper or a Christmas t-shirt for the day. We are suggesting a £1 donation which will be sent to the 'Save the Children Fund'. Through UK Aid Match the government has promised to match every £1 raised by schools and so this is a very worthwhile event.



Dates for the Diary are attached for this term, please check any that are relevant to you or your child, especially with Christmas Nativity Plays, Carol Services and other events.

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
Tues 5 Dec	8.30-10.30 am School Nurse Clinic
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
Mon 11 Dec	Some KS2 pupils singing at Parish Over 60's Christmas Party pm
Wed 13 Dec	Year 3 to visit Santa at Baskerville School
Wed 13 Dec	Year 2 visit Moor Pool Hall
Thurs 14 Dec	9.15 am KS2 Carol Service
Thurs 14 Dec	PTA Christmas Disco in church hall
Fri 15 Dec	3.30- 5.30 pm KS2 Basketball at Shenley Academy
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.**

And finally.... I would like to thank all pupils, parents and staff for their continued support. Partnership is vital for the happiness and success of our pupils. The school is just a building; it's the whole school community that makes it so special. On behalf of the staff, may I wish you all a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas with your families and friends.

With God's blessings,

Mrs van Vliet



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 _____ .

Please make all cheques payable to SNOMAC.

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

Received in school by _____ Thank you for your support.

Christmas Themed Lunch Order:

CHRISTMAS FUN LUNCHES

Child(ren)s name(s): _____ **Year(s):** _____

would like a Christmas fun lunch on:

Monday 18th Dec Tuesday 19th Dec Thursday 21st Dec Friday 22nd Dec

Wednesday 20th December (Traditional Christmas Lunch)

£2.25 per meal is enclosed (KS2 pupils only. KS1 pupils do not pay- universal free meals)

Please return by **Monday 11th December.**

Signed: _____ (parent)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH ONLY

Child(ren)s name(s): _____ **Year(s):** _____

would like a **Christmas lunch** on Wednesday 20th December. £2.25 is enclosed. (KS2 pupils only. KS1 pupils do not pay- universal free meals)

Please return by **Monday 11th December.**