



# Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Newsletter — January 2018

'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)

## 'Curious and Active'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **curious** about everything and **active** in their engagement with the world; changing what they can for the better.



Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas with your families and friends. On behalf of staff, I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity of wishes, cards and gifts. The end of last term was not only exciting preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but also incredibly busy; we now look forward to an equally challenging term ahead. Traditionally with each new year, we aim to make resolutions, to change the way we live, for the better. Some intentions are realistic; many are not. Let us try to focus on resolutions that are achievable leading to greater satisfaction. Let us aim to focus on others, rather than ourselves. How can we be of service to others? How can we demonstrate and share this term's virtues of being curious and active in our faith and in how we live our lives? Let us place our New Year resolutions in the hands of our patron Saint, Mary, the Mother of God, our Mother in Faith to help us to be of service to others this New Year.

### Pope Francis' message for 2018



In his Christmas message, our Holy Father, Pope Francis recommended leaving behind "all sorts of useless baggage" to "rediscover what really matters" — and start over from that. His recipe for achieving this includes setting aside a moment of silence daily to be with God. His hope for the immediate future is that Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom. Let us continue to pray for all faiths, all religions and ultimately for world peace.

### Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile



The focus for this half term will be the virtues of being '**curious and active**'.

These virtues are fundamental to catholic education and are embodied within the virtues for living and learning. During our weekly Friday Congratulations Assembly, a child from our school family is selected for living and sharing the

virtues of the half term. Please support your child by talking about these important virtues and how they can experience them in their lives and incorporate them as part of their family and school lives.

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### Hagley Pyramid Concert: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Since September Year 5 has been preparing for the annual Hagley Pyramid Concert which will take place at the Town Hall on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018. All parents and relatives are encouraged to attend this amazing evening of music encompassing the talents of catholic education within our schools. Year 6 parents will remember the splendid concert last year and Year 4 parents might like to attend to see a taster of what their children will hopefully be doing next year when they are in Year 5. Tickets are priced £10 and are available from the school office. Please support this event as future funding for next year and beyond is currently uncertain.

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### Sponsorship required to support the Hagley Pyramid Concert

If you have a business and would like to place an advertisement in this year's Pyramid Concert programme, then please contact Mr Mallinson at Hagley High School via the following email address - [fmm5@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:fmm5@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk).

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### Contact details

Please ensure that the office staff have the most current contact details so that we can inform you

of any vital information via our text messaging service. Parents have commented that this is an excellent method of communication, but it will only work efficiently if we have your correct mobile contact numbers. Thank you.

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### Starting school in September 2018

A reminder to parents who have children eligible to start school in September 2018 that apart from the official application made to the Authority, the school will require proof of baptism if a faith claim is to be made. Please provide this to the school office by the closing date for all applications which is on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**.

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### Attendance



Congratulations to **Year 6** who were the winners of the Attendance Cup for last half term. The percentages were close with a whole school overall percentage of **97.4%**. Forced school closures due to weather conditions do not affect overall individual attendance. Well done everyone!

Year Group	% attendance
Year 6	98.2 
Year 3	98.1
Years 4 and 5	97.4
Year 1	97.3
Year 2	96.6
Reception Class	96.4

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate families for the brilliant attendance during the 'snow days'. Following the school

closures, attendance on Wednesday 13th December was 94%. Well done everyone!

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### Punctuality

We still have a very small minority of families who regularly arrive at school after 8:55 a.m. All pupils who arrive after 8.55 a.m must enter school via the office entrance and be signed in by an adult. I will be contacting parents to try to solve any issues regarding punctuality. Please consider allowing time for traffic by leaving home a few minutes earlier. Persistent lateness does not make for a good start to the school day and it is important that all pupils arrive in time for registration at 8.55 am. A reminder that pupils can come into school from 8.45 a.m when a teacher is present on duty.

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### Weather Conditions



We are still in the Winter months and the weather can be very changeable from day to day. Where possible we encourage all children to play outside at break and lunchtimes whatever the weather conditions. Children therefore need to be suitably dressed, particularly during this cold spell of weather. Please make sure your child wears a warm winter coat with a hood or hat and gloves. It is also essential that all items of clothing are labelled. It is your child's responsibility to recognise and look after all additional items of clothing. Thank you.

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### Charitable Donations



We raised £159 for 'Save the Children' on 22nd

December when we all wore Christmas jumpers and £324 for Macmillan Cancer Research as a result of the refreshments following the Christmas services and staff donations instead of sending Christmas cards. Thank you as always for your generosity.

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### 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church



As you are aware children from Years 4-6 can volunteer to read

at the 11:00 a.m Sunday Mass at church. I would like to thank those children and their families who regularly support the parish by reading and serving at Masses. These opportunities to read occur once every three to four weeks. Please consider encouraging your child to read when it is their class's turn to volunteer. Between 5-7 volunteers are required to read at each Mass. Some children from Year 4 have also been preparing to become altar servers at church and in school. Towards the end of January these children will start to serve at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Please remember them in your prayers. It is encouraging to see many children and families attending weekend Mass. Attending Mass is a wonderful way of developing one's faith and relationship with God.

During the Spring and Summer terms classes will be attending the 10 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Please make a note of the dates and join us here at school to walk with the children (leaving at 9.05 am) or at church for 10 am.

Year	Date
Year 6	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Year 5	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
Year 4	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2018

Year 2	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Year 3	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2018

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### Sacramental Preparation

The children from Year 3 are looking forward to reading at Mass as part of their preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 11.00 am on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018.



On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February we welcome Year 3 parents to a meeting in the school hall at 7 p.m. in preparation for the children's Sacrament of Reconciliation which will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. It is very important that all children are represented at this meeting as important information will be shared.

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### School Uniform Supplier

We have managed to secure competitive prices for purchasing school jumpers and cardigans, complete with the school logo, from a new local supplier:

Somal Fashions  
11 Faraday Avenue  
B32 1JP

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### School Website

Our school website is regularly updated with events, news items and other information. School policies and procedures can be found on the website too. Under the 'Who's Who' section there is a tab for information about our school academy committee. Also at the very bottom of the school's

website homepage there is a link to our Academy website which in turn, leads to the other schools' websites within our Academy. Please do take the time to browse as it really does offer parents a good opportunity to keep up to date with the busy, productive life in all of our schools. All newsletters are published on the website and can be referred to if the paper copy sent home is misplaced.

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

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### School Meals

The Department of Education 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. I would like to encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>

Mrs Hayden in the School Office will be able to offer any further information you might need.

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### School Themed Meals: American Themed Meal



On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January children who currently bring a packed lunch will be able to purchase a school meal with an American theme. Hot dogs, ring donuts and milkshakes always prove very popular. If your child would like a school meal on this day, please send in £2.25 in an envelope clearly labelled 'American Meal' by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. (KS1 pupils who currently bring a packed lunch but would like a cooked lunch on this day need to inform the office- no payment required).

## Chinese New Year Meal- Year of the Dog

Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Smith always provide a meal to celebrate Chinese New Year and the children thoroughly enjoy opening their fortune cookies! This year is the Year of the Dog and there will be a special Chinese meal on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February** (Chinese New Year is actually on 16<sup>th</sup> February but the school is closed to pupils for a Teacher Day). Parents of children who bring a packed lunch can avail of this meal by sending £2.25 on or before Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February so that Mrs O'Brien has time to order food supplies in advance. Please clearly label your child's envelope with 'Chinese Meal'. KS1 pupils who usually have a packed lunch but would like a Chinese meal simply need to inform the office staff- no payment required.

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## Pupil 'Bake Off'



We will be holding a 'Pupil Bake Off' on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This is a great way to use up sugary ingredients in preparation for Lent which begins on 14<sup>th</sup> February. A separate letter will be issued nearer the time including entry forms. If the pupils are anything like the staff in past years, there is always fierce competition to win. All pupils' entries will be judged and sold with all donations to CAFOD. Time to get out the cake recipe books and look for a winning recipe!

**CAFOD**  
just one world

## School Fund



School Fund is very necessary to provide small everyday items for school and pupils' use in school activities. It would be very much appreciated all families would consider contributing **£5 per family** (per term) to school fund, so that we can plan ahead for activities. Please return the attached slip with your contribution as soon as possible. Thank you.

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In May 2018 Years 2 and 6 will be **SATS** tested to assess attainment at the end of both Key Stages. There will be an additional Parents' Information afternoon for Year 6 parents on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018** at 2.30 pm and a meeting for all Year 2 parents on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018** at 2.45 pm. These meetings will inform you about arrangements for the end of year assessments (SATs) and what the children can expect to happen. Year 2 assessments take place during May 2018 and Year 6 tests take place week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018. It is vitally important that all pupils in Years 2 and 6 attend school in May 2018 to enable these assessments to take place.

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## Considerate Parking- THANK YOU

I am hoping that the Spring term will be as equally positive as the Autumn term was in terms of considerate parking on the surrounding roads to school. With the school being located in a residential area, it is so important that we continue to forge good relationships with our neighbouring residents.

## Swimming

Years 4 and 5 will be swimming on Thursday mornings this term. Please ensure that your child packs their swimming kit the night before and that they also remember to bring it to school with them ready for their lesson. If children are well enough to attend school, they should take part in most forms of exercise. Please see your child's class teacher in advance if you are concerned.



## PTA Events

The PTA continue to organise great fundraising events. These are not only successful due to their preparations and hard work but also to the many families who support the events. Advance notice of future events this term:

On **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** children will take part in a British Heart Foundation Sponsored Skip. This will be followed by a PTA Cake Sale. Please support these events so that the fund raising continues to be successful.

### ADVANCE NOTICE OF TERM DATE:

The children will return to school in the Autumn Term 2018 on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018** at 8.55 am.

### Dates for Diary: January- March 2018

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

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Return to school
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8.30-10.30 am School nurse clinic
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Athletics 3.30-5.30 pm at Shenley Academy
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Swimming lessons for Year 4 and 5 begin
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reception Class's Inspire workshop 9.10 am
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10 x Year 5 pupils attending Change4Life
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	'American' themed school lunch
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	11.00 am Year 3 Sacramental Preparation Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Feast Day of our Academy Saint - Saint Nicholas Owen
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	8.30-10.30 am School Nurse clinic

Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.05 am Year 4 Class Assembly- all welcome
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	PTA fund raising- Sponsored Skip and cake sale
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.30 pm Year 6 SATs meeting in school
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Photographer in school - individual and school sibling photos
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Year 3's Class Feast Day- St John Bosco. Non-uniform day for <b>Year 3 ONLY</b>
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Year 4 Symphony Hall a/m
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	7 p.m Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents' Meeting in the school hall
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	1.45 pm Good Shepherd Appeal
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8.30-10.30 School Nurse Clinic
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6 pm School Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.45 pm Year 2 SATs meeting in school
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Pupil Bake off- proceeds to CAFOD
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.05 am Ash Wednesday Mass led by Year 5- all welcome
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Chinese themed School meal
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7 pm Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Evening Concert at Birmingham Town Hall (Lenten Activities to follow in a separate letter)
<b>Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Half term holidays begin for pupils</b>
<b>Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>School closed to pupils- Teacher Day</b>
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>8.55 a.m. School re-opens</b>
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8.30-10.30 am School Nurse Clinic
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Year 6's Class Feast Day- St Chad. Non-uniform day for <b>Year 6 ONLY</b>
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	11 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) — Year 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 5/6 Able Writers workshop

- Wed 7<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.
- Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 9.05 am Reception Class's Mothers' Day Assembly
- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 8.30-10.30 am School Nurse Clinic
- Tues 13<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.
- Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 5 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Mar St Patrick's Feast Day (for 17<sup>th</sup>)- non-school uniform day- green/ orange clothes
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar PTA Film Night 3.40-5.30 pm
- Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 8.30-10.30 am School Nurse Clinic
- Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Mar Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 3—6
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Mar Reception and Year 6 class photographs
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Mar 6pm School Academy Committee meeting
- Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 3 'Sharing a Meal' Service at 9.05am followed by breakfast for Year 3 parents and children
- Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Mar 3.30 pm Break up for the Easter holidays**
- Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Apr 8.55 a.m Children return to school after Easter holidays.**



**SCHOOL FUND SPRING TERM 2018- 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.