



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — February 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.



As we begin the new month of February we look forward to lighter mornings and much lighter evenings. On Friday we celebrate the Feast of Candlemas. In the Gospel for the day we learn about Simeon who praised God because he had seen the 'light of the nations'. This is yet another reminder that Jesus, our Saviour, is the Light of the World.

### Altar Servers



This Sunday three new altar servers will meet with Father Craig after the 11 am Mass so that they can familiarise themselves with serving at church. They have been very well prepared in school to be able to serve the parish community in this way. The parish will welcome these new altar servers alongside our existing altar servers next

weekend for the first time. Please remember them in your prayers.

### The Pope App

Please follow the link:

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



to a 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)

### Parent Consultation Meetings

You will receive your Parents' Evening appointment letters before the half term holidays for either of our Parent Consultation Meetings taking place on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>**



**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 the premises.

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### School Bake Off

Time to get out the cook books to make preparations for the Our Lady of Fatima School's 'Great Bake Off'. The children are invited to take part in the Bake Off on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** but must register an interest by completing an entry form. Please refer to the letter issued earlier this week for more details.

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### St Patrick's Day Parade- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018



If you and your family would like to walk in the parade this year, please meet outside St Anne's Primary School at 10.45 am. The parade starts at midday. The theme this year is 'Influential Women'.

### PTA News

The recent Sponsored Skip was a huge success and sponsor money has started to come into school. Not only did the children have great fun keeping fit and healthy, but they also raised money for extra activities at school. This was followed by another popular cake sale which raised an incredible £186. Thank you for your support. The next PTA event is a Film Night on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 3.35-5.30 pm. This is an extremely popular event, so look out for the PTA flyer to buy tickets.

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### School Themed Meals

Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Smith are offering a special 'Pancake Day' meal on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** and a Valentine's Day meal on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** and a meal to celebrate Chinese New Year 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 these meals by sending £2.25 per meal on or before Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February so that Mrs O'Brien has time to order food supplies in advance. KS1 pupils who usually have a packed lunch but would like any of the

themed meals simply need to inform the office staff- no payment required.

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### School Nurse Visits

Unfortunately, the service provided by the NHS has been reduced from fortnightly visits to monthly visits. The dates for this term are: **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 8.30-10.30 am.** You can make an appointment via the school office or just 'drop in' and the nurse will ensure that she meets with you.

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### E-Safety

On 29<sup>th</sup> January Mr

O'Connor and the Digital

Leaders led a whole school assembly in preparation for the start of E-Safety Week which begins on 5<sup>th</sup> February. The Digital Leaders informed and reminded the children about the importance of staying safe online. They shared what to do if children ever feel unsafe when using the internet. Please support your children at home, making sure that they stay safe at all times. I regularly meet with parents who raise concerns about inappropriate activity on social media sites. A general reminder that primary aged pupils should be supervised when browsing the internet at all times. By working and communicating together



we will ensure that all pupils will take responsibility for their own safety online, with parental and school support.

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### School Fund



Thank you to all the parents who have already responded by contributing towards school

fund. It would be very much appreciated if a voluntary contribution of £5 per family (per term) was made to the fund by all families.

If you haven't done so already, please return the attached slip with your contribution as soon as possible. All donations are recorded so please fill in your child(ren)s name(s) on the attached slip. A final reminder will be sent to parents who have not replied by half term.

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### Punctuality and appointments

Our attendance and punctuality is exceptionally good and this contributes strongly to the children's ability to progress. Any child who does not arrive in time to enter the school through the correct entrance and is brought in through the office entrance **must be signed in by an adult**, who must provide an explanation for the lateness. This is to audit our pupils' punctuality, particularly if they have already been marked absent by the class teacher on the register.



Please make sure that your child arrives in plenty of time to enter school through the correct entrance for their class. Doors open at 8.45 in the morning. It can be really unsettling for the children if they arrive in their classroom after registration has taken place. I would also like to remind 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. Appointments during the school day lead to lost opportunities for continuous learning. Please provide proof of any medical appointment made and be prepared to show this to the office staff. Thank you for your co-operation.

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### Polite Reminder

I have noticed a few boys' 'fashion haircuts' in school. May I remind parents that school policy states no tramlines, patterns or number one haircuts. Girls' hair accessories should be blue, in keeping with the school uniform colours. Children can be quite persuasive and so I am asking for your co-operation and support in adhering to agreed school policy. Thank you.



### Parking with consideration

In January's newsletter I was delighted to report that there had been a noticeable improvement with the parking on the surrounding roads to the school. However, I have since been forwarded photographic evidence of cars parked fully on the pavements on Winchfield Drive and on the corner of Spreadbury Close, cars blocking driveways and cars parked across zig-zags. This not only restricts the view and safety of our pupils and families but also compromises the safety of our local residents. Please park with due care and consideration for our community. Thank you.



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### Toys, Games and Books

I will be writing a separate letter to you about our fundraising plans for our Lenten charities. We will be having a 'Toy Sale' after half term and so I thought it would be a good idea to pre-warn you of this so that during half term, the children might have a good clear out of any toys, games and books that they no longer use. Any unwanted items can be brought into school ready for the sale.



Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Dates for Diary: February- March 2018

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

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
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
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Pancake Day
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.05 am Ash Wednesday Mass led by Year 5- all welcome
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Valentine's Day themed school meal
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Chinese themed school meal
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 2's Class Feast Day- Saints Jacinta and Francisco. Non -uniform day for <b>Year 2 ONLY</b> (actual feast day-20 <sup>th</sup> February)
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. <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> - 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 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
- Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 6pm School Academy Committee meeting
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Mar Reception and Year 6 class photographs
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ .

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

Received in school by \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support.