



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — March 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

'Intentional and Prophetic'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **intentional** in the way they live and **prophetic** in the example they set others, rooted in Gospel values.

Our Journey through Lent



It was lovely to see so many parents and parishioners at Mass in school on Ash Wednesday to mark the very first day of Lent. This is a very important time in the liturgical year and the children will develop their Lenten faith journey in school as they prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Alongside our weekly Lenten activities our preparations will include: Year 3 receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Saturday (3rd March), Service of Reconciliation and individual Confession for Years 4–6, Year 3 leading a 'Sharing a Meal' service and an assembly to share the story of Jesus' Passion through the Stations of the Cross. We are called to remember the three important aspects of Lent: **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving**.

Once again as a school we are supporting the charities of Father Hudson's Care and our new venture- Mini Vinnies, where we hope to be able to

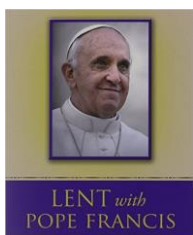
support the homeless people in and around Birmingham.

Your child has already brought home a collection box for the Good Shepherd Appeal. The week before the half term holidays, Margot Scotford, a representative from Father Hudson's Care led an assembly about the Good Shepherd Appeal to share with the children how their charitable donations are spent. Please support and encourage your child to link their 'fasting' to 'giving'. We hope that the activities that the children engage in, in school each week, help them on their Lenten faith journey. Please refer to the Lenten newsletter to keep you informed with our weekly fundraising events, a copy of which is available on the school's website under the Diary Dates section. These events aim to be as enjoyable as possible so that the children recognise that helping others in greater need does not have to be a painful sacrifice.

The Toy Sale will take place on **Wednesday 21st March 2018**; please encourage your child to donate

toys and books they no longer want to make this sale successful.

The 'silver trail' where the whole school adds silver coins to an iconic picture to raise money is a very spiritually uplifting and prayerful occasion. Parents are welcome to come into school on Wednesday 28th March at 3.30pm to add silver coins to the trail. The Wednesday Word, class prayer bags and 'Lent 2018 Walk with Me' calendars are also useful ways that you can prepare at home as a family.



Pope Francis says: 'Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.' He encourages us to take part in

fasting, prayer and almsgiving. 'By devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to find the consolation God offers. Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour, as a brother or sister. Fasting allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour.'

Goodbye and Good Luck

We say goodbye to two of our Lunchtime Supervisors; Mrs O'Grady left just before the half term holidays. After twelve years working at Our Lady of Fatima School, Mrs Flanagan will be moving on to a new position at the Priory, Edgbaston at the end of this half term. We thank them both for their hard work and commitment to the pupils in our school and wish them both well in the future.

'Bake Off'



Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the recent 'Bake Off'

which was tremendously successful. 40 pupils submitted a cake entry. The standard was extremely high and Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Smith had a very difficult and challenging job to choose a winning entry. Congratulations to Dontaii in Year 5 who was crowned the winner. Thank you to all pupils and parents who bought the cakes raising a magnificent £232. This will be added to the collection at the Harvest Service which amounted to £87 making a grand total of £319 for CAFOD. We thank you for your generosity. Roll on next year!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Please read the letter on the website from Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP congratulating the staff and pupils on the school's very high standard of achievement in writing in the KS2 writing assessments in 2017. 100% of our Year 6 pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in writing, putting Our Lady of Fatima School in the top 1% of primary schools in England for achievement in writing. Thank you to all staff and parents for supporting each child's education.



Department
for Transport

The letter can be found under the 'Key Information' tab, SATs results page.

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Parent/Visitor Code of Conduct

Please read the attached policy reminding adults of acceptable behaviour whilst on school premises.


This positive policy ensures that our Mission Statement is demonstrated by all our visitors.

Attendance

Congratulations to **Year 3** for winning the Attendance Cup for last half term. Given the amount of coughs, colds, high temperatures and upset tummies we still had an overall percentage of **97.1%**, which is above the national average.

Only a small minority of children's education at Our Lady of Fatima School is affected by poor attendance. I will be writing separately to parents whose child's attendance is a cause for my concern. Teachers will inform you of your child's mid-year attendance figures during the Parent Consultation evenings in March.

May I also remind you that any holidays (including long weekends) during term time are **unauthorised** absences.

Year Group	% attendance
Year 3	98 
Year 1	97.7
Year 6	97.1
Year 2	96.9
Year 4	96.8
Year 5	96.5
Reception	96.1

I would also like to urge you to make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Medical practitioners are usually most accommodating and will see children before or

after school hours. Appointments during the school day lead to lost opportunities for continuous learning. We now require proof of any medical appointments made, so please be prepared to show these to the office staff if you are unable to make an appointment outside school hours. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation Meetings will take place on


Wednesday 7th March and Tuesday

13th March. Confirmed appointments will be issued on Friday 2nd 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 premises. Places may be available in the Before and After School Club- please contact Mrs Rickerby 07805 511796 should you wish to enquire about child care provision.



Don't forget parents evening!

Year 5 Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church

 Parents are most welcome to attend Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Thursday 15th March 2018 at 10 am with Year 5. If there are any parents able to walk to church with Year 5, they will be leaving at 9.05 am.

The parishioners are always so pleased when the children attend Mass at church and it is good to see

a growing number of our parishioners attending Mass in school.

Purple Mash

We have recently subscribed to Purple Mash, which is a creative educational website for children.



Purple Mash is a cross-curricular resource covering Art to Science and all subjects in between. Your child can access Purple Mash from home on a laptop, desktop or a tablet.

Purple Mash is a safe environment that does not require any downloading or allow interaction with people online and children cannot make any financial transactions.

We will be encouraging the children to continue their learning at home and Purple Mash is a great resource for this. Your child will be taught how to use Purple Mash in school and will be able to use it without supervision, however, you may want to take a few minutes to explore it yourself so that you can help them with their work.

This half term you will receive additional details of your child's username and password.

St Patrick's Day Parade: Sunday 11th 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'.

St Patrick's Day Themed Lunch



If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like a school meal on **Thursday 15th March** to celebrate St Patrick's

Day, please send £2.25 for the meal into the school office in a clearly labelled envelope marked 'St Patrick's Day Meal'. KS1 pupils do not need to pay as payment is covered by the universal free school meals scheme.

Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall

I hope the parents and families who attended the Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall enjoyed the event, especially our own children's performance of 'Since You've Been Gone'. His Grace Archbishop Bernard, Father Craig, school staff and academy representatives were incredibly proud of the children, both in terms of behaviour and their quality performance. Well done to Year 5!

Reminder of the remaining Teacher Training Day 2017/18

Monday 11th June 2018

Dates for Diary: March- April 2018

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

(Lenten Activities were also issued in a separate letter)

Thurs 1 st Mar	Lenten activity: film afternoon 50p
Fri 2 nd Mar	9-10.30 am Parent/Toddler Group in BASC
Fri 2 nd Mar	Year 6's Class Feast Day- St Chad. Non-uniform day for Year 6 ONLY
Fri 2 nd March	Garry- 'Off Your Trolley' working with Year 4
Sat 3 rd Mar	11 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) — Year 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sun 4 th Mar	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 5 th Mar	9.10 am Strings Concert
Tues 6 th Mar	Year 5 Able Writers workshop
Wed 7 th 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 th Mar	9.05 am Reception Class's Mothers' Day Assembly
Fri 9 th Mar	Lenten activity: Pupil/Teacher swap £1
Sun 11 th Mar	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sun 11 th Mar	St Patrick's Day Parade
Mon 12 th Mar	Science Week
Tues 13 th 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 15 th Mar	Year 5 attending 10.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church- parents welcome
Thurs 15 th Mar	St Patrick's Day themed lunch
Fri 16 th Mar	St Patrick's Feast Day (for 17 th)- non-school uniform day- green/ orange clothes
Fri 16 th Mar	Year 4 visit to the NEC- The Big Bang Fair
Fri 16 th Mar	Science workshops in Year 1 a/m
Sun 18 th Mar	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 21 st Mar	Lenten activity: Toy Sale

- Wed 21st Mar Netball tournament p/m
- Fri 23rd Mar PTA Film Night 3.40-5.30 pm
- Sat 24th Mar 6 pm Swimming Gala
- Tues 27th Mar 8.30-10.30 am School Nurse Clinic
- Tues 27th Mar Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 3—6
- Tues 27th Mar 6pm School Academy Committee meeting
- Wed 28th Mar Reception and Year 6 class photographs a/m
- Wed 28th Mar Lenten activity: silver coin trail
- Thurs 29th Mar Year 3 'Sharing a Meal' Service at 9.05am followed by breakfast for Year 3
parents and children
- Thurs 29th Mar 3.30 pm Break up for the Easter holidays**
- Mon 16th Apr 8.55 a.m Children return to school after Easter holidays.**



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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.