

Golden Jubilee at Our Lady of Fatima School

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2017. Founded in 1967 in Harborne to serve the parish of Quinton, Birmingham. It was built to cater for the growing demand for Catholic school places in the area.

When it opened its doors on the 4th January 1967, the school had a Headteacher, four class teachers and 64 pupils. The official opening was later that year on 13th May 1967 by the Right Reverend Joseph Cleary, Bishop of Cresima, exactly 50 years after the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, in Portugal.

The school has undergone many changes over the past 50 years but the most notable event has to be the tragic fire that engulfed the Infant part of school in 2003. Following this horrific event, the local community pulled together in abundance to rebuild the school back to its former glory.

Today the school has 210 pupils and 7 full classes. It was rated as Outstanding in its last Ofsted Inspection and more recently judged as Outstanding in the Religious Education Inspection in October 2016. Since October 2014 the school has been part of the Saint Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi-Academy Company. For more information visit www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Our Lady of Fatima has been celebrating its Golden Jubilee with a bumper year of activities.

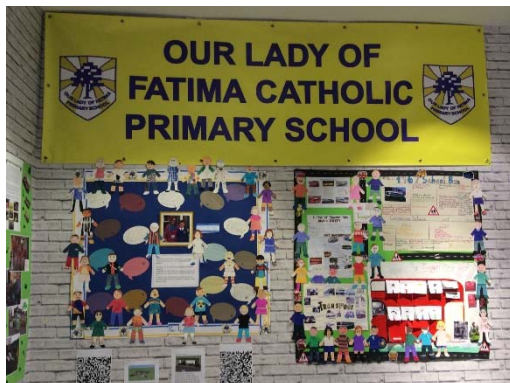
On **Sunday 12th March 2017** the school paraded through the streets of Birmingham on a 50ft long lorry decorated in school colours to celebrate the St Patrick's Day Parade. This was a wonderful family occasion supported by over 100 children and their families and the school even earned the coveted prize of 'Best Float 2017'.



After celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima in May, on **Tuesday 23rd May 2017** Year 3 and Year 5 hopped aboard the open top 'Birmingham Buz' outside the school for a historical journey around the city. Dave Fisher, a local historian taught the children all about the local area including some tales from the infamous Jewellery Quarter.



In June 2017 the school held a presentation of children's work at John Lewis in Birmingham City Centre. The grand opening was on **Sunday 18th June 2017**. Here, children created colourful displays with carnival artist Garry Jones. Each class learnt more about games and toys in the 1960's, buildings and homes, archaeology, school life, transport and music. It was a wonderful event with a lot of interest from members of the public.



On **Tuesday 11th July 2017**, the school held a special open evening with an exhibition of photos and memorabilia. The evening was a huge success and a very special evening for the whole community. Among the gathering of past pupils and staff, two of the first pupils to start on January 4th 1967, Mark and Julie O'Nions were there to share their fond memories.



The school turned into a 1960's extravaganza on **Monday 17th July 2017** when everybody dressed up in retro clothing for the day. Children spent time learning all about school life in the 1960's and had a chance to learn about some 1960's playground games.



Finally, a special anniversary Mass was celebrated on **Wednesday 19th July 2017** with Bishop Robert Byrne, Fr Jonathan Veasey, the retired Parish Priest from Our Lady of Fatima – Father Seamus Hetheron and the present parish Priest Fr Craig Szmidt. Afterwards, the newly created Anniversary Garden at the front of the school was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Byrne.



It has been a wonderful year of celebrations – here's to the next 50 years!