



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Autumn 2016

Class Newsletter

Year 3

Class Teacher: Mrs J McGuinness

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school and I hope that you have had a lovely summer break. This is a very exciting year for your child as they are now a Junior. They have settled in well and quickly to their new class. We have a lot of hard work ahead and I have high expectations for all of the class.

There is a lot to explain about the curriculum for this year, so I suggest you read this with a nice cup of tea once the children are tucked up in bed.

There will be lots of fun-filled, but challenging, activities so that your child really enjoys their learning experience but at the same time strives to make the very best progress. They will be expected to challenge themselves in all areas of the curriculum. In addition to this, your child has reached an important



sacramental year as they will now be preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Your child will shortly be bringing home a letter explaining important dates for your diary of preparation parents' meetings, Masses and of course, the dates of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. It is important that you attend all of the preparation meetings and Masses.

The children will follow a programme that will help them to prepare and understand the importance of these Sacraments.

Attendance at Sunday Mass is crucial so that your child can develop their understanding of the Mass and responses they are expected to learn. This will play a big role in our RE coverage and it can be upsetting for children who learn all about the Sunday Liturgy but

rarely attend Mass. Prayer, Liturgy and understanding of the Gospel message is an integral part of your child's education here at Our Lady of Fatima. I really do understand that times are very busy and weekends are so precious but it can be such a special time when everything stops and becomes calm for one hour to be able to connect again with God. So please do try to support and encourage your child during this very special year.



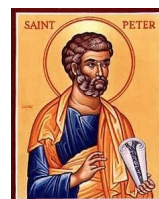
The 11 am Mass each Sunday at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Higgins Lane is a 'family-friendly' Mass where the children take part reading the readings. Please encourage your child to come up and say 'hello' to me as I love to see the children and introduce them to my little grandchildren.

## Religious Education



Year 3 will be learning all about belonging to the family of God. They will also be deepening their understanding of how they listen and respond to God's word at Sunday Mass and the structure of the Liturgy of the Word.

In addition each child will bring home the Class Prayer Bag. Please look at and use the resources inside the bag to pray as a family together as well as encouraging your child to write a prayer to share during class worship.



Year 3's Class Saint is Saint Peter and so they will be finding out more about this very special Saint throughout the year.

## Literacy



Year 3 will be reading and writing about stories from imaginary worlds by exploring a range of stories from around the globe. The children will be developing, editing, drafting and re-drafting their own fantasy stories.

After this unit they will be learning how to write clear instructions and create interesting explanation texts.

Handwriting will be practised and modelled daily and the children will be learning how to form joined handwriting correctly and neatly. There will be high expectations for neat presentation in all of the children's books.

## Spellings

Key spellings will be given out on Mondays to learn in time for Friday's spelling test. On occasions, spelling tests will include previously learnt spellings. This is to ensure that your child's understanding is always interleaved with new and previous learning.

## Reading



I like to promote a *love of reading* and will be encouraging your child to read in class at least twice daily as well as teaching reading skills through guided reading and comprehension activities.

Home reading books will be changed frequently and reading diaries checked and monitored every day. We have an extensive range of interesting books for your child to choose from both fiction and non-fiction. I also encourage children to take an extra book from my personal book boxes to read at home for pleasure.

Reading each evening at home with your child is essential. Please also encourage your child to re-read their book at bedtime in order to help your child settle off to sleep. I would **discourage use of computers or hand held devices** at least one hour before bedtime as research has shown that they can over-stimulate the brain and make it difficult for your child to get to sleep. Your child's bedtime routine is crucial now that they are in the Juniors. They will have an enjoyable, but challenging day and it is so important that they have at least 10 hours of **quality sleep** each night to ensure that

they feel refreshed to take on their learning.

## Guided reading

Year 3 will also be reading a range of books in class in small groups. Guided reading enables me to hear your child read, teach reading skills and gather information as to how well they are interpreting the story and how their understanding is developing. Asking the children a range of key questions deepens their thinking.

***Please find attached an information leaflet about why reading is so important and how it can benefit your child.***

## Mathematics

***Addition and subtraction*** :The children will be encouraged to accurately add and subtract mentally, to know and understand number bonds and then develop and understand the more formal written methods.



***Shape space and measure*** : Maths skills include understanding properties of 2D and 3D shapes, looking at length, weight and capacity and applying their knowledge in problem solving contexts.

## Times tables

The '99 club' will take place every week so that your child will develop their knowledge and rapid recall of times tables facts. Times tables will be taught and practised daily up to the 12 times tables.

## Science

In Biology the children will be finding out about animals and their development and needs. In Physics the children will be developing their understanding about magnetism.



## Creative Curriculum

**Art and Design – Textiles:** This topic will be linked to a theme of 'Journeys' and Year 3 will be following the journey of the 'Underground Railroad' which took place when slavery was permitted in the deep south of the United States. Through many secret signs the underground railroad consisted of kind and helpful citizens who supported runaway slaves to reach the North safely to their freedom.



This will also link to our Black History Week where children have the opportunity to learn from the past and how courageous people risked their life to ensure equality for all.

There will be a week of focussed activities developing an understanding of strong, inspiring leaders, who were determined to overcome the many challenges faced by their people. We will be recognising and valuing the inspirational Black and Ethnic minority individuals and events that have shaped our world today. Not only will the class celebrate and deepen their understanding about the past, they will remember and celebrate the important people who contribute to and help our society today such as Nelson Mandela, Barak Obama, Ghandi, Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Martin Luther King Jr, who gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on 28th August 1963.

Year 3 will also learn about how the many different cultures played a vital role in World War II supporting the British Armed forces.



### Our Multi cultural society:

The children will also learn that after the war, there became labour shortage in the United Kingdom and many Caribbean, Asian, African and Irish communities travelled to England to help build up the country by playing vital roles in hospitals, construction, transport, schools, manufacturing and farming.



If you or family members have memories to share we would love to hear from you.

### PE

Our PE kit consists of a pair of navy shorts, a white tee shirt and a pair of pumps.

In PE this term Year 3 will be learning and developing skills by playing invasion games. The children will learn and understand how to be aware of space and how to use it to support their team members. They will learn how to always follow the rules of the game in order to keep the

game going well. They will develop throwing and catching skills and an understanding of the need to 'pass' to a team member in order for goals to be scored. Defending skills will also be developed this term by choosing a range of tactics to defend and make it difficult for their opponent to score in a game. They will be encouraged to evaluate their skills and share what went well and how they could improve their skills further.

PE is on **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays**.

### Homework

Homework will be handed out **every Friday** to be completed and returned by the **following Wednesday**. There will always be Maths, Literacy and Topic homework to support and develop their understanding. Homework will be a consolidation of the week's learning or something that has been previously covered. I will therefore expect your child to complete homework independently where possible.

Please let me know if you have any concerns with your child completing their homework or if they are finding it too challenging or if you feel there is not enough challenge. I am grateful for feedback so that I can ensure your child makes the very best progress at all times.

### Fresh Drinking Water

I encourage the children to drink as much water as they can throughout the school day, so please send them in with a water bottle. I also encourage the children to have regular 'brain breaks' by carrying out short 'wake-up shake-up' routines which they are already enjoying.



I do hope that this newsletter has informed you of the exciting learning that will be taking place this term and that you have found it both informative and helpful.

I look forward to meeting you at Parents' Evening and again at Year 3's Inspire Workshop on 11th October 2016.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs J McGuinness*



T: 0121 429 2900

Email: [enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

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