



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter — January 2020

**'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)

**'Compassionate and Loving'.**

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by just actions and forgiving words.



Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you had a happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas with your families and friends.

The staff would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity of Christmas wishes, cards and gifts. Mrs van Vliet would also like to thank the school community for their on-going prayers and good wishes during her recovery.

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, we aim to make New Year resolutions, so that we can change the way we live, for the better. Some intentions are realistic and can be achieved; some 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 demonstrate and share this term's virtues of being compassionate and loving in our faith?

### Welcome...

We welcome Miss Turner as Year 1's class teacher and hope that she soon feels 'at home' in our school community.

### The God Who Speaks: The Year of the Word



This initiative focuses on *celebrating, living and sharing* God's word throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales until the end of December 2020. We pray that, during this special year, we may all be enriched and renewed by the living Word of God.

### Pope Francis' message for 2020



Pope Francis started the New Year inviting us all to pray for peace and hope. "Peace is a path of hope, a path on which one advances through dialogue, reconciliation and conversion. It is a great and precious value, the object of our hope and the aspiration of the entire human family. Hope is the virtue that inspires us and keeps us moving forward, even when obstacles seem insurmountable".

He shared that the journey of reconciliation calls for patience and trust as peace will not be obtained unless it is hoped for. Peace is a process that requires patient effort to seek truth and justice. The Pope is hopeful that there will be a renewed call for a peaceful relationship between communities and the land, between present and past.

Let us try, in this Year of the Word, that by following scripture in practice, we may do our part to live in a more peaceful society where forgiveness and reconciliation are key factors.

### Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile



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

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.

### 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. Thank you to the 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. About 5 volunteers are required to read at each Mass. Father Long also encourages any catholic child in Year 4 and above to consider becoming an altar server. He will provide instruction for this so that all servers are knowledgeable about their role. There is a new children's Liturgy Group at 11 a.m Sunday Mass. This is a wonderful way of enabling our young people to learn about Mass and the readings in a more age appropriate, meaningful way. It is so 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 at school to walk with the children (leaving at 9.05 am) or at church for 10 am.


Year	Date
Years 4 and 5	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Year 6	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020
Years 2 and 3	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020

### Attendance



Well done to 81 pupils who had 100% attendance during the Autumn term. Given the increased amount of genuine illnesses during last term, this is fantastic. Overall attendance for the Autumn term is 97.3%. National attendance is 96%.

Congratulations once again to Year 3 who had the highest attendance percentage overall with a tremendous 98.3%. Year 5 were runners up with an amazing attendance of 97.6%.

Year Group	% attendance
Year 3	98.3 
Year 5	97.6
Years 1, 2 and 4	97.5
Reception	97.2
Year 6	95.9
Year 1	95.4

### Contact Details

We endeavour to keep parents informed of events via newsletters, additional letters, the website and the text messaging service. 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 newsletters, additional letters, the website and the text messaging service. Parents have commented that this is an excellent method of communication, but it will only work efficiently if we have the correct mobile contact numbers.

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### Safeguarding: **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

The Infant and Junior external doors close promptly at **8.55 am** when the school bell rings. Pupils who arrive at school after this time must be accompanied to the front office and signed into school by an adult. It is important that you know that your child has arrived safely into the school building. During the Autumn term an increasing number of unaccompanied pupils were arriving late to school. Pupils who miss their mark at the correct registration time must be signed into school **by an adult**. On occasions pupils also arrive on the playground at 8.55 am when the external doors have just been closed, but by the time they walk round to the front office, they will be registered as late.

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 am when a teacher is present on duty.

To ensure the safeguarding of all children at the end of the school day, it is important that your child's class teacher and /or the school office are informed if there is a change to collection arrangements. We do appreciate that collection arrangements can change at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. In these cases, please telephone the **school office** so that we can effectively reassure your child of your arrangements.

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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.

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### Extreme 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.

Just a reminder about school closures in extreme weather conditions. We will still use the system of informing parents via the front page of the **school website** and the **SMS text messaging system**. It is therefore imperative that the office staff have your current mobile contact numbers.

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### Starting school in September 2020

A reminder to parents who have children eligible to start school in September 2020 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 2020**.

## Hagley Pyramid Concert: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020




Since September Year 5 has been preparing for the annual Hagley Pyramid Concert which will take place at the Town Hall on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. 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, payable via ParentPay and are available from the school office. Remember to return the order form by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Please support this event as future funding for next year and beyond is currently uncertain.

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## Charitable Donations



We raised £87 for 'Save the Children' on 20<sup>th</sup> December when we all wore Christmas jumpers and £118.44 for  Macmillan Cancer Research as a result of the Macmillan Coffee morning held in September, the retiring collections following the Christmas Services and staff donations instead of sending Christmas cards. Thank you as always for your generosity.

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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 19th January 2020.



On Thursday 6th 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 7<sup>th</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 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. Please would all parents, regardless of income 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.

## Themed Lunches



On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January children who currently bring a packed lunch will be able to purchase a 'Brunch' meal. If your child would like a school meal on this day, please pay £2.35 via ParentPay by Monday 13<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 Rat

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 Rat and there will be a special Chinese meal on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January**. Parents of children who bring a packed lunch can avail of this meal by paying £2.35 via ParentPay on or before Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January so that Mrs O'Brien has time to order food supplies in advance. KS1

pupils who usually have a packed lunch but would like a Chinese meal simply need to inform the office staff- no payment required.

Please advise the school office **in advance** if your child wishes to change their lunch time arrangements from a packed lunch to a cooked lunch or vice-versa.

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### School Fund

Thank you to the families who regularly contribute to School Fund.



This 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 consider offering your family donation via ParentPay. Thank you.

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### SATs

In May 2020 Years 2 and 6 will be tested to assess attainment at the end of both Key Stages. There will be an additional Parents' Information afternoon for Year 6 parents on **Tuesday 21st January 2020** at 2.30 pm and a meeting for all Year 2 parents on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020** at 2.30 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 2020 and Year 6 tests take place week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020. **It is vitally important that all pupils in Years 2 and 6 attend school in May 2020 to enable these assessments to take place.**

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### Considerate Parking- THANK YOU

We hope that the Spring term will be as positive as the Autumn term was in terms of *mostly* 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.

A polite reminder that parking on the zig zag lines on Winchfield Drive should be avoided, to ensure the safe arrival of pupils and their families to school as well as allowing delivery drivers safe access to the main drive.

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### 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. The next event is the PTA Film Night - **Friday 7th February 3.30-5.30 pm.**

### Dates for Diary: January- April 2020

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

Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Pupils return to school
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3.30 pm Archery After School Club begins
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.10 am Reception Class's Inspire workshop
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3.30 pm Badminton After School Club begins

Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	'Brunch' school lunch
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3.30 pm Basketball After School Club begins
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.00 am Year 3 Sacramental Preparation Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	KS1 and KS2 NSPCC Assemblies
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	After School Liturgy Group begins
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	2.30 pm Year 6 SATs Parents' meeting
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Feast Day of our Academy Saint – Saint Nicholas Owen
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	9.05 am Year 4 Class Assembly- all welcome
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NSPCC Workshops in Years 5 and 6
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Holocaust Memorial Day – 75 years
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Chinese New Year: Chinese themed school lunch
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Year 4 ONLY</b> non-uniform day: Feast of St Thomas Aquinas
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.30 pm Year 2 SATs Parents' meeting
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Internet Safety Week
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6pm OLF Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 3 Reconciliation Parents' Meeting – 7pm (2)
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Science Ogden Trust Day
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.30-5.30 pm PTA Film Night
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Internet Safety Week
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Good Shepherd Appeal Assembly
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	National Internet Safety Day
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12.30 pm Year 4 Parent Lunch
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Hagley Pyramid Concert – 7pm at the Town Hall
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.05 am Parent and Toddler Group meeting in BASC
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Pupil Bake Off
<b>Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>3.30 pm Half term holidays begin for pupils</b>
<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>8.55 a.m. School re-opens for pupils and staff</b>
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Photographer in school – individual and school sibling photos

Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Shrove/Pancake Tuesday
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.05 am Year 4 Ash Wednesday Mass – all welcome <b>LENT begins:</b> Fund raising events will be issued in a separate letter.
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	<b>Year 6 ONLY</b> non-uniform day: Feast of St Chad
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. (1) <b><u>Parents only for all appointments-</u></b> please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11.00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation Year 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6.00 pm Swimming Gala
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	1.30 pm Visit from Fire Station for Year 4
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.00 am Years 4 & 5 Mass at OLF.
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Lenten Retreat Day with Dan Callow
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar (Lent)	1.40 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. (2) <b><u>Parents only for all appointments-</u></b> please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St Patrick's Feast Day- non-school uniform day- green/ orange clothes £1.00 donation
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9.05 am Reception Class's 'Mothers' Day Assembly
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Year 6 Mock SATS week
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	1.40 pm Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Holy Week in school begins
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 6 Parents' Easter lunch
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	6 pm OLF Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	9.05 am Year 3 'Sharing A Meal' Service
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	9.05 am Parent and Toddler Group meeting in BASC
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	1.30 pm Easter Bonnet Parade
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr</b>	<b>3.30 pm Break up for the Easter holidays</b>
<b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	<b>8.55 am Pupils and Staff return to school after Easter holidays.</b>