



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — March 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

'Faith-filled and Hopeful'.

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile

It has been just over four years since we started to learn more about the sixteen catholic virtues. The focus for this half term will be the virtues of being **'faith-filled and hopeful'**.

These virtues are fundamental to catholic education and are embodied within the virtues for living and learning. During our Friday Congratulations Assembly, a child from our school family is selected each week 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.



Our Journey through Lent



Our Lenten journey began with Mass on 26th February 2020 to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Lent 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 7th March, a whole school retreat day led by Dan Callow, Services of Reconciliation and individual Confession for Years 4—6, an assembly to share the story of Jesus' Passion through the Stations of the Cross on 30th March and Year 3 leading a 'Sharing a Meal' service on 2nd April. We are called to remember the three important aspects of Lent: **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.**

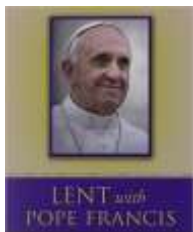
Once again as a school we are supporting the charities of Father Hudson's Care and CAFOD where we hope to be able to support vulnerable people locally and overseas.



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.

Please encourage your child to take part in our planned Lenten activities, so that they can actively do something for the good of others. The Wednesday Word, class prayer bags and 'Lent 2020 Walk with Me calendars' are also useful ways that you can prepare at home as a family.



Pope Francis says: *"Lent should be a time to find God in the 'desert', that is, dismantle and strip down the noisy, distracting environment around us.*

Put away devices, stop gossiping and end insults. Create a holy place in one's heart of prayer and kindness." He not only encourages us to demonstrate small gestures of kindness to show that we care, but also to show mercy and forgiveness towards each other. Maybe during this Lent, we can take time to reflect on our own faith; we may be living a tired, habitual faith, which can be revitalised by devoting more time to prayer.

'Bake Off'




Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the pupil 'Bake Off' at the end of last half term. **34** 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 Emily in Year 5 who was crowned the winner. Saviore in Year 2 came second and George's entry in Year 4 was third. Thank you to all pupils who made and bought cakes. Donations will be sent to CAFOD, together with our Harvest Service and Lenten donations. Final fundraising figures will be shared in May's newsletter. We thank you for your generosity.

Attendance

Congratulations to **Year 3** for winning the Attendance Cup for last half term with a tremendous attendance of **98%**. To date the overall attendance percentage is **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. Letters have been and will continue to be issued separately to parents whose child's attendance is a cause for concern. Teachers will inform you of your child's mid-year attendance figures during the Parent Consultation evenings in March. A reminder that any holidays (including long weekends) during term time are **unauthorised** absences. It is these 'odd' days off that greatly affect your child's education and our attendance figures.

Year Group	% attendance
Year 3	98 
Year 5	97.7
Years 1, 2, 4	97
Year 6	96.6
Reception	95.8

Medical and dental appointments should be taken outside of school hours, except for emergencies. 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 4th March** and



Thursday 12th March. Classrooms will be open for parents to view classwork and meetings will take place in the school hall. We 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 are unable to offer supervision for children, so please make arrangements in advance for children to be supervised off premises. The first appointment is scheduled for 4 pm to enable appropriate child care arrangements to be put in place after school. Places may be available in the Before and After School Club- please contact the Club on 07805 511796 should you wish to enquire about child care provision.

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church



During this half term and next term, classes will be attending Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Parents are most welcome to join their child's class at church. However, if there are any parents able to walk to church from school with their child's class, they will leave school at approximately 9.05 am.

Years 4 and 5: Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 10 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.

St Patrick's Day Parade



This year the Birmingham St Patrick's Day parade will take place on Sunday 15th March 2020. The parade will be from noon to 2pm along Digbeth High Street. It starts with a confetti blast and the theme will be 'The Irish Quarter'.

This year's event will pay homage to the contribution Irish workers made to the rebuilding of Birmingham in the post-War period and the ongoing development of Digbeth. Organisers are hoping that vast crowds will turn Digbeth into a 'sea of green' as they enjoy music, dance and lots of fun.

St Patrick's Day Themed Lunch

If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like a school meal on **Tuesday 17th March** to celebrate St Patrick's Day, please arrange this through the office and ParentPay. KS1 pupils do not need to pay as payment is covered by the universal free school meals scheme.

Readathon



As part of our Lenten almsgiving, pupils are taking part in a Readathon this year. The 2 week challenge is for children to set themselves a target to read a certain amount in those weeks and be sponsored for successfully completing their targets. Readathon officially started on Friday 28th February and will end on Monday 16th March. Please send in all sponsor money collected week beginning 16th March.

All the money raised will be in aid of children's hospitals, providing children, who spend a bulk of their lives in hospital, with new books and visits from librarians to enable them to escape with a good book. We hope the children will enjoy the challenge and even spark a love of reading for many years to come.

Science Week



Science Week will take place from Monday 9th March. If your child has signed up to

compete in the Science projects, entries will need to be in school from Friday 6th March with the deadline being Monday 9th March. There will be a lot happening during Science Week: children will be showcasing their projects to the school; we will welcome special scientist visitors; the children will be invited to dress up as Scientists. Further details will be issued in a future letter, so keep an eye out for more information on this incredibly exciting week.

Rags to Riches Appeal

Another aspect of our almsgiving during Lent is to support the 'Rags to Riches' campaign which begins on Monday 23rd March. Through this campaign we are asking parents to donate reusable clothes to school. Further information will be shared regarding the types of clothes we will be collecting very soon.

Parking



We have had numerous complaints regarding parking around school this term from parents and local residents. Please remember to be courteous towards our local residents when choosing a place to leave your car. Residents need to be able to access the garage areas during the day. Photographic evidence of cars parked illegally on the surrounding roads to all three of our entrances can be submitted to the police by any member of the public. Our local residents know this, so please be careful not to park inconsiderately by blocking their driveways. Parking on double yellow lines or zig-zags restricts the view and safety of our pupils and families. Please also refrain from disposing of any rubbish from your car into residents' bins.

A Plea to all Families

You may be aware from media coverage that government funding to education is extremely challenging. We aim to continue to provide an excellent education for all the children at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School, despite very demanding financial times. The vast majority of the budget is quite rightly spent on education, but this leaves very little for the maintenance and upkeep of the school building and its surroundings. I am sure you will agree that Mr and Mrs Rollason work outstandingly hard to maintain our school environment. We are most grateful to some members of the Academy Committee and PTA who have spent some time improving the external environment with their gardening skills. Please contact the school office if you feel you could offer some time to help with small maintenance jobs. Thank you in advance for your support.

Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall

Parents and families who attended the Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall on 13th February certainly enjoyed the event, especially our own children's performance of 'Ain't no mountain high enough'. We were incredibly proud of the children, both in terms of behaviour and their top quality performance. Well done to Year 5! Our thanks go to Mr Mallinson for preparing and co-ordinating such a spectacular event of Catholic schools coming together to share their talents. Plans are already in place for next year's concert, which has a Brit-Pop theme.

Reminder of the remaining Teacher Training Days 2020

Monday 8th June 2020 and Monday 20th July 2020

Dates for Diary: March- April 2020 (Lenten Activities were also issued in a separate letter). There may be more dates to add as the term continues but these dates are available so far:

Sun 1 st Mar	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 2 nd Mar	Year 6 ONLY non-uniform day: Feast of St Chad
Wed 4 th Mar	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. (1) <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Thurs 5 th Mar	World Book Day – Children invited to bring in Bibles to be blessed by Father Long
Fri 6 th Mar	Lent Fast Day
Fri 6 th Mar	Science Projects to be brought into school
Sat 7 th Mar	11.00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation Year 3 at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sat 7 th Mar	6.00 pm Swimming Gala
Sun 8 th Mar	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 9 th Mar	Science Fortnight begins
Mon 9 th Mar	1.30 pm Visit from Fire Station for Year 4
Tues 10 th Mar	10.00 am Years 4 and 5 Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 11 th Mar	Lenten Retreat Day with Dan Callow
Thurs 12 th Mar	1.40 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs 12 th Mar	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm. (2) <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> - please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home
Fri 13 th Mar	1.30 pm Hagley RC High School Transition for Year 6 pupils
Fri 13 th Mar	Science Investigation Day in school
Mon 16 th Mar	Readathon Challenge ends
Tues 17 th Mar	Whole School Film Afternoon - £1 donation
Tues 17 th Mar	St. Patrick's Feast Day Themed Lunch
Tues 17 th Mar	Year 2's parents invited in for school lunch
Thurs 19 th Mar	9.05 am Reception Class's 'Mothers' Day Assembly
Fri 20 th Mar	Non –school uniform Day: Dress as a Scientist

Sun 22 nd Mar	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 23 rd Mar	Year 6 Mock SATS week
Mon 23 rd Mar	Rags to Riches Appeal begins
Tues 24 th Mar	Year 6 Reconciliation 1.40 pm
Thurs 26 th Mar	Year 5 Reconciliation 1.40 pm
Fri 27 th Mar	Year 4 Reconciliation 1.40 pm
Sun 29 th Mar	Year 6 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 30 th Mar	Holy Week in school begins – Stations of the Cross with children
Wed 1 st April	Year 6 Parents’ Easter lunch
Wed 1 st Apr	6 pm OLF Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 2 nd Apr	9.05 am Year 3 ‘Sharing A Meal’ Service
Thurs 2 nd Apr	9.05 am Parent and Toddler Group meeting in BASC
Fri 3 rd Apr	1.30 pm Easter Bonnet Parade
Fri 3rd Apr	3.30 pm Break up for the Easter holidays
Mon 20th Apr	8.55 am Pupils and Staff return to school after Easter holidays.