



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — February 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

'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.



On Sunday we celebrated the beautiful feast of 'Candlemas'. In the Gospel we heard about Simeon who praised God because he beheld the 'light of the nations'. The evenings are starting to become lighter and this feast brings light and some warmth into our lives. This is yet another reminder that Jesus, our Saviour, is the Light of the World and will lead and guide us if we allow him to.

Welcome

We warmly welcome Mr Carry to Our Lady of Fatima School as Executive Head during Mrs van Vliet's ill health absence. We are most grateful to him for his support.

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions

The Holy Father has entrusted these monthly intentions in a particular way to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, an organisation that works to encourage Christians to respond to the Pope's appeal

and to deepen their daily prayer.

Intention for February:

Listen to the Migrants' Cries

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

The following link:

<http://www.news.va/en/source/vatican.va>

will take you to a website designed to keep in touch with what Pope Francis does and to listen to what he has to say. You can also follow him on Twitter:

[Pope Francis \(@Pontifex\)](https://twitter.com/Pontifex) His tweets are truly inspiring

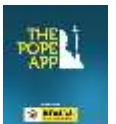


messages and thoughts for the day.

During this Year of the Word, recently the Holy Father reminded us:

'Let us make room for the Word of God! Each day, let us read a verse or two of the Bible. We will discover that God is close to us, that He dispels our darkness and leads our lives into deep waters.'

Please consider reading scripture during prayer times with your child to develop and deepen their relationship with God.



S48 Religious Monitoring Inspection

On Tuesday 21st January 2020 Maureen O'Leary, Senior Advisor for School Support and Religious Inspections, carried out a monitoring visit at Our Lady of Fatima School. She looked at the teaching of Religious Education, the quality and meaning of Collective Worship and the value and understanding of Catholic Life within our school. She thanked the school staff, pupils, parents and Academy Representatives for their contributions in developing the Catholic Life, RE provision and Collective Worship across the school. The letter from the Diocese will be available to view on our school website shortly.

Ash Wednesday

Please join us at school for Mass on Ash Wednesday, which is a Holy Day of Obligation, at 2 pm on Wednesday 26th February. Masses will also be celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 10 am and 7 pm. This is a wonderful way to mark the beginning of Lent when we are called to remember the three important aspects of Lent: **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.**

Lent

On Tuesday 11th February Margot Scotford from Father Hudson's Care will lead our annual Good Shepherd Appeal. A Lenten calendar and Good Shepherd Appeal Boxes will be issued before half term. Thank you in advance for your spiritual and financial generosity.

Altar Servers at St Chad's



Advance notice of a diary date: On Saturday 7th March at 12 noon there will be a Mass at St Chad's Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop David McGough

for all existing Altar Servers. Parents are asked to please complete and return the consent form available from Father Long. The deadline for this is **9th February 2020**. Please remember all of our Altar Servers in your prayers.

Media Communication

Our website www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk is regularly updated with documents and school events. We frequently upload school events on Twitter too @OLOFPrimary. Please consider following us so you can learn about, like and share our events. For our Facebook page just type Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School into the search engine.

Parent Consultation Meetings

You should have received your Parents' Evening appointment letters for either of our Parent Consultation Meetings taking place on **Wednesday 4th March and Thursday 12th March**. Parents of Year 6 children attending on 4th March will also have the opportunity to meet with Mr Miastowski from Hagley RC High School. Classrooms will be open for parents to view classwork and meetings will take place in the school hall. If you wish to arrive early for your appointment, you will be able to look at your child's work before meeting with the class teacher. The first appointment will be 4.00pm to allow parents to make arrangements in advance for children to be supervised off the premises. Please remember that we **cannot** offer supervision for children apart from those attending the Before and After School Club. Appointment times must be returned by **Friday 14th February**. Teachers will be allocating and issuing appointments straight after half term



School Themed Meals

Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Smith are offering special themed meals on the following dates:

Thursday 13th February-Valentine's Meal



Tuesday 25th February- Pancake Day



Parents of KS2 children who usually bring a packed lunch can order either or both of these meals by paying £2.35 per meal on ParentPay. KS1 pupils who usually have a packed lunch but would like any of the themed meals simply need to inform the office staff- no payment required.

Pupil Bake Off



Time to gather ingredients and dust down the cook books to make preparations for the Our Lady of Fatima School's 'Pupil Bake Off'. The children are invited to take part in the Bake Off **on Friday 14th February** but must register their interest by completing an entry form. There will be no snacks available on this day. The cakes will be sold at playtime, with donations being raised for CAFOD.

E-Safety



Internet Safety week begins on 10th February. Mr Simmons will lead a whole school assembly with the Digital Leaders on 10th February to inform and remind the children about the importance of staying safe online. They will be reminded what to do if they ever feel unsafe when using the internet. Please support your children at

home, making sure that they stay safe at all times. Parents regularly raise concerns about inappropriate activity on social media sites. A general reminder that primary aged pupils should be supervised when browsing the internet at all times. Social Media sites are usually for pupils aged **13+ years**.

Childline advises a four way strategy to help parents discuss any internet issues with their children (TEAM).

Talk to your children regularly so that you are aware what they are doing online and how to stay safe.

Explore your child's online activities together to promote openness and transparency.

Agree your own rules as a family about online activity /apps /sites and games.

Manage your child's technology with parental control settings, so that you are able to keep your child safe online.

By working and communicating together we will ensure that all pupils begin to take responsibility for their own safety online, with parental and school support.

You can also follow National Online Safety **@natonlinesafety** on Twitter. They offer great advice and tips on how to keep children safe online.

Homework



Each class teacher ensures that adequate weekly homework is issued to ensure that there are opportunities at home for

parents to support learning in school. There is an increasing amount of children not completing homework tasks. We encourage all children to approach homework activities with independence, but in reality most children do require parental encouragement to complete homework tasks. Time should be planned and set aside for homework to be completed, alongside other activities the children take part in out of school or as a family. Thank you to the children who regularly complete their homework.

School Fund

Thank you to all the parents who have already responded by contributing towards school fund. It would be very much appreciated if a voluntary contribution of £5 per family (per term) was made to the fund by all families.



If you haven't done so already, please offer your donation via ParentPay. Thank you.

Punctuality and appointments

Our attendance and punctuality is usually exceptionally good and this contributes strongly to the children's well being and their ability to progress. A reminder that any child who does not arrive in time to enter the school through the correct playground entrance, must be accompanied to the front office and **signed into school by an adult**, who will be asked to provide an explanation for the lateness. Being 'late' is not a reason, it is a fact. Please make sure that your child arrives in plenty of time to enter school through the correct entrance for their class. Doors open at 8.45 in the morning. It can be really unsettling for the children if they arrive in



their classroom after registration has taken place. It is equally unsettling for pupils if they arrive too early for school, before 8.30 am. Staff are not on duty until 8.45 am when the school doors open. Arriving too early means that your child is left unsupervised whilst the gates are open. It is important that your child is safe at all times on school property.

Parents are also reminded to make non-emergency medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Medical practitioners are usually most accommodating and will see children before or after school. Appointments during the school day are disruptive and lead to lost opportunities for continuous learning. Proof of any medical appointments will be required, so please be prepared to show this to the office staff. Thank you for your co-operation.

PTA News

Plans for the Film Night on **Friday**



7th February are well underway. Advance thanks to all volunteers and children who will be attending. Money raised will go towards extra items and activities at school. Please remind your child about the school's behaviour expectations at PTA events. We appreciate that PTA events are social occasions, but adult supervision is in place to ensure your child's safety and poor behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in parents being contacted to collect their child early.

Discussions have also begun in preparation for the annual PTA Summer Fayre which will take place on **Saturday 4th July**. Please also put this date in your diaries so that you can either volunteer to help or come along to support this event.

Parking with consideration



There has been a very slight improvement with the parking on the surrounding roads to the school. Thank you. However, there are still a small number of the same parents who park illegally with little thought for the safety of our children and their families. Road markings are in place for safety reasons. 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 continue to park with due care and consideration for our community. Thank you.

Polite Reminder



Please remember that the school environment is a 'no smoking' zone for both cigarettes and vapes. Please do not put out cigarettes on school site or entrances. Thank you.

Dates for Diary: February- April 2020

More dates may be added as the term continues but these dates are available so far:

Sun 2 nd Feb	Year 5 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Wed 5 th Feb	6pm OLF Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 6 th Feb	Year 3 Reconciliation Parents' Meeting – 7pm (2)
Fri 7 th Feb	Science Ogden Trust Day
Fri 7 th Feb	3.30-5.30 pm PTA Film Night
Sun 9 th Feb	Year 4 reading at 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mon 10 th Feb	Internet Safety Week
Tues 11 th Feb	Good Shepherd Appeal Assembly
Tues 11 th Feb	National Internet Safety Day
Tues 11 th Feb	3.45 pm School Football Team Catholic Cup Match
Wed 12 th Feb	12.30 pm Year 4 Parent Lunch
Thurs 13 th Feb	Hagley Pyramid Concert – 7pm at the Town Hall
Thurs 13 th Feb	Valentine's Day Themed Lunch
Fri 14 th Feb	9.05 am Parent and Toddler Group meeting in BASC
Fri 14 th Feb	Pupil Bake Off
Fri 14th Feb	3.30 pm Half term holidays begin for pupils
Mon 24th Feb	8.55 a.m. School re-opens for pupils and staff

Tues 25 th Feb	Photographer in school – individual and school sibling photos
Tues 25 th Feb	Shrove/Pancake Tuesday Themed Lunch
Wed 26 th Feb	2.00 pm Year 4 Ash Wednesday Mass – all welcome LENT begins: Fund raising events issued in a separate letter.
Fri 28 th Feb	8 am Gymnastic Club begins for Year 1 and 2
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
Fri 6 th Mar	Lent Fast Day
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	1.30 pm Visit from Fire Station for Year 4
Tues 10 th Mar	10.00 am Years 4 and 5 Mass at OLF.
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
Tues 17 th Mar	St Patrick’s Feast Day- non-school uniform day- green/ orange clothes £1.00 donation
Tues 17 th Mar	St. Patrick’s Feast Day Themed Lunch
Thurs 19 th Mar	9.05 am Reception Class’s ‘Mothers’ Day Assembly
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
Thurs 26 th Mar	1.40 pm Reconciliation Service and Confessions in school - Years 4—6
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
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.