



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — September 2019

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

'Grateful and Generous'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, now and in the future.



Please note:

This is the last newsletter that will be issued as a hard copy. All future newsletters will be available on ParentPay, via email and on the school's website: www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Welcome



A very warm welcome back to everyone. I hope that you all had a lovely summer break with your families and enjoyed what was a wonderful summer break

weather-wise. I would like to extend a special warm welcome to our new children and their families. I know that the whole school community will help our new families to settle in well. I am sure that all the children are happy to be reunited with their friends.

May I ask you to remember in your prayers the current Year 7 pupils starting their Secondary Schools. They will be feeling excited, but may also be feeling a little anxious about their new settings.

Please also remember in your prayers Father Craig, as he embarks on the next chapter of his ministry as Parish Priest of two parishes in Wolverhampton and Mrs McGuinness as she begins her retirement.

Message from Mrs van Vliet:

Unfortunately, due to ill health, I am unable to start the Autumn Term with you all. I hope that by listening to and acting upon medical advice, I will make a speedy recovery. I am confident that the school is in safe hands under the leadership of Mr Simmons, together with such a strong staff team and the Academy Committee's support. Please

remember me in your prayers as I will you and your families.

First School Mass of the new Academic Year



We welcome Father Long as the new Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima. You are all invited to his and our first Mass of school year in the school hall on Monday 9th September starting at 9.05 am. We will dedicate the Mass for the intentions of our whole school community as we begin this new school year together. Please do join us in this school community worship.



Parish News

You can look at the parish website for current news and updates www.catholicquinton.org.uk The parish also has a Twitter account which is regularly updated: **@OLFQuinton**

Pope Francis



You can follow Pope Francis' messages on the Pope's App:

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

Pope Francis also has a Twitter account and his daily messages are most inspiring and poignant: **Pope Francis@Pontifex**.

School Information

Please make sure that you have provided an email address to the office for future correspondence.



If there are any changes of address or telephone numbers, please let the office staff know ASAP. We require at least two current phone numbers in case the school needs to contact you urgently. Mobile phone numbers change frequently, so please make sure we have your current mobile number so that you can receive text messages from school. An annual medical update form for Years 1-6 is also being sent out today. **Please return this as soon as possible, even if your child has no known medical conditions (just write N/A).** We can then be certain that we have the most up-to-date information from you. If your child has an inhaler or any other medication, please make sure it is back in school after the holiday and that the 'use by date' will last for the whole term. May I also remind you that First Aiders may only give prescribed medicines if parents complete a school consent form.

Our Lady of Fatima School Website



www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Our school website is regularly updated. It continues to be a great line of communication, so that parents and others who want to find out more about our school are able to be kept up to date with news, information and events. Please do spend some time looking at our Events Page, where you will see the varied activities your children complete in school. At the bottom of the welcome page there is an itemised list of what has been added most recently.

School Social Media

Facebook: Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Twitter: @OLOFPrimary

Please consider following us on Facebook or Twitter. Regular updates will be made to keep you informed of events.

School Appointments

If there are any issues or concerns that parents would like to discuss with a class teacher, staff are more than willing to meet you **after school by appointment.** Mornings are not really suitable for meetings without prior notice, as staff are

preparing for the school day and once the bell rings, their priority is the children. Other more urgent messages may, of course, be left with the office.

Attendance and Punctuality



We pride ourselves that our overall school attendance exceeds the national figure. When we broke up in July, our overall attendance for the academic year 2018-19 was 97.2%. The overall

best attenders were the current Year 4 with a fabulous attendance of 98%.

We also place importance on the punctuality of all children as this makes a good start to the day. The Infant and Junior doors will open from 8:45 a.m. to allow all children to arrive in their classroom by 8:55 a.m. Please make sure your child starts the school day well by being present when the register is called in the classroom at 8.55 am. Should your child's attendance fall below 95%, we will contact you to arrange to make an appointment to discuss the reasons and to create an improvement plan. Holidays during term time are strictly unauthorised. This includes days off for extended weekends away. Today you will also receive an attendance leaflet, which I would urge you to read. It is in line with the Government guidelines regarding school attendance and punctuality during term time.

ParentPay

Many correspondence will be accessible through ParentPay. Parents will receive an alert to log onto ParentPay for letters and to make payments. **It is therefore essential that you register on this system.**

We are now predominantly a cashless school and so most monies must be paid through ParentPay. This currently excludes payments for snack and imminent fundraising events. Any cash for these events should be sent into school, via your child, in a labelled envelope. The office staff will no longer randomly receive money /payments from parents. If you have any queries regarding ParentPay, please contact Mrs Billingham or Mrs Hayden in the school office.

A reminder that school dinners are £11.75 per week for KS2 pupils (Universal Free School Meals for Reception and KS1 pupils)

Children who usually have a packed lunch might like to have a Friday lunch which will need to be paid for via ParentPay.

Free School Meal Entitlement

All Infant pupils are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. In addition to this entitlement the DfE use a formula for allocating money to schools and the % of children entitled to free school meals significantly increases a school's budget. Details regarding entitlement to free school meals are available from the school office. 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. We would encourage all parents, regardless of income to log on to the site and register:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/school>

Early Birds and Evening Owls Club

At present the club has limited spaces both in the mornings and evenings. There are cancellations on occasions, so it is always worth checking with Mrs Rickerby – 07805 511796 should you require child care before or after school. If you have booked places but do not need them, please let Mrs Rickerby know as soon as possible. **A reminder that sessions are chargeable when booked, even if they are not taken up.**



P.T.A. News: Diary Dates

P.T.A A.G.M – Thursday 19th September 7 p.m.
Welcome Disco – Friday 27th September 6:30-9pm



Our annual Summer Fayre last July was a huge success. A total profit of just over £1,500 was raised which is tremendous. A huge thank you to all P.T.A volunteers, parents, families and friends who supported this event. The committed P.T.A are always ready to welcome new or existing parents - please consider whether you can volunteer to be a member of the P.T.A. or volunteer to help out at events – why not come along to the A.G.M. on Thursday 19th September to find out more?

The Welcome Disco on 27th September is open to all families and is a great way for our new families to get to know each other but please remember that all children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. A polite reminder: as a public building, the law regarding no smoking/vaping

covers all parts of the school premises including the playground and paths.

Alton Castle

Year 6 children will be taking part in a spiritual retreat between 23rd- 25th September. Further details for Year 6 parents will follow.

Internet Safety Yr 1-6



In line with our Internet Safety Policy, an Acceptable Use Form will be sent home today. The form needs to be signed and returned to school by Monday 16th September.

Inspire Workshops

A separate letter has already been issued to inform you of the Inspire Workshop dates. The workshops for most classes will focus on keeping children safe when accessing the internet. Please make a note of the date and time of the workshop for your child/ren so that you can make arrangements to attend.

Uniform

Your children have all returned to school looking extremely smart. Thank you for supporting our school uniform policy- a copy can be found attached to this newsletter and on the school's website. This includes reference to fashion haircuts, hair accessories, jewellery etc. Please do not be persuaded by your child to allow fashion haircuts as these are not permitted in school. Please also ensure that all your child's uniform and PE kit is labelled.

Parking : A reminder to our new and existing families.



As a new school year begins, it is a good time to remind all parents to co-operate by safely parking with consideration on the roads surrounding the school so that local residents can gain access to their own properties. Parents should never park on any zig zag lines. Please consider leaving home a few minutes earlier so that you have time to park legally and walk your child into the school playgrounds. Parents should also avoid parking in the bus lane on the Hagley Road, as this is a parking offence and parking tickets and fines will be enforced by West Midlands Police. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated. Our local community police officers have informed me that they will be conducting spot checks before to check that cars are

parked legally ensuring the safety of the children and families. Any member of the public can now submit evidence to West Midlands Police of motorists who park illegally. The offence will then be reviewed and a fine issued as appropriate. The safety of our children and their families must always take priority above how close vehicles can be parked to the school entrance.



Teacher Training Days

Monday 2nd September 2019
Friday 11th October 2019
Monday 14th October 2019
Monday 6th January 2020 (MAC inset Day)
Monday 8th June 2020
Monday 20th July 2020

School Fund

Parents are asked to contribute £5 a term per family for school fund. Please try to send in your donation by the end of September via ParentPay. Thank you for your support and to those parents who have already sent this in. This contribution does help towards providing extra resources for your children.



Library Books



Despite several reminders, at the end of July 2019 there were **89** school library books that had been borrowed and not returned. With the current budget constraints, the school is not in a position to keep replacing lost or misplaced books. If you are aware that your child has a school library book at home, please return this as soon as possible- thank you.

All classes will still access the school library each week, but from this term onwards school library books will be kept in school for children to enjoy during reading sessions. I would also encourage you to take your child to local libraries; the gift of reading is fundamental to learning.

Secondary School Transfer for Sept 2020

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Secondary School Meetings Parents in Year 6 will need to complete their secondary preference forms shortly. All of the schools are holding open evenings (Hagley High has an Open Morning on Saturday 12th October 2019) and I would strongly advise parents to go along with their child to visit schools you intend to include on your preference form.

Parents must [apply online](#) or have returned their Birmingham Local Authority Preference Form by 31st October 2019.

Primary School Applications for Sept 2020

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

If you have a child starting this school **next** September – you must apply by 15th January 2020. You should [apply online](#) to the local authority or return your completed preference form to School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service. If you live in Birmingham and your child attends a community or private nursery in the city, you should receive information from the local authority (Birmingham City Council) via post about how to start your child at school in the reception year for September 2020. Information will be obtainable from the school shortly. If you live **outside** Birmingham you must apply to the local authority in which you live (i.e. the Council to which you pay your Council Tax) for their Preference Form. You should include this school on that form and return it to your local authority.

Also, if your child is Catholic, you will need to get a Supplementary Information Form from our school office and you must return it to us together with original proof of your child's baptism. You can do this NOW – this information is used to rank children in order.

Diary Dates - September 2019- December 2019: Further dates will be added as available.

Mon 2 Sept	Teacher Day (1)
Tues 3 Sept	All pupils return to school. Rec class half days begin for the week
Sun 8 Sept	Education Sunday
Mon 9 Sept	9.05 am Mass led by Year 6
Mon 9 Sept	Reception Class begin full week
Wed 11 Sept	Hagley Pyramid Concert fortnightly lessons begin- Yr 5
Sun 15 Sept	Year 6 Mass readers at OLF
Thurs 19 Sept	7 pm PTA AGM in school
Sat 21 September	6 pm Thanksgiving Mass for Father Craig at Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sun 22 Sept	Year 5 Mass readers at OLF
Mon 23 –Wed 25 Sept	Year 6 – Alton Castle
Tues 24 Sept	9.10 am Year 5 Inspire Workshop
Fri 27 Sept	9.05 am Parent Toddler Macmillan Coffee Morning
Fri 27 Sept	6.30- 9pm Welcome Disco ALL VERY WELCOME!!!
Sun 29 Sept	Year 4 Mass readers at OLF
October- Month of the Rosary and Extraordinary Mission Month	
Tues 1 Oct	Year 4 Inspire Workshop
Thurs 3 Oct	Themed school lunch
Thurs 3 Oct	9.05 am Reception Class' Blessing Service
Thurs 3 Oct	4-7 pm Parents' Evening (1) <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> – please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home
Fri 4 Oct	Year 1 ONLY celebrate St Francis' feast day- non school uniform
Sun 6 Oct	Year 6 Mass readers at OLF
Mon 7 Oct	6.30 pm Full MAC Board Meeting
Wed 9 Oct	Archbishop Bernard's livestream
Wed 9 Oct	Parents' Evening (2) 4-7 pm <u>Parents only for all appointments</u> – please make arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home.
Thurs 10 Oct	9.05 am Harvest Service led by Year 5
Fri 11 Oct	Teacher Day (2)
Sun 13 Oct	Year 5 Mass readers at OLF
Mon 14 Oct	Teacher Day (3)
Tues 15 Oct all week	Black History Week
Wed 16 Oct	Bhangra Dance Workshops all day
Wed 16 Oct	6 pm Academy Committee Meeting
Thurs 17 Oct	2.30 pm Reception Class Learning to read workshop
Fri 18 Oct	9.05 am Parent/Toddler Coffee morning
Fri 18 Oct	3.30-5.30 pm PTA Film Night
Sun 20 Oct	Year 4 Mass readers at OLF

Tues 22 Oct	9.05 am Year 2 Inspire Workshop
Wed 23 Oct	9.05 am Year 3 Inspire Workshop
Thurs 24 Oct	Flu Immunisations
Fri 25 Oct	3.30 pm PTA cake sale
	HALF TERM
Mon 4 Nov	Staff and pupils back to school
Wed 6 Nov	9.30- 11.30 am Open Morning
Thurs 7 Nov	9.05 am Year 6 Inspire Workshop
Fri 8 Nov	6.30 pm PTA Firework Disco
Sun 10 Nov	Year 6 Mass readers at OLF
Mon 11 Nov	Book Week all week- details to follow
Thurs 14 Nov	9.05 am Year 2's Assembly
Sun 17 Nov	Year 5 Mass readers at OLF
Tues 19 Nov	2.00pm Year 1's Inspire Workshop
Thurs 21 Nov	7 pm Year 3 FHC meeting (1)
Sun 24 Nov	11 am Year 3 FHC Mass of Enrolment FHC at OLF church
Sun 1 Dec	Advent begins
Sun 1 Dec	Year 4 Mass readers at OLF
Mon 2 Dec	9.05 am Advent Mass in school
Mon 2 Dec	6.30 pm Full MAC Board Meeting
Thurs 5 Dec	1.40 pm Reconciliation Service for Years 4-6
Sun 8 Dec	Year 6 Mass readers at OLF
Wed 11 Dec	6 pm Academy Committee meeting
Thurs 12 Dec	9.15 am and 2.15 pm KS1 Nativity- to be confirmed
Thurs 12 Dec	6.30 pm PTA Christmas Disco in the church hall
Sun 15 Dec	Year 5 Mass readers at OLF
Tues 17 Dec	9.10 am KS2 Carol Service – to be confirmed
Tues 17 Dec	1.40 pm Christmas Panto
Wed 18 Dec	Christmas Lunch
Thurs 19 Dec	Christmas parties and visit from Santa
Fri 20 Dec	Christmas jumper day
Fri 20 Dec	BREAK UP for Christmas holidays

Pupils return to school on **Tuesday 7th January 2020.**

School Uniform 2019/20

The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged as it helps the child to identify more closely with the 'school family' and generally assists in promoting the public image of the school.

The winter uniform consists of:

BOYS Grey trousers, white shirt, royal blue pullover with school crest, grey socks, school tie, and sensible black shoes.

GIRLS Plain grey skirt/pinafore dress or trousers / culottes, white blouse, royal blue cardigan with school crest, white socks or grey woollen tights, school tie, sensible black shoes.

Summer Uniform:

BOYS Grey shorts or trousers. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie.

GIRLS Blue/white striped or check summer dress. White 'polo' shirt can be worn instead of shirt / tie, sensible black shoes.

School caps or sun hats can be purchased from the school office

P.E.

Boys and Girls: Navy shorts and plain white T-shirt. Pumps for indoor P.E. and dance.

Track suits may be worn for outdoor games during the winter months.

Training shoes which do not cover the ankles may be worn for outdoor games. They are not suitable for indoor P.E.

Swimming Costume and towel. One piece swimsuit for girls, swimming trunks (not shorts) for boys.

Book bags, pump bags, elastic ties and sun hats can be purchased from the school. Parents are free to obtain items from wherever they please with the exception of the school crest jumpers and cardigans which can be obtained from Clive Marks in Bearwood, Somal Fashions: 11 Faraday Avenue B32 1JP or Tesco Online.

ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME.

Long hair should be tied back for hygiene reasons and especially during P.E., for safety reasons. Hair accessories should be simple and follow school colours. **'Fashion' haircuts are not appropriate** for school for boys or girls. Boys' hair should not be 'shaved' or include patterns and should be even in length.

Children are asked not to wear jewellery apart from a watch. For safety and hygiene, the wearing of earrings is not allowed but if necessary, ear studs may be worn which must be removed for swimming lesson.
