



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter October 2019

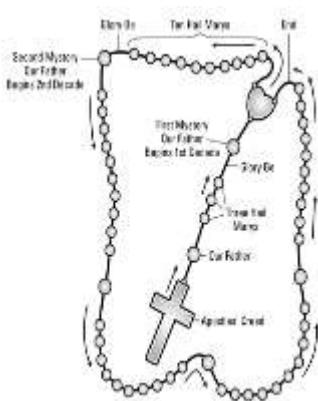
'We welcome everyone into our community to live, love and learn together in the light and example of Jesus Christ'

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.

October is the month of the Rosary. Our school name is dedicated in honour of Our Lady. The children will be



saying the Rosary in class and in Assemblies and as part of the 'Time of Prayer', but it would also be beneficial if you could spend time with your child sharing prayers from their class Prayer Book and praying

the Rosary in your home as a family.

Time of Prayer

Time of Prayer with Archbishop Bernard Longley will be live streamed to all schools across the Archdiocese at 2.00pm on Wednesday 9th October 2019. The purpose of the prayer is to celebrate October as an Extraordinary Missionary Month.

Schools will also be asked to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary using a Mission Rosary, and also marking the Feast Day of Blessed John Henry Newman.

Blessed John Henry Newman



The canonisation will make Blessed John Henry Newman the first English person who has lived since the 17th century officially recognised as a Saint by the Roman Catholic Church. This momentous occasion is being marked by celebrations at the Oratory, Edgbaston B16 8UE.

Sunday 13th October there will be an afternoon viewing of the canonisation in the Upper Cloister Hall.

Friday 18th October at 7.30 pm Mass will be celebrated in Latin by His Grace Archbishop Bernard.

Sunday 20th October midday Mass will be celebrated in English by Archbishop Bernard followed by parish celebrations. On the same day at 4.30 pm there will be Solemn Vespers and Benediction. Please consider attending some of these lovely services.



On Thursday 3rd October we will officially welcome our new Reception Class to Our Lady of Fatima School during a special

Welcome and Blessing Service. It will surely be an uplifting, prayerful and emotional occasion. All Reception Class parents and grandparents are warmly invited to join us at 9.05 am in the school hall. Thank you to our new and existing parents from Reception Class for trusting us with the privilege of nurturing and educating your children through their primary years. Please remember all our new children and their families in your prayers.

Serving Christ in the Community

Thank the children who regularly read at the 11.00 am Mass on Sundays at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Years 4, 5 and 6 take it in turns to read and advance notification of these Masses always appears at the end of each newsletter with the diary dates. Ideally five volunteers are required for each Mass. Please encourage your child to volunteer to read as it is a wonderful way to additionally serve the community. Thank you also to our regular Altar Servers who assist Father Long during Masses. Father Long is keen for more children to train to be Altar Servers and has invited all existing Altar Servers and children who wish to train to be Altar Servers to meet with him after 10.00am Mass at 10.30 am on **Saturday 5th October** at Our Lady of Fatima Church. This is a wonderful way to further develop their faith.



Harvest Celebration Service



We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Harvest Celebration Service in school on: **Thursday 10th October 2019 at 9.05 am in the school hall.**

This year's theme is 'Brighten Up the World this Harvest' and is taken from Laudato Si from Pope Francis - looking after our world's resources and not wasting them. Pupils can wear bright clothes on Friday 4th October (CAFOD Fast Day) and donate £1 for CAFOD. Once again we will be supporting the **Fireside Centre** –a Birmingham charity for the homeless. A letter has already been sent out

asking for donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries. These should be brought into school **as soon as possible**. Charitable donations are truly recognised as a way the children can show kind acts of helping their local neighbours.



We also like to support our global family and we do this by making a donation to the charity **CAFOD**. This year there will be a collection at the end of the service. Peter McCann, a representative from CAFOD will once again, be attending our Harvest Service, where he will talk to the children about how their donations really do make a difference. We are therefore not only asking for your love, compassion and prayers, but also your generosity with donations. Thank you.

Punctuality



Some unaccompanied children are arriving to the office late; parents **must** sign their children into school at the office

should they arrive after 8.55 am when the Infant and Junior doors are closed. This is for safeguarding purposes; if your child is late, it is likely they have missed registration and it is imperative that the office staff are aware that they have arrived, so that registers can be updated. Should you be unavoidably late after 3.30 pm, please contact the office to ensure that we can reassure your child of your time of arrival. All children must be signed out of the school building after 3.30 pm. The school's 'Late Collection' Policy will be applied and procedures followed if parents are persistently late collecting their children from school or from any after school clubs or from the Before and After School Club. Thank you for your co-operation.

October Inspire Workshops



Years 4 and 5 parents have already attended the ESafety Inspire workshops and feedback has been most positive. It is always beneficial to inform parents how we

approach teaching children to be aware of staying safe when using the internet, so that the right support can be offered at home, following the school's suggestions. Years 2 and 3's workshops will take place in October. Separate letters have been issued. Please make every effort to attend.

Reception Class parents are invited to a meeting on Thursday 17th October at 2.30 pm where Mrs Lake will share tips and ideas for making learning to read fun.

Parents' Evenings

Teachers are looking forward to welcoming parents on **Thursday 3rd October and Wednesday 9th October**. We are unable to supervise any children during these meetings and so we thank you in advance for making arrangements for your child/ren to be supervised at home. These 'meet and greet' meetings are so important so that you can be reassured of how well your child has settled into their new class. You will be asked to check your child's emergency information and contact numbers so that our records are up to date.

Open Morning

Our Open Morning for prospective parents here at Our Lady of Fatima School is on Wednesday 6th November 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. If you are intending to apply for a place for your child, please provide the school office with your child's Baptismal Certificate by the end of term. You must complete the relevant online Local Authority form. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2020.

Open Day

Hagley Catholic High School has asked us to remind parents in Years 5 and 6 that they will be holding their annual Open Day on **Saturday 12th October 2019** **9.00 am to 12.00 pm**.

There will be demonstrations, performances and displays which reflect the range of opportunities offered at Hagley Catholic High School. A tour of the school is likely to take approximately 2 hours so it is advisable for visitors to arrive between 9:00am and 10:00 am.

Operation Christmas Child

Despite it only being October, we do try not to think about Christmas until at least after half term, but planning ahead our annual 'Operation Christmas Child' slips will be sent out before we break up, as the team that collect the shoe boxes will collect them during November. It is a lovely activity for the children to engage in during the half term break. Last year we collected **111** boxes. It a big challenge but let's see if we can collect more than 111 this year. If every family donated a box, we would be able to send about 175 boxes off to children in our global family. Further details to follow.



School Online Admissions September 2020

Secondary School Application closing date: Thursday 31st October 2019.

Year 3 Sacramental Preparation

Advance Notice: There will be a meeting for Year 3 parents on Thursday 21st November at 7 p.m. All parents should attend. The dates for sacramental preparation have already been issued and can also be found on the school's website. On 21st November parents will be asked to opt for one of the two services on Saturday 16th May 2020 for First Holy Communion.

Parking with consideration

We are still receiving complaints from the residents about inconsiderate parking. Please plan your school journeys so that you can park legally, with due care for our children and families, whilst also maintaining good relationships with the local residents in our local community. There are still some vehicles being parked in the bus bay on the Hagley Road. The Local Community Police Officers have stated that they will issue on the spot fines if vehicles are illegally parked. Members of the public can also send photographic evidence of illegally parked cars to West Midlands Police for their consideration.



Lunchtimes

We like to offer flexibility for lunch choices but we are experiencing problems arising from some pupils swapping from a packed lunch to a cooked dinner several times during the week. A cooked lunch is offered to all pupils on a Friday, should they wish to avail of this option. Occasionally throughout the year we also offer a 'themed lunch' to all children. Parents of KS2 pupils must pay via ParentPay for any additional lunches before these are taken. There will be themed lunches on:

Thursday 3rd October: Brunch

Tuesday 5th November: Burgers and hotdogs lunch

Should your KS2 child usually have a packed lunch, but would like to take advantage of having a cooked meal on any or both of these dates, please pay £2.35 per meal on ParentPay. Pupils in Reception and KS1 who usually have a packed lunch, but would like a themed lunch on any or both of these days just need to inform the office of their preferred arrangements- no payment required.

PTA News

Many thanks to all the parents and pupils who attended the first PTA event of the year-the Welcome Disco. The entertainment, BBQ and refreshments were extremely popular. The night raised over **£900**, so many thanks again to everyone who supported the event. The money raised will go towards class excursions and the annual Christmas Panto. The PTA work incredibly hard to make sure every fundraising event is successful. The next event will be a Film Night on **Friday 18th October** from 3.30-5.30 pm. Details to follow. Advance notice of our annual Firework Disco which will take place on **Friday 8th November** from 6.30-9 pm. Additional resourcing would not be possible without your generous support and the work of the volunteers who give their time and energy to planning and running events. We always need more helpers, and recognise that not everyone can make evening meetings, or want to be involved in every event. Even if you can only help out at one event over the year, this would still help - please contact the PTA at



olfpta@gmail.com Thank you as always for your generous support.

School Uniform

Planning ahead a little: please ensure that your child returns to school after the half term holidays on **Monday 4th November wearing full winter uniform, including shirts/blouses and ties**. A waterproof coat is also essential as we aim to have children playing outside during all playtimes unless the weather dictates otherwise. Thank you.

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 consider making your payment via ParentPay. A final reminder will be sent to parents who have not replied by half term.

Parent/Visitor Code of Conduct

There have been some recent incidents where the policy has not been adhered to by some parents, as staff members have not been spoken to or treated with respect during planned and unscheduled meetings.

Our policy can be found on our website: www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

It outlines acceptable behaviour whilst on school premises. We support your children by instilling in them the values as taught by Jesus, so that they accept, understand and live by the ethos of our school. This positive policy ensures that our Mission Statement is demonstrated by all our adult visitors. Thank you for your co-operation.

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	Wear it Bright non uniform day
Fri 4 Oct	Year 1 celebrate St Francis' feast day
Sun 6 Oct	Year 6 Mass readers at OLF
Mon 7 Oct	6.30 pm Full MAC Board Meeting
Wed 9 Oct	2.00 pm 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
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
Wed 23Oct	6 pm Academy Committee Meeting
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	Years 5 and 6 visit to cinema

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
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
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.**