



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

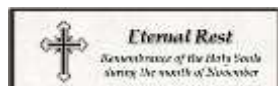
Newsletter — November 2019

'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

'Attentive and Discerning'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **attentive** to their experiences and to their vocation and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.



November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls. We remember in our

prayers all our loved ones and those people from our parish community who have died. May they rest in eternal peace.

Pope Francis message: The Feast of All Saints

On 1st November, Pope Francis reminded us all that the saints were real people whose strength to face daily challenges came from the grace of Jesus Christ, showing that everyone can be holy.

"The saints of all times, which we all celebrate together, are not simply symbols, distant human beings, unreachable. On the contrary, they are people who have lived with their feet on the ground. They have experienced the daily toil of existence with its successes and its failures, finding in the Lord the strength to always get up and continue the journey."

The saints demonstrate that holiness is not achieved alone, he said, but "is the fruit of the grace of God and of our free response to it."

Pope Francis spoke about holiness on the Solemnity of the Feast of All Saints. He stated that holiness is not only a gift from God, it is the "common vocation of the disciples of Christ."

He explained that responding to God's call to be holy, and accepting the gift of his grace, means taking "a serious and daily

commitment to sanctification in the conditions, duties and circumstances of our life, trying to live everything with love and with charity."

Today Christians are called to follow the words of the Beatitudes and to put them into practice.

'Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God'.

Mrs van Vliet would like to thank the school community for their continued prayers, support, thoughts and kind wishes during her recent ill health. Please continue to pray for her.

Harvest Celebration Service

Thank you to our families and pupils for your generosity in supporting our Harvest Celebrations. We had a wonderful turnout of parents and families at the service, tremendous support for the Fireside Centre with food and toiletries and £46 was raised for CAFOD from the retiring collection. Mr McCann, Education Director from CAFOD, spoke so highly of the commitment of our school community with their generous contributions to CAFOD. 'Brighten Up' non-school uniform day raised £175.50. Thank you.



The annual 'bake off' will take place early in the Spring term with all proceeds going to CAFOD. Details for this will follow separately.

School Uniform

The children have returned to school after the half term holidays looking very smart indeed. Full winter uniform should now be worn by all pupils until the start of the summer term. This includes a suitable waterproof coat. Please support the school guidance on acceptable haircuts/styles/accessories. Children can be very persuasive but they are fully aware of what is acceptable. All school uniform items should be labelled, especially jumpers, cardigans, hats, scarves and gloves. We encourage the children to be independent by looking after their own clothing items at all times. Mislabelled items are more likely to be found if they are labelled. Full school uniform details can be found on our website: www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Our cloakrooms and lockers are tightly spaced for this additional clothing and footwear. Children are encouraged to bring a book bag **only** to school as this is an adequate size for keeping their belongings and any correspondence inside.

'My Nametags' is a company that produces name labels. Orders can be placed using their website www.mynametags. If you place an order, please quote school number **21750** and the school will then receive commission on your order.

National Attendance Statistics

97% and above	Excellent attendance: Less than 6 days absence a year – less than 30 hours of learning lost.
95%	10 days' absence a year – 50 hours of learning lost Your child may start to find it difficult to maintain their targets. Pupils who take holidays in term time fall into this group.
93%	13 days' absence a year – 70 hours of learning lost Missing this much time is putting your child in an unfair position when it comes to achieving their potential.
90% and below	19 days' absence – 95 hours of learning lost Your child is now classified as "Persistently Absent". Missing so much time means it will almost be impossible for your child to learn effectively. Parents of this group of pupils could also face the possibility of legal action being taken, including the issuing of fines.



Attendance

Congratulations to Year 3 who won the attendance cup for the first half of the Autumn term with a tremendous attendance of 99.4%.

Year Group	% attendance
Year 3	99.4
Year 1	99.1
Year 2	98.5
Year 4 and Year 5	98.3
Year 6	97.9
Reception Class	96.3

Overall attendance was **98.3%** which is really good, but as always, we are aiming to improve this by July 2020 and so we ask for your support by ensuring that all children attend school regularly and on time. Well done to **139** (66%) children who had 100% attendance during September and October which is **14%** more than this time last year. This is fantastic. Whilst we fully understand that children cannot help being ill, we can administer prescribed medication as required throughout the school day. There are still a number of children attending non-emergency appointments during the school day. Most medical establishments are helpful in accommodating appointments out of school hours or during school holidays. Please be aware that we require proof of any medical appointments taken in school time for our attendance records.

Holiday requests will not be authorised during term time. This includes 'long weekends' where a child is absent on a Friday and/or Monday. We want the very best for all of our children and good attendance is paramount for pupil well-being and educational outcomes. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Collection Arrangements

Please be punctual when bringing your child/ren to school at the beginning of the day and collecting them promptly at 3.30 pm. If there are any changes to collection arrangements, please contact the school office so that we can inform your child's class teacher and reassure your child of your arrival time. The Before and After School

Club may be able to accommodate your child if you intend being unavoidably late. Please refresh yourselves by reading the Late Collection Policy on the website as it outlines arrangements that will be followed for late collection.

Operation Christmas Child



Before half term a letter was sent out about 'Operation Christmas Child' together with box labels. The boxes will be collected early on **Friday 22nd November** so if you would like to create a gift parcel with your child please send it in to school by **Thursday 21st November**. Should you require any further information or replacement labels, please contact the school office. Your child could also write a short letter to the recipient. If possible, please remember to insert the voluntary donation of **£5.00** inside the box to cover the cost of processing and postage overseas. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

School Admissions September 2020

Applications for Reception in September 2020 should be made to the local authority by 15th January 2020. All applications should be acknowledged by the LA. If you have a sibling applying to start next September remember that you also need to submit a supplementary form (available from school office / website) to the school with a copy of their baptismal certificate (if applicable).

Year 3 Sacramental Preparation Meeting



There will be an important meeting for Year 3 parents on **Thursday 21st November** at 7 p.m. in the school hall. We would like all Year 3 parents to attend as revised details will be shared about the preparation programme.

First Holy Communion Preparation Mass

Sunday 24th November is the Feast of 'Christ the King', which marks the end of the liturgical year. The 11.00 a.m. Mass on this day will be a special Mass for Year 3 children and their families. It is wonderful to see so many of our children regularly in attendance at Mass and that we have an increased number of

regular altar servers- thank you.

Book Week

'Book Week' begins next week



with many exciting activities planned. A separate letter was

issued just before half term outlining details of these activities. On Friday 15th November all children (and grown-ups!) are invited to dress up as a book character. There will be no charge for this non-uniform day. We extend a warm welcome to you if you are free to come into school from 3.00 pm- 3.25 pm on Monday 11th to Thursday 14th to read with your children. This is a lovely opportunity for you to share books with your child(ren) and to promote the importance of finding time to read during our very busy lives. The school Book Fair will also be open from **Monday 11th -Thursday 14th November from 3.30- 4.15 pm**. We are given 60% commission for all books sold, so please do come into the school hall to take a look. If there are any parents willing to sell books for about half an hour after school, please let the office know of your availability. Thank you.

School Lunches

As the winter months approach, KS2 children might like to consider having a hot, cooked lunch if they currently bring a packed lunch.

November themed lunches

The kitchen staff will be cooking special menus during a selection of days in November.

Monday 11th November: Remembrance Day themed meal.



Tuesday 19th November: Roast Dinner meal



We are trialling Year 5 parents being invited into school to eat a roast dinner meal with their children at 12.30 pm on this day. If this proves popular, we will be considering offering this opportunity to parents from other classes on specified days.

Should any KS2 child who usually has a packed lunch, but would like to take advantage of having a cooked meal on any or all of these dates, please pay £2.35 per meal in advance via ParentPay. Pupils in Reception and KS1 who usually have a packed lunch, but would like a themed lunch on any or all of the

days just need to inform the office of their preferred arrangements.

Hagley Pyramid Concert: Thursday 13th February 2020

Tickets for the Year 5 performance at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday 13th February 2020 will soon be available to purchase from school. If you are struggling to find a Christmas present for grandparents, friends or family, a ticket to the concert would make a lovely Christmas gift. We will inform you when the tickets arrive. Please then pay via ParentPay.

PTA News

Thank you to all children who supported the film night last month. This raised £182. The recent cake sale raised a fantastic £140. We appreciate your support with our fund raising events.

Firework Disco- Friday 8th November 6.30-9pm.

We are hoping for a good turnout for the Firework Disco this Friday and hope that we will be blessed with good weather. Thank you in advance to all the PTA members who work so hard to always make it a most enjoyable occasion, to the fantastic team who set up the firework display and to the staff who support the event especially Mr Rollason for ensuring the safety of the school site. Please remember that parents have **full responsibility** for the safety and behaviour of their own children at all PTA events. ***A polite reminder that smoking/vaping is not permitted on the school premises.***



Websites/Communication

Please take time to browse our school website which gives up to date information about school events and policies.

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

The school also has a Facebook page: **Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School**, where events are posted.

Please also consider following our Twitter page: **@OLOFPrimary** where many school and class events appear.

The parish website is also regularly updated and offers a lot of new information: www.catholicquinton.org.uk

The parish also has a twitter account: **@OLFQuinton** where updates about parish life and thoughts for the day can be found.

Inspire Workshops



There has already been a fantastic turnout of parents for the 'E-Safety Inspire workshops' from Years 2,3,4 and 5. Remaining dates for the workshops are as follows:

Thursday 7th November at 9.05 am Year 6

Tuesday 19th November at 2.00 pm Year 1

Tuesday 14th January at 9.05 am Reception

We value your feedback and so far it has been most positive indicating that parents find these sessions very useful. Most of all, the children love working with you in school and showing you how they learn and what they know. Thank you for your support.

Parish Bazaar

This will take place on **Saturday 30th November** **from 11.00 am - 2.00pm** in the parish hall,



Higgins Lane. This is an important fundraiser for the Parish. A special visitor (dressed in red) may make a special appearance.

School Fund

We use school fund to supplement lots of items and activities for your children. So far records show that more than half of our families have contributed to school fund this term. Thank you. Please could all remaining families consider making their £5.00 contribution as soon as possible via ParentPay? Thank you.

Illegal Parking

For safety reasons there should be no parking on the zig zag and double yellow lines outside school. Unfortunately, a small number of parents are still parking illegally outside school when dropping off and collecting children. A reminder that members of the public can now legally take photographic evidence of illegally parked cars and forward these to West Midlands Police for prosecution. Please don't be caught out!

November**Dedicated Month for Holy Souls**

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
Wed 13 Nov	10.30 am Years 5 and 6 visit to Birmingham Library
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	7.00 pm Year 3 FHC meeting (1)
Tues 28 Nov	Year 2 and Year 4 visit to Synagogue
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	6.00 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 and staff return to school on **Tuesday 7th January 2020**