



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter July 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](http://www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

### Learned and Wise

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima School aim to be **learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.



We are fast approaching the end of a strange, yet extremely busy and successful academic year at Our Lady of Fatima School, despite the unusual circumstances impacting on school and family life as a result of COVID-19. Thanks and appreciation are offered to all parents, colleagues, Academy Committee members and the school and parish communities for their support throughout the year, especially during the recent challenging times. Such collaborative support reminds us all of how our school is indeed a very special place to be. We continue to live out our Mission Statement by all working together, whilst enabling your children to experience rich and varied learning experiences in a nurturing and caring environment. Thank you for the partnership we share and the support we receive which is vital for your children to thrive, be happy and to succeed.

Mrs van Vliet would also like to offer her heartfelt thanks to Mr Carry and the school staff for their on-going commitment and support to all of our families during her absence. All families will remain in our prayers during the summer holidays.

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#### September 2020

Decisions about what our school provision will look like from September 2020 are being finalised based upon Public Health

and Government advice. A separate letter will be sent to all parents from the Catholic Senior Executive Lead and Board of Directors before the end of term. The school's curriculum offer will also be available on the school website when the finer details have been agreed.

Due to current restrictions we are unable to offer a face-to-face 'meet the teacher' sessions with pupils. Instead, a Powerpoint presentation will be available on the school website from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July outlining some key information about your child's next step in their education and faith journey. Questions or queries can then be sent to teachers via the current year group enquiry email i.e. [year3@olfatima.bham.sch.uk](mailto:year3@olfatima.bham.sch.uk)

Thank you for continuing to support your child's learning. Weekly updates of learning activities can still be found on our website under the Curriculum tab, on the Home Learning page [www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk](http://www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk) If any further guidance is required, please contact the school via [enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk) or your child's year group email address (for example: [year5@olfatima.bham.sch.uk](mailto:year5@olfatima.bham.sch.uk)) or by calling the school office. Also if you would like to share any photos of your child's learning, please send these to: [enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk) Even though restrictions have been slightly lifted, please do continue to stay safe and alert and look after yourselves.

## Class Teachers for September 2020

Reception Class	Mrs Lake
Year 1	Miss Turner
Year 2	Mrs Levack
Year 3	Mrs Workman
Year 4	Miss Boulton
Year 5	Miss O'Connell
Year 6	Mr Hamilton

We sadly say a fond farewell to Mr Smith who is re-locating to the North East and has secured a position in a Catholic Primary School in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. We would like to offer our sincerest thanks for his hard work and commitment whilst working at Our Lady of Fatima School and wish him continued success in his teaching career.

In September we will be welcoming Miss Turner as a permanent member of staff and also Mr Hamilton, who has previous experience teaching at a Catholic Primary School in Solihull. We hope that they will both be very happy joining our school community.

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## End of Year Annual School Reports



On **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July** each child's end of year report, based on learning from September 2019 - March 2020, will be emailed to parents. Every report is unique and it is important for us to remember that we celebrate each child's individuality. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher specifically about their school report, please email the class email to request a telephone appointment. Equally, if a teacher would like to speak with you about your child's report, they will contact parents by telephone.

Year 6's report booklets (from Reception Class to Year 6) will be distributed to the Year 6 children attending school or can be collected from the school office on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July** between 9am and 4pm for those Year 6 pupils not currently attending school.

## The Pope's Intentions for July and August 2020

### July- Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

### August- The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

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### Opening of Our Lady of Fatima Church for public liturgy:

You may have heard in the news that from the 4th July our churches can open for public worship. This means you can come to church for Holy Mass and Confession. Funeral services are also now allowed to be held in church. The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and on Holy Days remains lifted. You can choose any day of the week to attend Mass. It does not have to be Sunday. Letters and an email from Father Long have already been shared with parents via ParentPay. Please read these carefully. The Bishops fully encourage you to continue praying at Masses which are live-streamed across the Archdiocese. Services can still be accessed even if not in person.

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>

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### Resources to support children's liturgy and prayer

On the Birmingham Diocesan Education website there is a webpage containing links to Prayer and Learning Resources for both home and school. This includes the CAFOD Virtual Sunday Children's Liturgy and a child's prayer for Spiritual Communion. More resources will be added as they become available.

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/des-support-for-schools-through-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>

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### Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

St Nicholas Owen Catholic MAC and St Catherine of Siena Catholic MAC have agreed to join to create a larger company,

which will be known as “Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company”.

The formation of a larger Multi Academy Company offers an exciting future for all involved, enabling further development of educational excellence firmly rooted within our Catholic ethos. The consultation closure date is **noon on 10th July 2020**. Should parents wish to raise any questions, please direct these or feedback regarding the proposed merger for the attention of Mrs S Horan, Catholic Senior Executive Leader to the following email address:

[consultation@stnicholasowen-mac.org.uk](mailto:consultation@stnicholasowen-mac.org.uk)

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### Wednesday Word

During this period of partial school closure, the Wednesday Word has ceased to be published as a hard copy. It is, however, available on a weekly basis via the following link:

[www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org) and simply click “Schools please enter [HERE](#) for the Primary School version”.

Please use this as preparation for preparing your child/ren for the weekly Gospel.

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### Sacramental Preparation



Father Long is still in discussions with the school and Diocese about the re-



scheduling of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation. More details will be shared as soon as we are able. Please keep Years 3 and 6 in your prayers.

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### Good Shepherd Lenten Appeal Donations

The annual Good Shepherd Mass took place on 29<sup>th</sup> June at St Chad’s Cathedral.



Archbishop Bernard celebrated Mass which was live-streamed so that all schools in the Diocese were able to watch. At this Mass we usually present a cheque to Father Hudson’s Care for the amount raised during our Lenten Appeal. Some Good Shepherd Boxes were returned to school before lockdown

amounting to £116.78. We have extended the deadline until the beginning of the Autumn term, so that more boxes can be returned to school for this worthwhile cause. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



### Twitter



Our Holy Father, Pope Francis offers daily messages of hope. Please consider following him on Twitter **@Pontifex** to access these powerful thoughts.

Father Long regularly adds messages to Twitter. Please also think about following **@OLFQuinton** to read his messages.

Our own school Twitter account is regularly updated with messages, thoughts and photos of learning activities. It is a good way to see learning at home and school taking place. Please consider following us **@OLOFFPrimary**

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### Alton Castle Retreat

In the interests of health, safety and uncertainty, we have sadly made the



decision to cancel the residential retreat to Alton Castle which was due to take place in September 2020. We are in the process of negotiating a new date with Alton Castle and if this is not possible, due to prior bookings, we will endeavour to secure another venue for Year 6’s spiritual retreat. We will keep parents informed when we have more details.

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### Free School Meal Entitlement

We are very aware that the current climate will have put some of our family’s jobs and livelihoods at risk. Whilst we very much hope that this is not the case, there may have been changes to parents’ working circumstances as a result of COVID-19. If this is the case, you may now qualify for additional support for your child through the Free School Meal scheme. 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>

Please remember that if you do qualify but your child does not want the free meal it is important you still apply, as additional funding comes into school to help us provide a better education for your child and all Our Lady of Fatima pupils.

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### Summer Weather Reminders



For pupils attending school, please make sure that your child has their own water bottle in school every day. Due to new COVID 19 health and safety guidelines we are unable to provide water containers for children's use. Fortunately, we are experiencing warmer, sunnier days which means that some learning will be able to take place outside, which will be helpful in terms of adhering to social distancing rules. With this in mind, please make sure that sun cream is applied to your child **at home**. Please note that staff are not permitted to apply sun cream to children. Children should also ensure that they bring a sun hat to wear for additional protection from the sun.

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### PTA News

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School is now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! Parents can help the school and the children, even at a distance, with no cost to themselves; help the school community through this difficult time and ensure that we can provide some great resources/activities/enrichment for the children to make their time at school memorable. These donations really mount up and make a big difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if



**May the Lord's Touch Strengthen Us  
May the Lord's Words Encourage Us  
May the Lord's Ways Inspire Us**

you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely free and only takes a moment.

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourladyoffatimaprimaryschool/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more%26utm\\_content=gs-t1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourladyoffatimaprimaryschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more%26utm_content=gs-t1)

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### Academic Term Dates 2020-21 including Teacher Inset Days

These dates are published on the school website. Please do check these dates so that you avoid booking holidays during the school terms.

### Reminder of Teacher Inset Days 2020-2021:

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (additional MAC Inset Day)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

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**And finally....** Thank you once again to our whole school community for working together for the good of our children during this academic year. We have experienced so much support for us and for one another in these recent, challenging and uncertain circumstances.

May all of our families and staff enjoy a lovely summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back our whole school family during the Autumn term. Our school may continue to be partially closed to some year groups but we are still here to help and support you all, so that we keep our community strong, safe and connected in every way we can. *#working together, we can make a difference.*

### **A BLESSING**

**May God the Father who created each one of us in his own image and likeness and calls us by name bless us and keep us safe each day.**

**May Jesus the Risen Lord who redeemed us all from sin by dying on the Cross and opened for us the path to the eternal life embrace us and hold us in his loving arms.**

**May the Holy Spirit the Paraclete who gives us his seven fold gifts and the power to live daily the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit anoint us and strengthen us to live the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.**