



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 8

Date: Friday 20th December 2024

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

On behalf of the staff and governors of OLC, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank you all for your continued support throughout the first term of this academic year. As we reflect upon this term we have been faced with several challenges; the passing of our dear Office Manager Anita Donnelly, the closure of the school due to a gas leak and storms that damaged several of the school fences to name a few. However, through the dark days we have gained comfort by the joy that is brought to us all here from our children and this has certainly been demonstrated by their charitable nature in helping those less fortunate than us and the commitment they have shown us during this Advent through their Nativities and Christmas Carols, reminding us all of the importance of Christmas. Finally, I would also like to thank you all for your support towards the Christmas Fayre, which raised over £5300 - this will be split between the FOLC and the Olton Friary. Have a great Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 6th January.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Swimming

Class 6C have now finished their swimming sessions. Class 5/6D will begin their swimming sessions after the Christmas break on Tuesday 7th January. Please ensure that the Microsoft Form that has been sent out has been completed and submitted.

Wednesday Word



“Read the gospels! This way we will learn what is most essential in our lives: love and mercy.” Pope Francis

In this Sunday’s Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of Jesus. He tells them to share with others and to show mercy – to put people (not money or power) first; to feel for those who suffer and to do something to help. Within the Catholic Church, these actions, attending to people’s basic needs, are known as Corporal (or physical) Works of Mercy.

“God is merciful towards us. We too should learn to be merciful.” Pope Francis

The Church also encourages us to perform Spiritual Works of Mercy. These include: being compassionate; being patient with others even if we are being treated unfairly; forgiving others (even if we feel they don’t deserve forgiveness); sometimes giving people more than they deserve. Merciful people do things out of their love and care for others and this helps make the world a better place. Who do you know to be a merciful person? Each time we show ‘mercy’, we open ourselves to receive mercy from God.

ParentPay

Please ensure that your ParentPay account is kept in credit. We have several accounts in arrears at present. Please check your accounts to make sure they are up to date.

SUMMARY

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- Swimming
- ParentPay
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- FS2 Applications 2025/2026
- Thank You
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Catering Update

Thank you to all parents who have now registered on BlueRunner and are booking meals for their children. Where parents have not pre-booked their child’s lunch we are ordering this in class.

If you have not yet done so, please register using the link below to get started: <https://olaas.myschoolmealorders.com/login>

We are keen for all parents to now book their child’s lunch on BlueRunner.

Dates for 2024/25

Further dates will be added throughout the term

6.1.25 – School reopens to pupils
7.1.25 – Swimming to begin for Class 5/6D
15.1.25 – Closing date for FS2 (Reception) applications
16.1.25 – Wheel of Fortune – Food Promotion Day
17.1.25 – Food Tasting Session – 2.45pm
18.1.25 – Christian Unity Week
19.1.25 – Peace Day
21.1.25 – FOLC AGM – School Hall
24.1.25 – Jubilee Launch Day – Pilgrims of Hope
24.1.25 – FOLC Disco – School Hall
24.1.25 – FS1 (Nursery) Offer for September 2025
27.1.25 – Holocaust Memorial Day
31.1.25 – Year 6 Reconciliation
2.2.25 – Candlemas
3.2.25 – Children’s Mental Health Week – Dress to impress Day
7.2.25 – Year 6 Confirmation @ Olton Friary – 7pm
11.2.25 – Safer Internet Day – theme “Too good to be true?”
13.2.25 – Power Heroes – Food Promotion Day
14.2.25 – We Love School Day
14.2.25 – Last day of half-term
16.2.25 – Racial Justice Day
24.2.25 – School Closed – INSET Day
25.2.25 – School reopens after half-term
25.2.25 – Random Act of Kindness Day
27.2.25 – Young Voices Concert for School Choir
28.2.25 – St. David’s Day – children to wear a splash of yellow to school
1.3.25 – Secondary School Offer Day
1.3.25 – Women’s History Month
5.3.25 – Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent
6.3.25 – World Book Day
6.3.25 – World Book Day – Food Promotion Day
7.3.25 – World Women’s Day
8.3.25 – Sacrament of Reconciliation – Y3
12.3.25 – Parents’ Evening
13.3.25 – Parents’ Evening
13.3.25 – Lent Fast Day
14.3.25 – School Closed – INSET Day
17.3.25 – St. Patrick’s Day
20.3.25 – International Day of Happiness
28.3.25 – FS1 Mother’s Day Assembly 9.30am
28.3.25 – FS2 Mother’s Day Assembly 2.30pm
30.3.25 – Mothering Sunday

10.4.25 – FS1 and FS2 Easter Bonnet Parade – 9.30am
10.4.25 – KS1 (Y1 and Y2) Easter Bonnet Parade – 10.30am
10.4.25 – Food Promotions Day – Delicious Deserts
11.4.25 – LKS2 (Y3 and Y4) to lead Stations of the Cross – 2pm
11.4.25 – Last day of term

New School Website

Following on from the previous communication sent in our newsletters regarding the upgrade of our school website we are pleased to share with you the following information with regards to our communication channels:

Emails - You may have noticed that the emails look slightly different to previously and now have our school's name and school logo at the title of the email rather than the primary site name. At present, the emailing system will be our main way of communicating with you all. Please do check your junk emails in case the new emails are sent to this folder.

School News App - We have now moved away from The School App and this is now not operational anymore. The new App - School News - is a shortened version of our school website and you are able to access many of the features of the website through this. Unfortunately, there is no function to send messages through this new app. However, we have been informed that in the Spring Term a new version of the App will be available where we once again will be able to send you messages through this new App. As soon as this is set up, we will send out information about this and let you know how it works.

Text Messaging - On the occasion that would we need to contact you urgently, we will send you a text message.

Social Media - We currently use Twitter (X) to provide information on events that have taken place in school. If you do not yet follow us, please do so by using this link: @ourladycompass
We ask that you inform the school office if you have recently updated any of your contact details so that we can ensure we have the correct information for you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Thank You

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for your kind gifts. As always, we do not expect any gifts; however, we certainly appreciate your kind sentiments. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Christmas Jumper/Clothes Day

*Christmas
JUMPER DAY*



Thank you to all who made the £2 contributions towards Christmas Jumper Day last week which will be used to purchase further resources to enhance our emotional support and wellbeing in the school. If you have not had chance to make a contribution the item on Parent Pay is still open.

MAC Prayer



The prayer below is a shared across all of the 14 schools across our Academy (Our Lady and All Saints). Please take some time to share and practise this prayer with your children at home:

Lord Jesus,

We pray that your guiding light will forever shine upon our family of

Our Lady and All Saints.

Help us to live as Jesus taught us by your word

to love, learn and grow in faith and friendship together.

May we strive to always follow your example as

we serve as earthly saints and journey together joyfully in your footsteps.

May we always hear God speaking to our hearts

As we care, share and love one another.

We are all created by God's love and faith is our shared foundation.

Our Lady and All Saints

Pray for us.

AMFN

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Solihull Schools are working together to support your children to have a smart phone free childhood

Tuesday 18.30
28th January

@Alderbrook School
Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1SN

INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS

At the evening, we will have a panel discussion with experts, including:

- The Enlightened Parent
- West Midlands Police
- Student Ambassadors
- Primary and Secondary Headteachers
- Dr Susie Davies CEO and Founder of Papaya Parents.com
- Smart Phone Free Childhood



Scan to join the event

- P**revents Real Play
Smartphone use can stop children from socialising and engaging in imaginative or active play
- A**ttention Span
Smartphones reduce focus and attention, hindering learning
- U**ndermines Mental Health
Overexposure to social media and screens can negatively affect children's emotional and mental well-being.
- S**afety Risks
Smartphones expose children to safeguarding issues, including cyberbullying and inappropriate content.
- E**motional Impact
The addictive nature of smartphones can lead to mood swings, sleep disruption, and over-reliance on digital validation.



Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

For further information, please visit the National Online Safety website.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature - and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

- 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING**
It's counterintuitive to keep people to spend hours doomscrolling: scrolling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might cause them fear or sadness. Instead, media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family we need to stay close to. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endless scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.
- 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT**
It's important to keep abreast of the kind of content that is trending online so that you can understand the things your child might be seeing. Encourage them to ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising or sponsored content, and that they know who the creator is being paid to talk about it.
- 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS**
Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something positive and encouraging. Perhaps you can discuss a post together, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also read any comments that shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it has been created in the first place.
- 4 REDUCE SCREEN TIME**
Young people can sometimes be unaware of the vast amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't have the capacity for multiple notifications, they auto refresh and how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.
- 5 FILL THE VOID**
Minimising time looking at screens can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even be encouraged to spend this time on activities that would enrich their lives. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities your child might enjoy, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will temporarily step away from their screens, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.
- 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS**
One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of day when they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver targeted content to users. However, this means that the social media platform is aware of their phone's location, and the times they're using their phone. To reduce notifications, simply turn off notifications for the apps you don't want to use.
- 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD**
Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world - from body image to gender stereotypes. The filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content. Encourage them to take a break from social media when they're feeling overwhelmed, and to talk to someone if they're struggling with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.
- 8 DIGITAL DETOX**
Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox' from even just a couple of the apps that they use can help them to get a better perspective on the real world. Encourage them to take a break from social media when they're feeling overwhelmed, and to talk to someone if they're struggling with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.
- 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR**
Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own habits with the child's could put things into perspective for them - or it turns out that you're also overusing social media. It's important to explain to young people why monitoring someone is important, and the benefits and risks of doing so. Encourage them to take a break from social media when they're feeling overwhelmed, and to talk to someone if they're struggling with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.
- 10 BE CLEAR ON THE 'WHY'**
Research shows that young people can become obsessed with social media when they're not clear on what they're trying to achieve. Encourage them to take a break from social media when they're feeling overwhelmed, and to talk to someone if they're struggling with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

Meet Our Expert
John Inley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 16 years, including the development of computing curricula across primary and secondary schools, setting a school policy and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

Hair Reminder

ALL hair (boys and girls) MUST be tied up if it is long enough to touch their shoulders. If no band is supplied and hair is loose, school will supply a band so that the hair can be tied up during the day. **Dyed, shaved and or patterned haircuts/tramlines in hair are not suitable for school. Unfortunately, we have noticed several children of late with tramlines in their hair. We ask you to support our school uniform policy and refrain from children having these in their hair.**

MAC Mission Statement

Below is an update version of the MAC Mission Statement. Please do share this with your children:




Mission Statement

**Strong in faith
through our discipleship,
serving with love and
hope, united in Christ.**






FS2 (Reception) Applications 2025/26

The application process for Reception placements for next year is now open. To apply for a place, please contact your Local Authority. Please note that the closing date for admissions is 15th January 2025.