



# Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 3

Date: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Dear Parents and Carers,

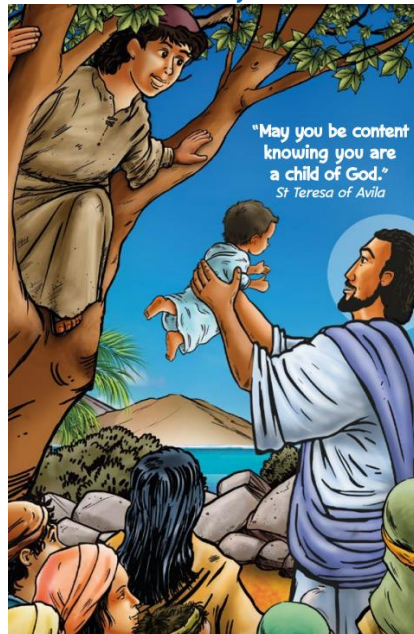
Last week, we enjoyed further celebrations of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the 'Songs of the Decades'. Thank you to all the children and staff for their preparation and joyful singing and an extra thank you to all our parents for their audience participation. If you wish to view a few of our video clips, please follow this link:

<https://x.com/ourladycompass>

During the month of October, we are devoting our prayers to Mary through the Holy Rosary. We would love to hear about how you are taking time out of your busy day as a family, to say the Rosary together. If you would like to share any photographs of your time at home praying the Rosary, please send these through our office email or Twitter feed. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

## Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shows us that the kingdom of God is open to everybody, to people of all cultures and backgrounds – and that includes you and me too! Jesus puts forward a child as an example of how to enter God's kingdom. Why a child? Could it be a child's simplicity or dependency – or a child's openness to God? God wants us to accept him and to trust him always to be there for us. God has a great plan for each of our lives, and we can discover what it is when we are open to God.

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## OLAAS Thanksgiving Mass



On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September we joined together with our OLAAS MAC schools at the annual Thanksgiving Mass. During this service we also celebrated the dedication and commitment of staff across the MAC. It was also a special occasion as we were joined by Archbishop Longley who celebrated Mass, as well as officially welcoming John Henry Newman College into our Academy of schools.

## Secondary Applications

The closing date for secondary school 2025 applications is 31st October. Solihull residents should apply on the online portal at [www.solihull.gov.uk/pp](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/pp) Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers are made in March. Applying late will affect the offer you can expect to receive. For residents outside of the borough, please contact your home authority to submit an application.

## Congratulations



We would also like to share the happy news of a new addition to the OLC family. We congratulate Mrs Kinchin and her husband who have recently welcomed their son, Christopher into the world.

**May they be blessed with love, peace, joy, strength, patience and wisdom.**

### Dates for 2024/25

9.10.23 – Flu Immunisations (FS2 to Y6)  
9.10.24 – Feast Day of St John Henry Newman  
10.10.24 – World Mental Health Day – children to wear splash of yellow with school uniform  
10.10.24 – Y6 Retreat with One Life Music  
12.10.24 – Feast Day of St Wilfrid  
13.10.24 – Feast Day of St Edward  
18.10.24 – FS2 and Y6 Buddies Service – 2.15pm  
23.10.24 – School Photographs  
24.10.24 – Y6 Trip to St Chad's  
24.10.24 – Last day of half-term  
25.10.24 – School Closed to pupils for INSET Day  
31.10.24 – Diwali  
31.10.24 – Closing date for Secondary Applications  
1.11.24 – All Saints' Day – Holy Day of Obligation  
4.11.24 – School reopens for Autumn Term 2  
5.11.24 – FS1/FS2 Open Day – 5pm  
10.11.24 – World Science Day  
11.11.24 – Remembrance Day  
11.11.24 – Anti-bullying Week  
13.11.24 – Parents' Evening  
14.11.24 – Parents' Evening  
15.11.24 – Children in Need  
18.11.24 – Road Safety Week  
20.11.24 – World Children's Day  
22.11.24 – Drop Everything and Read Day  
30.11.24 – St. Andrew's Day  
1.12.24 – Advent begins  
4.12.24 – FS2 Nativity – 9.20am  
7.12.24 – Christmas Fayre at OLC  
11.12.24 – FS1 Nativity – 9.20am  
10.12.24 – Last Swimming Session for Class 6C  
13.12.24 – Christmas Jumper Day  
13.12.24 – KS1 Carols – 9.30am  
13.12.24 – LKS2 Carols – 10.30am  
13.12.24 – UKS2 Carols – 2.30pm  
17.12.24 – Whole School Stay and Pray Service – 2.30pm  
18.12.24 – Christmas Dinner Day  
19.12.24 – Party Day  
19.12.23 – Whole School Theatre performance at School for children  
20.12.24 – Toy Day  
20.12.24 – Last Day of Term before Christmas Holidays

### 48 Hour Rule

As a school we ask that children who have been unwell and have symptoms of sickness and diarrhoea do not attend school for 48 hours.

### Thanksgiving for Harvest



On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, we started the collection for the Harvest Mass at the Friary that will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you for all the support and donations we have received. These will today be transferred to the Friary. We thank you for your generosity and support.

### Working Together Meetings



It has been wonderful this week to welcome families to the Working Together Meetings for FS. These events are a crucial opportunity for us to be able to share with you our expectations for the school year for your child(ren). If you were unable to attend, please visit our curriculum area of the school website following this link to access the PowerPoints that were shared – these will be uploaded over the weekend:

<https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/working-together-meetings-information/>

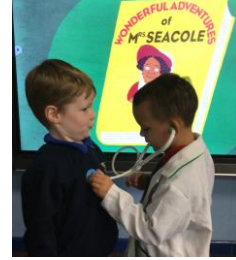
### Olton Friary Link

To hear all about the wonderful events that take place at the Olton Friary please follow the link below that will lead you to their notice page on their website:

<https://www.oltonfriary.org.uk/weekly-notices/>

### Black History Month

During Black History Month throughout October, children will be taking part in activities and events to honour Black History. This week children in FS and KS1 took time to learn about Mary Seacole and Martin Luther King. We look forward to sharing work from LKS2 and UKS2 in the coming weeks.



### Buddies



We are pleased to announce that our Buddies Service will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October in the School Hall at 2.15 pm. During a wonderful occasion, our children in Year 6 and FS2 will receive a blessing to commemorate the start of their buddy journey. We hope that you are able to join us for this service.

### Nursery Admission 2024/25

If you are interested in places for 2024/25 for your child to begin with us in Nursery, please contact the school office.

### OLC Designated Safeguarding Leads

OLC is committed to safeguarding all our pupils - we take child protection and safeguarding very seriously. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Vella. The deputy safeguarding leads are Mr Emery and Miss Moir. If you do have any safeguarding concerns, please do inform a DSL. During the holiday, please phone MASH on 0121 788 4300 if you have any concerns about a child.

## Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT**

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

There are a number of ways that gamers – connecting chat with one another online, as the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that's separate from the game itself. There's also private chat: one-to-one conversations with other players, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most chat systems have some form of moderation, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

**DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT**

There are a number of ways that gamers – connecting chat with one another online, as the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that's separate from the game itself. There's also private chat: one-to-one conversations with other players, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most chat systems have some form of moderation, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to speak. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: receiving a child could start sending messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most chat systems have some form of moderation, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

**DANGER OF GROOMING**

It's been reported that some young gamers have encouraged older players to exchange personal details for a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers, emphasising that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

**LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT**

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without the risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. First chat options in the corner of the screen in many titles isn't normally easy to miss but it's important to see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

**REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS**

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can file an account on potential reports. The normally steps in the account and being resolved with you in the future and. If that person's content breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself in each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

**CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS**

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a voice party service like Discord. This allows everyone to talk in a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also for more secure, as everyone looking to join will need to be invited and be granted access normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

**COMMUNICATION IS KEY**

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes abusive or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. It's clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Encourage children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

**MEET OUR EXPERT**

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of Education and has been working in the games media industry for five years, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety, writing mostly about tech and games. His work has been published at sites including iD, Techradar, and plenty more.

**Wake Up Wednesday**  
The National College

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## ParentPay

Thank you for your support with using ParentPay to pre-book your child's school meals. Please continue to ensure that you are booking these by Sunday evening for the week ahead. Over the next weeks, further payment items will appear on your ParentPay account. Please do ensure you keep on top of these so that you do not fall into any debt. If, however you are ever having trouble with any payments, please contact the school office or speak with Mr Emery or Mrs Vella.

## Samaritan's Purse Operation



Once again this year, the school will be taking part in the Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Box Appeal). The Samaritan's Purse website can be accessed following this link:

<https://samaritanpurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> - will give you an idea of the items to be put in the shoebox. Shoe Boxes will need to be returned to school the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> November. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



We are looking forward to our Open Day in November where we will have the opportunity to meet prospective parents who are looking for a school place for their child for September 2025. We will be holding the Open Day on 5<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm - this will be held in the school hall.

## Youth Group at Olton Friary

Our children are blessed with the opportunity of attending a Youth Group at the Friary which takes place every Friday evening from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. This is very popular and a great opportunity for young people to participate in exciting activities, meet other young people and make new friends.

## Hello Yellow Day

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, we are inviting children to wear a splash of yellow with their school uniform (this can be yellow socks, a yellow hair band, a yellow scarf...), in recognition of World Mental Health Day and the theme 'Hello Yellow Day', supporting Young Minds awareness. If you would like to support this, please follow this link:

[https://www.youngminds.org.uk/supports/fundraising/helloyellow?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIvtizleXJ-gIvjd\\_tCh1OQwfDEAAYASAeEgKo3PD\\_BwE&gclid=aw.ds](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/supports/fundraising/helloyellow?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIvtizleXJ-gIvjd_tCh1OQwfDEAAYASAeEgKo3PD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds)



## Stay and Pray



During Advent this year we would like to invite parents to join us at our Stay and Pray Service on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm. This will take place in our school hall and will be an opportunity for you to join the children in prayer. This year our Advent Stay and Pray will be a whole school Service.