



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

Kineton Green Road

Solihull

B92 7EG

Tel: 0121 706 9508

Email: office@olc.solihull.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/>



@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 2

Date: Friday 20th September 2024

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Dear Parents and Carers,



Last week reminded us all of how special OLC is to our community. On Friday, the FOLC Fun Day helped with the celebrations of our Jubilee anniversary which was a huge success and an evening to remember. It was wonderful to see so many familiar friends and families from our present and past at the event. The FOLC, worked their wonder and magic alongside the school staff, and we thank you for all your time and effort with the preparation and running of the event. Our celebrations and thanksgiving continued throughout the weekend and on Sunday it culminated with the Mass at the Olton Friary celebrated by Bishop Joseph from Malta, (Mrs Vella's brother). The ceremony was filled with joy throughout as so many of the pupils demonstrated their love during Mass through their actions and words. During the Mass, we were also presented with our own 50th Golden Jubilee plate which was donated by Mrs Malika Kottegodo – we are so grateful for this gift which is now sitting proudly in the awards cabinet in school. We have also included on page 3 of this newsletter the reflection that was read by Mrs Vella - please do take some time to read through this. We look forward to our celebrations continuing throughout this special year. Have a wonderful weekend.
Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus once again reminds the disciples – and us too – that a life of service is the best life to live. Life can be so busy, full of the things we really like doing, that it's quite easy to forget about serving others. The Church teaches that we grow in the love of God through serving each other. One of the oldest titles for the Pope is 'The Servant of the servants of God'. This emphasises the importance which the Church places on service. Jesus lived a life of service. Family and school life become more joyful when we follow Jesus' example and live as God intends.

School App

At present the School App is currently working intermittently and we apologise if you have not been receiving some of the information we share. One of the issues is that it is not notifying your phone when you receive a message; however, if you click on the App you will see messages that have been sent. We hope this issue will be resolved soon.

Emails

We like to communicate with our parents through a variety of ways (School App, Newsletter, School Gate, Telephone calls and emails). When we send an email out, this will have the school office email address or the PrimarySite address. We ask that all emails sent to teachers are sent through the school office email so that we can ensure important messages are received.

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Birthday Treats



Just as a reminder - children are able to bring in small bags of sealed sweets to give out for their birthday (if they wish to); these will be given out at the end of the school day.

Dates for 2024/25

Further dates will be added throughout the term

25.9.24 – UKS2 Working Together Meeting – 4pm
25.9.24 – LKS2 Working Together Meeting – 5.15pm
26.9.24 – OLAAS MAC celebration Day
27.9.24 – Day of Thanksgiving for Harvest
30.9.24 – Little Way Week
1.10.24 – Black History Month begins
1.10.24 – Month of the Holy Rosary begins
4.10.24 – Season of Creation ends
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
18.12.24 – Christmas Dinner Day
19.12.24 – Party Day
19.12.23 – Whole School Theatre performance at School for children

Dates for 2024/25 Continued

20.12.24 – Toy Day
20.12.24 – Last Day of Term before Christmas Holidays

Thanksgiving for Harvest



On Monday 16th September, we started the collection for the Harvest Mass at the Friary that will take place on Sunday 6th October. Therefore, if you wish to support and donate any dried or packets of food please send these into school with your child(ren) by Friday 4th October so that we can transport the donations to the Friary. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Working Together Meetings



It has been wonderful this week to welcome families to the Working Together Meetings for FS and KS1. 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 where we will be uploading the PowerPoints from the meetings, following our UKS2/LKS2 Working Together Meetings next week.

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/>



As a reminder, please ensure that all adults park in areas around the school that do not have any restrictions. This is to ensure the safety of all, as well as to support the community around the school. Over the past few weeks several cars have parked across the pathways blocking pedestrian access. We thank you in advance for supporting us with this matter.

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.

Little Way Week



Next week we will be celebrating our annual 'Little Way Week'. This is a week devoted to St Therese of Liseaux who helps us to see how we can make a change by doing the little things in our everyday lives well. Therefore, we will be encouraging the children to follow St Therese by doing the little things well (being kind, polite, doing their best) across the week.

Homework Expectations



Please take some time to familiarise yourselves with the information shared with you at the Working Together Meetings regarding homework expectations, so that you can support your child's learning at home. Please also remember that the Weekly Learning Plans are published on our website every week. These can also be used alongside your child's homework.

Thanksgiving Mass Reflection – Golden Jubilee
Read by Mrs Vella during the 9am Mass on Sunday 15th September 2024

As we draw to the end of our celebration for the 50th anniversary of our school, let us reflect on the journey of faith, learning, and growth that has unfolded.

Our school was built upon the solid foundation of faith. It is a place where all are welcome, and every person has an important part to play in God's plan for humanity. Here, children not only learn about the world but also about God and His love. The prayers, Masses, and religious instruction have nurtured the spiritual lives of countless children over the years. Our school's mission statement, "to live as Jesus taught us," is a powerful reminder of the importance of faith in our lives. It is a call to action, a challenge to live our lives in accordance with the teachings of Christ.

Academic excellence has always been a hallmark of our school. But beyond the books and classrooms, we have witnessed the growth of young minds and hearts. Our children have been equipped with the knowledge and skills to navigate the world, but more importantly, they have been taught the values of compassion, respect, and integrity.

This school has always been more than just a place of education; it has been a community. Parents, teachers, staff, governors and children have come together to create a supportive and caring environment. The school's commitment to service has also inspired countless acts of kindness and compassion.

Our school's curriculum is grounded in Catholic social teaching principles, which help children to become better versions of themselves. These principles, such as solidarity, subsidiarity, and the option for the poor, guide our children in developing a sense of social justice and compassion.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us also look ahead with hope and anticipation. May the next 50 years be filled with continued faith, learning, and growth. May our school remain a beacon of hope, a place where children are nurtured spiritually, academically, and socially and everyone is loved.

And as we conclude this celebration, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have joined us in church and on our livestream:

- To our parents and families: we thank you for trusting your children in our care, and for your support as they go through their learning journey.
- To the church community: we thank you for being welcoming and supportive of our children's faith journey.
- To the choir: we thank you for making every occasion special with your beautiful music, for all the time spent in preparation, not just for this special occasion, but for every 9am mass on Sunday.
- To Fr Austin and Fr Biju and all the community of The Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers of Bétharram: we thank you for all the time and guidance that you have given us and that you continue to give to all the children, staff and families in our school, helping to ensure that all celebrations are meaningful. We thank you for the important part you play in our faith journey.
- To our Governors: we thank you for your strategic oversight and your continued support in ensuring that we maintain the vision and values of our school in providing the best education for the children in our care.
- To all the staff, past and present: we thank you for sharing with us this celebration. You are or have been invaluable in the lives of our children and your commitment to teaching and learning has helped shape the lives of many.
- To the FOLC: we thank you for all you do. Your presence and support are a testament to the enduring legacy of this school. Without your hard work we would not be able to give all the opportunities that our children are lucky to benefit from – from the bottom of our heart, we thank you.
- And finally, to our amazing and precious children, past and present: dear children, you are the heart of our school. You are what makes our school vibrant and alive. May God bless you all and keep you safe as He helps you to continue being the amazing young people that you are.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of our school. May it continue to be a place where faith is nurtured, knowledge is gained, and character is formed. Bless our children, teachers, governors, staff, and parents. May they always be guided by your love and wisdom. Amen.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

ALWAYS ONLINE
Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS
As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release bookmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE
Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there's a free trial. If someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

FREE TRIAL
Advice for Parents & Educators

MANAGE PLAYTIME
Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you to discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL
The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 30. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to get through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend as much as a penny.

MEET OUR EXPERT
Uzayr Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, Techradar and plenty more.

VOICE & TEXT CHAT
Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprompted messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your play space.

VIOLENCE
While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong – more comparable to a cartoon or anime style – but the act alone may make some children feel uncomfortable. If they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION
As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engaging, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like schoolwork.

PLAY TOGETHER
The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16
Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can defeat enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasy-14/>

ParentPay

Following on from the start of the new catering provider, we continue to encounter a few teething issues with ParentPay. Once these are resolved we will send out further information so that you will be able to book your child's meals. In the meantime, we will continue to take orders from the children in the morning during register time and we will debit your ParentPay accounts with the meals that the children's have taken over the last few weeks. We thank you for your patience and support.

Term Dates



Our Term dates can be found on our website by following this link and scrolling to the end of the page: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/key-information/>

As well as our Term Dates for this academic year (2024-25) being available, you will also find the Term Dates for the next academic year (2025-26). We ask that holidays are booked for and taken during holiday periods and not during the school term.

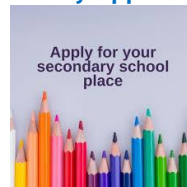
Attendance

As previously shared, there is a continued push from the DfE to improve attendance across schools. We therefore ask that, holidays are not taken in school time as this will impact on your child's attendance and might incur a fine. Anita Gray, our Education Welfare Officer, works closely with us to support us with our attendance monitoring.

Prefect Service

Please join us on Friday 4th October at 2pm, at our Year 6 Prefects Service where the children will be blessed and commissioned as Prefects, reaffirming their pledge to pupil leadership within the Catholic community of our school. In their new role, the children will have the opportunity to further embed their commitment to our school mission statement – to live as Jesus taught us.

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. 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.



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 5th November at 5pm - this will be held in the school hall.

Oliver!

We are proud to let you know that Oisín K will be playing the part of Oliver Twist in Oliver! – he will be performing on Wednesday 13th November, Friday 15th November, Saturday 16th November at 2.30pm and Sunday 17th November at 6pm. Please find the details below if you would like to buy tickets for what promises to be a wonderful performance.

Good luck Oisín, we are sure that you will be fantastic!

Celebrating our **50th YEAR Anniversary** 1974-2024
St. Augustine's MTC proudly present
LIONEL BART'S
Oliver!
12th – 17th November 2024
at THE ARTRIX THEATRE Bromsgrove (free parking)
Tickets: boxoffice@artrixbromsgrove.co.uk - or direct from our website www.stagsmtc.co.uk

Stags & Chiquitines
artrix

Book, Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart
by special arrangement with CAMERON MACKINTOSH This amateur production licensed by Music Theatre International
www.mtishows.co.uk

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