



To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 1

Date: Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge welcome back to you all for the 2024/2025 academic year! We have certainly missed each and every one of you and were delighted to see all of our children return to school this week looking so smart in their new uniform. We are so excited at OLC at what this year has in store for us. In particular, we are looking forward to our 50th anniversary celebrations starting next week with our non-uniform day on Monday, followed by the FOLC 50th Fun day at school from 2pm on Friday and finally we will end the week celebrating with Mass at the Olton Friary Church on Sunday at 9am – we hope you can all join us and be part of such a joyous occasion. Throughout the year we will be continuing with further celebrations to commemorate our golden jubilee and we would like to invite parents and friends to OLC's 'Songs across the Decades' on Friday 27th September, where each of our phases will be singing a song or two on the school grounds from 2pm.

Have a great weekend all – it is great to have you all back.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Weekly Learning Plans

Across this year, we will continue to upload the Weekly Learning Plans to our school website. These plans will give you an opportunity to support your child's learning at home. We are also looking forward to hosting our Phase 'Working Together Meetings' in school so that we can share the expectations for each of our phases across this school year. We hope you will find these meetings informative and a further way of getting to know more about your child's learning journey this year.

Wednesday Word



While Jesus was travelling towards the Sea of Galilee, they brought him a deaf man who could hardly talk; and they asked Jesus to lay his hand on him. Jesus took the man away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then, looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to him, "Be opened." At once the man could hear and he could speak clearly too. And Jesus ordered the people to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they told everyone about it. "He has done all things well," they said. "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

Sacramental Dates

As advised in the newsletter before the summer break please find below the Sacramental Dates for 24/25:

- Year 6 Confirmation – Friday 7th February 2025 at 7pm
- Year 3 First Holy Communion – Saturday 10th and 17th May 2025 at 10am.

School Fund

We currently ask you all to pay School Fund in support of our school; we ask for £10 per child or £15 per family each term - you can choose whether to contribute on a termly basis or pay for the full year. To pay for the full year on ParentPay would be £30 per child or £45 per family. We thank you in advance for these contributions which continue to help our school purchase and provide your children with resources that the school budget cannot unfortunately stretch to.

SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- Sacramental Dates
- Weekly Learning Plans
- School Fund
- Swimming
- Dates for 24/25
- After School Clubs
- Nursery Admissions 24/25
- Olton Friary Link
- OLC 50th Year Anniversary
- Online Safety
- Catering
- Newsletter and School App
- Guitar
- Nut Aware School
- Well done Teejay
- PE Kit Days
- Summer Changes
- Attendance

Swimming



Swimming lessons will begin for children in 6C on Tuesday 10th September; after Christmas, 5/6D will start their sessions and 5R will have their turn after Easter.

Dates for 2024/25

Further dates will be added throughout the term

9.9.24 – Non-uniform day in exchange for bottle donation towards 50th anniversary
9.9.24 – After School Clubs begin
13.9.24 – FOLC Fun Day – 50th Anniversary
13.9.24 – School closes at 2pm for pupils – Footsteps also closed after school
15.9.24 – OLC 50th Anniversary Mass at Olton Friary – 9am
16.9.24 – Donations of Harvest Gifts
17.9.24 – Swimming begins for Class 6C (Miss Chick's Class)
17.9.24 – Guitar lessons begin for Class 4B (Mr Brennan's Class)
17.9.24 – FS Working Together Meeting – 4pm
17.9.24 – KS1 Working Together Meeting – 5.15pm
18.9.24 – National Fitness Day
19.9.24 – UKS2 Working Together Meeting – 4pm
19.9.24 – 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

Dates for 2024/25 Continued

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 Da1
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

Nut Aware School

As a Nut Aware School, we ask you all to ensure that you are checking your child's lunch boxes so that no nut products are sent into school. Thank you.

50th Anniversary



OLC's big birthday celebration will be here before we know it, and you've guessed it, yet again, we are looking for help to make this a wonderful event. Please can you let the FOLC know if you are able to help on 13th September anytime from 12pm till 8pm. We would appreciate any help during that time and also between 8.30am until 11.30am on Monday 9th September. It looks to be a wonderful event, with live music, BBQ, lots of wonderful stalls, a selection of inflatables, and lots of garden games. You can bring a blanket/garden chairs and enjoy the celebrations. **In addition, to this, the school will also close early at 2pm on Friday 13th September and there will be no Footsteps provision on this day.**

Sports Clubs



We are looking forward to our After School Clubs starting next week. If you would like to book onto any of these please follow this link to our website: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/school-clubs/>

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.

Olton Friary Link

To hear all about the wonderful events that take place at the Olton Friary please follow this link below that will lead you to their notice page on their website: <https://www.oltonfriary.org.uk/weekly-notices/>

Newsletter and School App

Throughout this academic year, the school newsletter will continue to be available on a fortnightly basis. We will also continue to share information through our school email and school app. If you have not yet downloaded the School App, please do so to stay updated with information we send out. Please follow this link to get set up: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/the-school-app/>
The next newsletter will be issued on the 20th September 2024.

Guitar



We are pleased to announce that children in Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) will be starting Guitar lessons on Tuesday. 4B will begin their lessons this term, followed by 3/4S after Christmas and 3KC after Easter.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

At the National College of Learning, we regularly gather together with parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://www.nationalcollege.com).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

- 1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED**
Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can confidently get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and need the school to provide, they may be able to provide some necessary aids or other support.
- 2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL**
If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand what's going on and will be able to help them, if the need arises, can build the foundations of a good working relationship, knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.
- 3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**
There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school dates, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children to see which dates might excite them.
- 4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS**
If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do at any point meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and passions, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.
- 5 PLAN SELF-CARE**
Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This could involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly slot to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide new familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.
- 6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS**
Explains that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Suggests that other children – even those at the bottom – can be feeling the same way. Considers practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include taking deep-breathing exercises or a notebook for doodling.
- 7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM**
Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of the PE sections. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will have requirements for PE kit.
- 8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS**
Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition meetings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.
- 9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY**
If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. It is typically on their school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable adjustments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to measure them that help it there if they could.
- 10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT**
If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available to ensure they're having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and how to contact to liaise with it these change over time.

Meet Our Expert
Amy Sawyer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for O-level Educators, a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and an IT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SENCO coach, helping many different settings build their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://www.nationalcollege.com/olc/olc/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>

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Catering

This week you will have received reminders from before the summer holiday about the change of the catering provider across OLAAS schools that have taken effect this September. Please do familiarise yourself with the information that has been shared which can be accessed by following this link: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/catering-at-olc/>. **As part of the new procedures across all of the MAC schools all meals now have to be booked on ParentPay in advance.** Please do begin to get into the habit of pre-booking your child's meals each week.

Well done Teejay!



We received fantastic news at the beginning of the week that one of our pupils Teejay in Year 3 was offered an Under 8's pre-contract with West Bromwich Albion Football Club. As you can see from the delight on Teejay's face he has accepted their offer and signed on the dotted line! We wish Teejay all the best and hope to see him on the big stage in the not so distant future, following in the footsteps of previous OLC pupils Jack Grealish and Callum O'Reilly. Well done Teejay!

Attendance

As you would have heard in the news, there is a continued push from the Department of Education to improve attendance across schools. This information was shared with you all prior to the summer holidays - we ask that, in particular, holidays are not taken in school time. OLC's attendance is in line with the national data, however our attendance would be significantly above national average without the holiday absences that are taken in the school term.

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 starting on 13th September, from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. This is very popular and a great opportunity to participate in exciting activities, meet other young people and make new friends. 😊

Summer Changes



During the summer holidays, school has had lots of work done in readiness for its reopening. We are really pleased to share with you that our Computer Suite will shortly have the next phase of development completed with the installation of 32 working stations – we will share photos of this with you as soon as the final tweaks are completed.

We are also awaiting the delivery of our outdoor Reading Area which will be placed on the KS1 playground. Both of these projects would have been impossible without the support of the FOLC - we are so grateful to them for their donations.

PE Kit Days



Please see below a list of the days when your child is required to wear their PE kit

Monday: FS1, 1M, 3KC, 3/4S
 Tuesday: FS2, 3KC, 4B, 5R, 6C (swimming)
 Wednesday: 1M, 1/2H, 2M, 4B, 5R, 5/6D, 6C
 Thursday: FS2, 1/2H, 2M, 3/4S, 5/6D
 Friday: FS1