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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 12

Date: Friday 23rd February 2024

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had a wonderful half-term break and that you are looking forward to the term ahead where we have so many exciting events taking place as we journey together through Lent. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back this week and to see each and every one of them keen to show the Gospel Values for this term of Faith-filled and Hopeful in their everyday lives. In addition, children are also focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the option for the poor – take some time this weekend to discuss these with your child(ren) and find out about what they already know. Have a wonderful weekend – hopefully Spring is not too far away!

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



Where did Jesus go to pray? In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples received a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus through the change in the way he looked (his transfiguration). This sacred encounter took place on the Holy Mountain – Mt Tabor. Often in the Bible, mountains are described as sacred places. Our churches are sacred places, dedicated to the worship of God, but other places are sacred too: a home filled with the love of God. Where's your sacred space? Where do you pray or feel most at peace or closest to God (e.g. your house, your bedroom, your church, your garden or somewhere else)?

SUMMARY

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- Women's History Month

50th Anniversary

Our 50th anniversary plans are gathering pace. Make sure you save the date below:



Random Acts of Kindness Day



At OLC we see so many signs of kindness each day, however during our annual 'Random Acts of Kindness Day' this week, it certainly went to new heights as children and staff spread much cheer and joy throughout the day.

Lenten Fundraising

Throughout Lent and as part of our almsgiving we will be raising much needed funds for two charities. Father Hudson's – Good Shepherd Appeal (please see further information at the end of the newsletter) and Cafod's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal which has been chosen by our School Council. Over the coming weeks, children will take part in activities to help raise as much funds as possible for these two important charities.

Congratulations Miss Ryan



We will all be thinking of, and sending our best wishes to, Miss Ryan who will be 'tying the knot' this weekend as she gets married. I am sure you will also keep Miss Ryan and her family in your thoughts and prayers. When Miss Ryan returns she will be Mrs Kinchin.

May love and laughter fill your hearts and your home for all the days of your lives.

Dates for 2023/24

26.2.24 – Fairtrade Fortnight begins
27.2.24 – FS - Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
28.2.24 – LKS2 - Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
29.2.24 – KS1 - Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
1.3.24 – UKS2 - Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
1.3.24 – Secondary School Offer Day
1.3.24 – Women’s History Month
1.3.24 – St. David’s Day – children to wear a splash of yellow to school
7.3.24 – World Book Day
8.3.24 – World Women’s Day
8.3.24 – FS1 Mother’s Day Assembly 9.30am
8.3.24 – FS2 Mother’s Day Assembly 2.30pm
10.3.24 – Mothering Sunday
13.3.24 – Parents’ Evening
14.3.24 – Parents’ Evening
17.3.24 – St. Patrick’s Day
20.3.24 – International Day of Happiness
21.3.24 – FS1 and FS2 Easter Bonnet Parade – 9.30am
21.3.24 – KS1 (Y1 and Y2) Easter Bonnet Parade – 10.30am
22.3.24 – LKS2 (Y3 and Y4) to lead Stations of the Cross – 2pm
22.3.24 – Last day of term
24.3.24 – Palm Sunday
29.3.24 – Good Friday
31.3.24 – Easter Sunday
8.4.24 – School reopens to all pupils
16.4.24 – National offer day for FS2 (2024-25)
16.4.24 – Swimming begins for Class 5H
22.4.24 – Earth Day
23.4.24 – St. George’s Day
24.4.24 – One Life Music Retreat for Year 3 @ OLC
4.5.24 – First Holy Communion – Group 1 @ 11am
6.5.24 – May Bank Holiday – School Closed
7.5.24 – Y5 Bikeability Week
11.5.24 – First Holy Communion – Group 2 @ 11am
13.5.24 – Y6 SATs week
17.5.24 – May Procession
19.5.24 – Pentecost
20.5.24 – Y6 Residential @ Alton Castle
24.5.24 – Last day of Half-Term
3.6.24 – School reopens to all pupils after half-term break
5.6.24 – World Environment Day
12.6.24 – Class Photographs
16.6.24 – Father’s Day
20.6.24 – World Refugee Day
27.6.24 – UKS2 Sports Day – 9.15am
27.6.24 – FS Sports Day – 10.30am
27.6.24 – LKS2 Sports Day – 1.15pm
27.6.24 – KS1 Sports Day – 2.15pm

Dates for 2023/24 Continued

4.7.24 – Provisional Sports Day if required due to weather
9.7.24 – Last day of Swimming for Class 5H
10.7.24 – Year 6 Production – 10am
18.7.24 – Year 6 Leaver’s Awards – 10am
19.7.24 – Year 6 Leaver’s Mass at Friary – 10.15am
19.7.24 – Year 6 Leaver’s Celebrations – 1.30pm
19.7.24 – Last Day of School Year

Parents’ Evenings

We look forward to our Parents’ Evenings taking place on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March, where you will have the opportunity to hear about your child’s academic progress. If you have not yet booked your slot or are having any trouble booking this, please contact the school office. Please note there is no parking on site during either of the evenings.

St David’s Day

On Friday 1st March we will be celebrating the feast day of St. David’s. We ask that children wear a splash of yellow with their uniform to school on this day. This can be items such as a yellow hair band, yellow socks.

Mother’s Day



We look forward to welcoming parents of children in FS1 and FS2 to the Mother’s Day assemblies. These will take place in the School Hall on Friday 8th March at 9.30am for FS1 (Nursery) and 2.30pm for FS2 (Reception).

Parking

Thank you to all parents who always consider parking regulations when dropping of and picking up their children from school. Unfortunately, there are a few parents who are still ignoring the regulations, parking in places which makes it hard for parents and children to walk safely to school or home. Over the next weeks, PCSOs will be visiting the nearby roads to monitor the situation.



FOLC News The Giving Machine

The FOLC are excited to announce a wonderful fundraising opportunity in continuing to raise money for several projects across the school. To get involved all it requires you to do is to set up a Giver account on The Giving Machine and click on the retailer link you want to shop at. The purchases you make then generate a donation which will show on your account summary once processed by The Giving Machine. For further information, please visit:

https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/our-lady-of-compassion-rc-primary-school-friends-of-olc/?ct=t%28EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_school_newsletter_2021_04_29%29

These free donations to school, work by online shops who pay millions in sales commissions to other websites that direct shoppers to them (eg search engines and voucher code websites). At The Giving Machine they turn these commissions into donations for schools and charitable causes, at no extra cost to you.

Stay and Pray – Lent

During Lent this year we would like to invite parents to join us at our stay and pray sessions with your children. These will take place in each phase in our school hall and will be an opportunity for you to join your child and their friends in prayer. For a list of the dates please see below:

FS (Reception): Tuesday 27th February at 2.30pm

KS2 (Years 3 and 4): Wednesday 28th February at 2.30pm

KS1 (Years 1 and 2): Thursday 29th February at 2.30pm

UKS2 (Years 5 and 6): Friday 1st March at 2.30pm

RSE Consultation

In 2020, it became law for all schools to teach relationships and health education. The school follows the Archdiocese of Birmingham's preferred scheme of work, 'Life to the Full'. In 2021, just as we were coming out of the pandemic, we consulted parents about certain aspects of the programme of study. Following a review, we are now changing some elements of the RHE curriculum. We wish to now consult about two new elements, which will be detailed in a letter and sent to parents. We therefore will be bringing back a working party and in doing so require one additional parent to support the working party. If you are interested in being part of this working party, please email the school office.

Friary – Virtual Race Night

Virtual Race Night
In The Parish Hall to Raise Money for the Friary Building Fund

Olton Friary Presents **Saturday 24th February 2024**

A NIGHT AT THE RACES!

Tickets include supper
Adults £10
Under 16s £5

Tickets available
28th Jan – 18th February

Buy tickets after all Masses or
email pg200814@hotmail.com or
call Paul on 07713 794 228

Measles

You will have received a letter by email earlier on in this term asking you to complete a short Microsoft Form to share whether your child has been vaccinated and received two doses of MMR immunisation.

Thank you to all those who have already responded. If, however, you have been unable to complete the form due to not having access to the dates of the immunisation, we have now changed the form so that this section is now optional. Although this is a voluntary response, it will help us to ensure we can minimise any risk to our children and staff should there be a case reported at OLC. Thank you for your support with this matter. The link to follow is: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=_8XsNkcZBUCdDFgUlrOpG8UOBK8q71NEUg19gqWJTpUMEpOMzg5QVpVTTcyMEdVQTc5M1pIUvZZNi4U

Good Shepherd Appeal 2024



Father Hudson's Care will be launching the 2024 Good Shepherd Appeal. As the principal social care agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, they provide a range of services for people who are disadvantaged, marginalised or experiencing need. They work with people from all walks of life, offering friendship, care and support. To help prepare for the Appeal, we will be sending out Good Shepherd Appeal collection envelopes and ask you to fill these with any spare coins throughout the Lenten period and to send these back to school by Friday 12th April.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ONLINE DATING & RELATIONSHIPS

Most online dating apps claim to be for over-18s only but, in some cases, relaxed age verification allows children to access them. What's more, some popular social media platforms use similar design features to many dating sites – blurring the line between why a young person initially downloads an app and what they actually end up using it for.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ONLINE GROOMING**
Online grooming is when someone forms a connection with a child in the digital world, often using social media. This relationship with the intention of manipulating the young person into doing something sexual or illegal. The process involves gaining the young person's confidence – which often makes them feel that they are being cared for and about their new online 'friend' – or to recognise what is even happening.
- WEBCAM BLACKMAIL**
Some young people have been coaxed into getting naked or wearing revealing clothes and photos. They're then blackmailed all money, or something of value, to get the photos deleted. This can be hugely traumatic for a young person and, in extreme cases, has resulted in self-harm and even suicide.
- DAMAGE TO SELF ESTEEM**
Many dating platforms encourage users to post the images that people upload. This has clear potential to negatively impact a young person's self-esteem. On some apps, pictures of a user's face and body can be used directly with notifications informing them if someone has been selected to match with them. This form of rejection can feel extremely hurtful and embarrassing.
- CATFISHING AND SCAMS**
Catfishing is when someone disguises their true identity by obtaining false photos and creating a fake profile. As catfishing is often done through social media, it can be particularly tricky to spot. Catfishers often use convincing photos and profiles to gain trust. A young person's feelings for this fake 'friend' may cloud their judgement and can lead to them surrendering money, personal images, passwords and so on.
- STALKING AND HARASSMENT**
Stalking is obsessive behaviour by a person that makes someone else feel uncomfortable and puts the fear of violence. There have been frequent reports of stalking cases that originated on dating apps, with perpetrators creating new accounts in response to being rejected or blocked. It is particularly concerning for someone if a young person has ever (even just once) shared personal information like home, school or email.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING**
Reassure your child that they can always talk to you about anything online that is worried them. Urge them not to be 'being secret' themselves – they should tell you straight away. Discuss the potential risks of online dating and check in with them frequently to ensure that they're feeling comfortable about their online relationships.
- TAKE A 'SAFETY FIRST' STANDPOINT**
Encourage young people to be careful about who they send invitations to – and accept them from – on dating sites and apps. Encourage parents with love to reduce the amount of time their child's devices and apps to help them ensure they can access their profiles and information. Take care to check about who's a stranger to them any sensitive, private or confidential information in their profile.
- PROTECT CONTACT DETAILS**
If a young person is interested in using online dating sites or apps, strongly encourage them to check out the safety features. If that's not possible, ensure that the young person sets up a separate email address which doesn't include their name. This is easy to do via providers like iCloud, Yahoo! Mail or Gmail.
- HIGHLIGHT COMMON DANGER SIGNS**
Talk to your child about some of the obvious red flags in online dating requests for money, for instance, should always ring alarm bells. Likewise, if a young person is in contact with someone who has been pressuring them into providing personal or financial information – or who they suspect is trying to look them out – they should act and communicate immediately and contact the dating service provider.

Meet Our Expert: The National College, National Online Safety, #WakeUpWednesday

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Jack 'n' Beans Means Fun



Friday 15th & Saturday 16th March 2024 @ 7.30pm
£10 per ticket, under 12s £7, under 5s free
Peter's Catholic School, Whitefields Road, Solihull, B91 3NZ

All proceeds will go to our chosen charities:
Betel UK, Samaritans

The Jack 'n' Beans Means Fun Panto will be taking place at St. Peter's Secondary School for more information or to purchase tickets please follow the link below:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/west-midlands/st-peters-catholic-school/jack-n-beans-means-fun/e-kddabo>

All proceeds will go to Betel UK and Samaritan's charities.

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.

Tickets on Sale now for

EASTER Raffle

Join us on
Friday 22nd March
for Book Sale & Sweetie Sale
 School Hall, 3.25pm

Raffle Winners will be announced at 3.30pm

Tickets on sale at www.pla-events.com/fole




FS1 - Green
 FS2 - Blue
 Year 1 - Yellow
 Year 2 - Orange
 Year 3 - Purple
 Year 4 - Pink
 Year 5 - White
 Year 6 - Red

RAINBOW HAMPERS

We need your help

This year for our Easter Raffle we would like to invite the children to help. We are asking each year group to help create our prize hampers. These will be rainbow hampers. Each year group is assigned a colour, and we are asking for donations of any items in that colour to add to our hamper. Please see pictures for examples, all donations welcome, sweets, bottles, chocolates, toiletries, toys, teddys... anything really as long as it's the right colour.

Fairtrade Fortnight



Fairtrade Fortnight is returning from 26th February to 8th March 2024 with its online festival 'Choose the world you want'. For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Last year's festival saw campaigners, shoppers, students and businesses come together in a show of support for the farmers behind our food on the front line of the climate crisis. From online panels to bake-offs and coffee mornings, over 100 events took place up and down the UK, shouting about the power of Fairtrade and what needs to happen next to ensure farmers and workers are put front and centre of conversations on how to tackle the climate crisis. Therefore, over the next two weeks, we ask that when you are out shopping with your children you make them aware of the Fairtrade products and switch to these instead.

Women's History Month



During the month of March, we will be celebrating Women's History Month. The 8th March is World Women's Day, and to celebrate this day and month, we will be sharing the activities that children will be completing in school. Children will have the opportunity to learn and explore how women have influenced and shaped the world. We cannot wait to share the children's amazing work with you all.