



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 11

Date: Friday 9th February 2024

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels as though it was not too long ago that we were breaking up for the Christmas holidays, and with the blink of an eye, we are at the end of another half-term. This half-term (although a very short one in length) has been filled with many celebrations and moments to cherish, such as the choir participating in the Young Voices concert, sporting success in rowing and football, children in Year 5 representing the school in the termly Maths Challenges and the Year 6 children receiving the sacrament of Confirmation – these are just a few of so many memorable moments that have been packed into a short term.

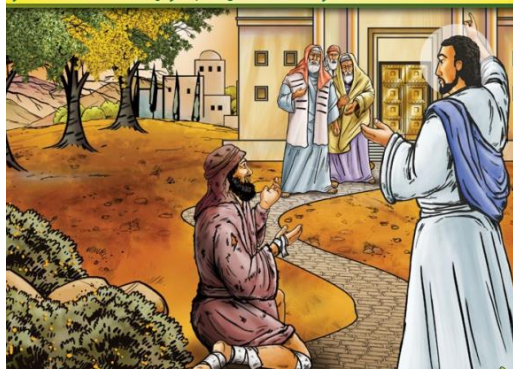


As we begin to look forward to the new term ahead, we start our journey ahead together through the Lenten season. This is always a wonderful time to renew our faith and grow closer to our Lord during a 40-day period. In school, we will be encouraging a focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In prayer, we are opening up our communication channels with God, in fasting we are showing our strength against temptations and in almsgiving we are providing for those who need more - and in doing all of these we are continuing to live out our mission statement in our everyday lives: 'To Live as Jesus taught Us'.

Have a wonderful half-term break.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



Jesus has compassion for all those who are left out: he came to take away fear, loneliness and bullying – to help people feel loved and accepted. We can experience Jesus' compassion through other people and through spending time in prayer. To be compassionate is to share someone's suffering - to feel sorrow for their situation and to do something about it. Compassion is an attractive quality. Our own example in daily life can help our children become more compassionate. As a family, ask yourselves, "Is there anyone who needs our compassion and our help at this time? What could we do?"

"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion."

St Vincent de Paul

Random Acts of Kindness Day

On our return to school after half-term (20-02-24), we will be having our annual 'Random Acts of Kindness Day' at OLC, spreading kindness across the school. We look forward to seeing as many acts of kindness across the day as possible, such as caring for one another, helping a friend, using our manners and many other acts.

SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- FOLC Events
- Random Act of Kindness Day
- Key Dates
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Online Safety
- INSET Day – School Closed
- First Holy Communion
- FOLC Giving Machine
- Stay and Pray – Lent
- Energy Drinks
- World Book Day
- New OLC Football Kits
- Attendance Matters
- Nursery Admissions
- Friary – Virtual Race Night
- Good Shepherd Appeal
- School Uniform

FOLC Events



FOLC is holding a disco on Friday 23rd February. To purchase tickets please use the bar code above - this can be used to buy tickets for FOLC events online. The link can also be accessed via the FOLC new site through the WhatsApp groups.

The link to our new site is;
www.pta-events.com/folc/

Dates for 2023/24

- 14.2.24 – Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent
- 19.2.24 – School Closed – INSET Day
- 20.2.24 – School reopens after half-term
- 20.2.24 – Random Act of Kindness Day
- 23.2.24 – Cafod Family Fast Day
- 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

Children’s Mental Health

This week we shone a light on children’s mental health. Across the week, it was great to share strategies and ways of thinking with our children, so that they too can look after their mental health. Please follow this link for more tips and to support your child and their health: <https://www.place2b.e.org.uk/>

INSET Day

As a reminder, school is closed to all pupils on Monday 19th February as this is an INSET day – a day for staff training. We look forward to welcoming you all back after the half-term break on Tuesday 20th February 2024.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNOWCHAT

SNOWCHAT is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of SNOWCHAT's unique features is that pictures and messages disappear 24 hours after they've been viewed, however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe - with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, SNOWCHAT started by AI, a customised chatbot which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends - but these could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals a child's personal information to strangers, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

EXCESSIVE USE
SNOWCHAT works hard on user engagement (pins with features like streaks, challenges and the same high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some videos and posts on SNOWCHAT aren't suitable for children. The Quick Add feature can be used to determine if a post is inappropriate. The app's in-app reporting mechanism allows users to report inappropriate content (users in particular) to report explicit images on Snapchat - so seeking continues to be a risk associated with SNOWCHAT.

TURN OFF QUICK ADD
The Quick Add feature helps people find new friends on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or mutual tags. The number of tags in your child's contacts list, explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that parents turn off Quick Add, which is found in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT
It may feel like an awkward conversation, but it's important to talk to your child about what they see on SNOWCHAT. Reminding your child that once something's online, the predator has a record of where it ends up. It's important to talk to your child about what they see on SNOWCHAT and to ensure they understand that some behaviours which others might see on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Schumann is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed an international curriculum on online safety for schools. She has written various academic papers and presented at research for the Australian government concerning internet use and setting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS
In 2021, SNOWCHAT rolled out a new safety feature that will now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of choosing connections with people they actually know and are happy to be connected to. Parents Check Up encourages users to make a commitment with their mutual friends to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE
Profiles are private by default, but children may share public to post more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone who follows. On SNOWCHAT, this location is visible unless Chat mode is enabled. Only use SNOWCHAT if you are sure you can keep your account private. It's not essential to share the location of any place, which others will be able to see. Regularly visit and check in.

DISCUSS AI
Although AI's responses can often give the impression of a virtual friend, it's essential that young people remember this isn't real. The chatbot is programmed to think artificially about AI. AI replies to their questions and offers advice. It's important to discuss with them why AI isn't a friend and that it's designed with the intention of a person in relation to medical matters.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT
If a stranger does connect with your child on SNOWCHAT and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, sending sexual images to them, your child can report the user to SNOWCHAT. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (sexual harassment, for example) but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

First Holy Communion

Children in Year 3 who are preparing for their FHC are invited to two reconciliation preparation sessions on Thursday 22nd February and Monday 26th February. Both sessions will run from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Children will then be dismissed from the main school office entrance.

Energy Drinks

As a reminder, no energy drinks (such as Prime) should be sent into school with your child. Children are only allowed to bring to school water or squash.

World Book Day

This year, we will be organising several activities to celebrate World Book Day and embed our love of reading. Just as a taster, we are planning a Book Swap as well as the opportunity for the children to listen to stories read by different adults. These are only two of the activities ... more info to follow!



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
- LKS2 (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

New OLC Kits



Thank you to Ms Poole for her support with accessing our new football, netball and Gaelic kits. Well done also to both the boys and the girls football teams who are currently on a winning streak! We wish them the very best for their next fixtures – go OLC!

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.

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.

School Uniform

Below is the link to our school uniform policy. It is important that we continue to ensure our children are dressed appropriately for school each day. We ask that in particular, children's haircuts and jewellery worn are in line with our school policy. <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/compassion/UploadedDocument/8ce6af78-cc36-4430-8f2c-12bd0ea355e9/olc-sm-uniform-list-updated-september-2023.pdf>

Attendance Matters

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY



Did You Know... ?

If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

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