



To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 10

Date: Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to announce that in September we will be celebrating OLC's 50th Year anniversary. Although, there is still plenty of time between now and this wonderful event we will be sharing our plans and activities over the coming months. Please do share this announcement with your friends and families (past and present) so that they are aware and can be part of the celebrations. In addition to our anniversary we are also pleased to be part of Pope Francis' 'Year of Prayer'. Pope Francis inaugurated a Year of Prayer ahead of the 2025 Jubilee, calling on the faithful "to pray more fervently to prepare ourselves to live properly this grace-filled event and to experience the power of hope in God". The Year of Prayer, the Holy Father explained, is dedicated "to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world". Therefore, at OLC our dedication to this is already underway and has begun firstly by children learning the Our Father in a different language. This also coincides with a day of prayer at the Friary on Saturday 10th February led by Fr Jan Nowotnik. The day starts with mass at 10.15am, including the choirs and the Little Church, and then focuses on considering how, as a parish, we are called to support young people, schools and families. This is followed by a packed lunch in the Parish Hall, before the day moves on to reflect on how we can walk together as a parish to develop the prayer life and the spiritual development of all in our community. Please do your best to join this wonderful day of prayer.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



It's important to have good teachers. Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children – other family members and friends can also teach about what really matters in life. But who can really teach us about the best way to live? Jesus stood out as a teacher because he taught with authority and power. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus demonstrates this through the amazing healing of the man in the synagogue. Jesus' teachings expose the things that weaken us – setting free all those who listen to him. The whole of Jesus' life was a continual teaching. His teaching is calm and wise, powerful but gentle, and enriches family life.

Measles

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

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Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to all who completed our annual parental questionnaires before the Christmas break. We received over 200 responses - the results of the questionnaire can be found by following this link:

[Parental Questionnaires](#)

[\[2023-2024\]](#)

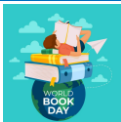
We would also like explore your views with regards to clubs and communications and ask if you can complete the short survey below that will only take a few minutes to complete:

[Survey](#)

Dates for 2023/24

- 31.1.24 – Year 6 Reconciliation
- 2.2.24 – National Number Day
- 2.2.24 – Year 6 Confirmation @ Olton Friary – 7pm
- 5.2.24 – Children’s Mental Health Week – Dress to impress Day
- 6.2.24 – Safer Internet Day – theme “Inspiring Change?”
- 8.2.24 – Y6 Parent Workshop – SATS/Residential/Internet Safety – 4.45pm
- 9.2.24 – Last day of half-term
- 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

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!

Children’s Mental Health



During Children’s Mental Health Week’ and through the theme this year: My Voice Matters, we will be shining a spotlight on children and young people’s mental health. Children will participate in many activities throughout the week. We look forward to starting the week off with our annual ‘Dress to impress Day’ where children can wear non-uniform on Monday 5th February to school.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TIKTOK

TIKTOK is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dancing, trends and celebrity content and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to explore new identities in languages. It has more than 1 billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18s. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TIKTOK to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
While TIKTOK’s ‘For You’ feed only displays content that is deemed appropriate for the user’s age, it is not possible to filter out all inappropriate content. The app’s algorithm is designed to show content that is most relevant to the user’s interests, but it is not possible to filter out all inappropriate content. The app’s algorithm is designed to show content that is most relevant to the user’s interests, but it is not possible to filter out all inappropriate content.

ADDICTIVE NATURE
TIKTOK can be addictive, especially for young people. The app’s algorithm is designed to show content that is most relevant to the user’s interests, but it is not possible to filter out all inappropriate content.

ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

- ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**: Family Pairing allows parents to link their accounts to their child’s account. This allows parents to manage their child’s account settings, including screen time limits, content restrictions, and privacy settings.
- MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE**: Encourage your child to make their account private. This will limit who can see their posts and interact with them.
- LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING**: If your child is using an iPhone or Android, you can set up Family Sharing to manage their in-app purchases. This will allow you to approve or deny any purchases.
- DISCUSS THE DANGERS**: Talk to your child about the risks of using TIKTOK, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, and inappropriate content. Encourage them to report any suspicious activity.
- READ THE SIGNS**: If you’re concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TIKTOK, or if you’ve noticed any changes in their behavior, it’s important to talk to them about their usage. Encourage them to take breaks and to be mindful of their screen time.

Meet Our Expert
Cathy Hoyle is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of TechRadar, she has written for various technology publications, including The Guardian, The Telegraph, and The Independent.

NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

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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

Friary – Virtual Race Night

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

Olton Friary Presents
A NIGHT AT THE RACES!
Saturday
24th February 2024

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

Year 6 Workshop

On Thursday 8th February parents in Year 6 are invited to attend a Year 6 Workshop between 4.45pm and 5.45pm in the school hall. During this workshop we will share info about the Y6 residential in May, info on Y6 SATs as well as updates on Internet Safety. We ask that all parents attend these meetings to receive the important information. This meeting is for parents only and not children.

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.

Start times

To ensure a steady flow and reduce congestion during the morning, school operates with two drop off times. These are 8.45pm for FS1, FS2 and Y5 and Y6 and 8.55pm for Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4. Parents with siblings are able to drop off at the earlier times, as well as families where adaptations have been agreed with school. However, all other families/children should be adhering to their start time. If you are unable to do so, we also have our breakfast club facility to support with earlier drop offs.

Young Voices



What an experience! Thank you to all involved that accompanied the choir to the Young Voices concert at the Genting Arena. This was such a memorable moment - our children, staff and parents have not stopped talking about the great event. We look forward to participating in Young Voices again next year.

Snow

With the potential of extreme weather during our winter months, we will aim to make any decision regarding a school closure before the start of the school day and will communicate with parents through our School App and School Email. Children will be able to access the learning for the day by following our learning plans that are available via the school website: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/olc-curriculum-weekly-plans-2023-2024/>

OLC Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

We would urge all parents, grandparents and everyone within our community to remain vigilant. Children and young people are the most vulnerable members of society. Protecting them from becoming the victims of abuse is everyone's responsibility. If you have a concern, or just feel something is not quite right, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). Our DSLs are:

- Mrs Vella – Lead DSL
- Mr Emery – Deputy DSL
- Mrs Moir – Deputy DSL

Alternatively, please call Solihull's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0121 7884300 (Monday to Thursday 8.45am - 5.20pm; Friday 8.45am - 4.30pm). If you are calling out of working hours (evenings, weekends or bank holidays) please call 01216056060. In an emergency always call 999. You can also speak in confidence to a doctor or nurse, social worker, school, police or the NSPCC: 08088005000. Children and young people can ring ChildLine: 08001111. You can remain anonymous if you wish. It is very important that you take action straight away - the sooner you get help, the sooner the abuse will stop.

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.

FitBits / Smart Watches

Over the last few weeks, some children have been attending school wearing FitBits. Although these are wonderful and it is great to see that children are interested in using these, they are not part of our school uniform. Therefore, we kindly ask that children refrain from wearing these to school and instead use them outside of school only. This is also the case with smart watches and any other technological accessories.

Snacks



As a reminder, children can have a snack sent into school with them to eat during their breaktime. We ask that this snack is a healthy choice such as a piece of fruit rather than chocolate or crisps – this supports your child in making healthy choices regarding food that is good for them.