



# Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 9

Date: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas, and we wish you a Happy New Year. The children have come back to school with renewed enthusiasm for their learning; it was wonderful to discuss their intentions for the year ahead on their first day back where we asked Mary, our mother, to support us throughout the year and guide us in doing our best to keep to these.

*We thank God for this New Year and as we begin this new journey, we are reminded to think about our true values and desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. May everyone in our school family be willing to give their lives to you. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. Amen*

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

## Wednesday Word



January is traditionally the month of beginnings – a time for making a NEW START. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about the two disciples of John the Baptist making a new start. They may not have known what John meant when he said 'Look, there is the Lamb of God,' but they knew what he wanted them to do: they had to start afresh and get close to Jesus. Once John's disciples got to know Jesus, they couldn't wait to tell their friends and share their joy with them. We too are filled with this same joy when we get close to Jesus and share the good news. Regardless of our past, God is always ready to help us to begin again. God invites each one of us to 'Come and See' – to make a NEW START with Him, each and every day.

## ParentPay

Please ensure that your ParentPay account is kept in credit. We have several accounts in arrears at present. Please check your accounts to make sure that they are up to date.

## SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- FS2 Admissions 24/25
- Thank You
- Year 6 Confirmation
- Parent Pay
- Key Dates
- Online Safety
- Tree Planting Event
- FOLC Giving Machine
- Stay and Pray - Lent
- Jewellery

## FS2 (Reception) Applications 2024/25

The application process for Reception placements for next year is now open. To apply for a place, please contact your Local Authority. Please note that the closing date for admissions is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## Y6 Confirmation



Please keep our Year 6 children in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Prior to this, they will be having a commitment mass at the Friary on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm and there will be a parent's meeting in the school hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 3.45pm.

## Thank You



Our previous Crossing Patrol Warden, Lucy, would like to thank you for all her wonderful leaving gifts at the end of last term. She was certainly overwhelmed by your generosity. We would also like to welcome Johanna (Jo), our new Crossing Patrol Warden, who began with us this week. We are sure that you will all make her feel very welcome to our family here at OLC.

## Dates for 2023/24

- 15.1.24 – Year 6 Commitment Mass @ Olton Friary – 2.15pm
- 15.1.24 – Closing date for FS2 (Reception) applications
- 25.1.24 – Y6 Confirmation meeting in the school hall @ 3.45pm
- 26.1.24 – FS1 Nursery Offer for September 2024
- 31.1.24 – Year 6 Reconciliation
- 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?”
- 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
- 27.2.24 – FS - Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
- 28.2.24 – KS1 - Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
- 29.2.24 – LKS2 - 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

## Jewellery

As a reminder, one pair of stud earrings may be worn in school. These will need to be removed by children before PE lessons or swimming lessons. Under no circumstances should hoop or drop earrings be worn. No jewellery is to be worn in school (except stud earrings as detailed above).

## Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

The infographic is titled "What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING". It features a central illustration of a boy in a red cape and mask, looking distressed while holding a smartphone. The infographic is divided into ten numbered sections:

- 1. GET CONNECTED**: Encourages parents to play online games with their children and discuss online safety.
- 2. KEEP TALKING**: Emphasizes regular chats with young people about their online lives and good practices.
- 3. STAY VIGILANT**: Advises parents to observe their child's online behavior and be alert to changes.
- 4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE**: Encourages parents to be available to help their child if they need it.
- 5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN**: Encourages parents to listen to their child's concerns without judgment.
- 6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD**: Encourages parents to empower their child with knowledge and skills.
- 7. REPORT BULLYING ONLINE**: Encourages parents to report bullying to the appropriate authorities.
- 8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY**: Encourages parents to help their child understand the impact of their actions.
- 9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE**: Encourages parents to seek help from professionals if needed.
- 10. ANNOUNCE THE AUTHORITIES**: Encourages parents to let their child know who to report to.

At the bottom, it includes contact information for National Online Safety (NOS) and the #WakeUpWednesday campaign.

## Tree Planting at St. Columban's

This will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> February, for families to join as part of a group from Olton Friary. The tree planting itself is a collaborative project with Solihull Council to re-wild large parts of the grounds at St Columban's. It starts at 9am with a hot drink, pastry and prayer, before heading outside for a briefing from the council tree planting team at 9.30am – it will finish by 3pm. Participants should dress appropriately (wellies/walking boots, rain proof clothing etc.) and bring packed lunches. As it is Shrove Tuesday, everyone is invited to bring pre-cooked pancakes - the toppings will be supplied. If you would like to put your name down for this event, please contact Stephen Awre by email: [stephen.awre@oltonfriary.org.uk](mailto:stephen.awre@oltonfriary.org.uk)



## 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](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 their children. These will be organised by each phase and will take place in our school hall – they will be an opportunity for you to join your child and their friends in prayer. For a list of the dates please see below:

- FS2 (Reception): Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm
- LKS2 (Years 3 and 4): Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm
- KS1 (Years 1 and 2): Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm
- UKS2 (Years 5 and 6): Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2.30pm