



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 8

Date: Friday 22nd December 2023

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our Advent journey approaches the end and we begin Christmastide, we allow Christ into our homes and lives through the kindness we offer each other and the warmth that we give to our children - we can use this time to be more 'Christ-like'. For many, Christmas can be a time of struggles, where the joys of Christmas are not so apparent. Therefore, we ask you to pray for those at this time and reach out with kindness to others who may need comfort, and warmth to those who have no shelter or home and in doing so allow Christ to work through ourselves and our actions.

Have a wonderful break and see you all in 2024.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



Each year on the last Sunday of Advent, we look to Mary, our heavenly mother. In this Sunday's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel announced God's will, and Mary accepted it and put her trust in God. Ask your child if they know the 'Hail Mary', the prayer based on the Angel Gabriel's greeting in this Sunday's Gospel. Ask your child what else they know about Mary. It may help your child to tell them something you know about Mary, or the Rosary. Mary is a perfect example for all people – someone full of love and kindness. How can you show love and kindness in this final week of Advent? Perhaps you can: support a charity that helps to feed some of the poorest children in the world (e.g. marysmeals.org.uk, missiontogether.org.uk or cafod.org.uk); help someone who may be struggling in some way.

SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- Fond Farewell
- FS2 Admissions 24/25
- Friary Events
- Parent Pay
- Key Dates
- Online Safety
- Thank You
- Christmas Jumper Day Donation
- FOLC Giving Machine
- Olton Friary Christmas

Fond Farewell



We would like to say our final thanks to Lucy, our Crossing Patrol Warden who left us today after 7 years. Lucy has been a huge part of our family and will be missed by many. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Lucy for her many years at OLC; we wish her all the best for her future endeavours. Thank you to all the children for making Lucy's last day with us so special.

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 15th January 2024.

Friary Events

Below you will find a set of exciting events that are taking place at the Olton Friary over the coming months; if you would like any further information about these, please feel free to contact Mrs Hornsey or the Friary: Christmas Day - 9am Mass - if your child would like a part in the Nativity, please let the catechist know at 9.00am Mass.

ParentPay

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

Dates for 2023/24

Further dates will be added throughout the term

- 8.1.24 – School reopens to pupils
- 9.1.24 – Swimming to begin for Class 5/6C
- 10.1.24 – Young Voices Concert for School Choir
- 15.1.24 – Year 6 Commitment Mass @ Olton Friary – 2.15pm
- 15.1.24 – Closing date for FS2 (Reception) applications
- 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
- 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

Thank You

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for your kind gifts. As always, we do not expect any gifts; however, we certainly appreciate your kind sentiments. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they need it. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other’s company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

- CHRISTMAS CRAFTING**
Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.
- NATURE QUEST**
Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.
- CAROL KARAOKE**
Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.
- WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE**
How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.
- TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING**
Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary... you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.
- WRAP IT UP**
Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parceling up these presents into a creative adventure.
- WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND**
Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you set to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.
- BE A SEASONAL CHEF**
Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and stir up a feast, at least that all of you can enjoy.
- ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY**
Christmas is a perfect time for sparking stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.
- SNOWY SCULPTURES**
If we’re fortunate enough to get a while Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!
- GAMES NIGHT GALA**
Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!
- GOODWILL TO ALL**
You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.



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.

Christmas Jumper/Clothes Day

Christmas JUMPER DAY



Thank you to all that made the £2 contribution towards Christmas Jumper Day last week which will be used to purchase further resources to enhance our Zones of Regulation programme in school. If you have not had chance to make a contribution the item on Parent Pay is still open.

Olton Friary Christmas 2023 Service Times



Picture by
Toby Chaplin Y4
Our Lady of Compassion
Catholic Primary School



The Sacred Heart
Fathers and Brothers
thank you for all your support
throughout the past year
and wish you and your family
the blessing of
Peace and Happiness
this Christmastide
and for the New Year.

Sunday 3rd December Masses 9am, 11am and 6pm	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	Monday 25th December Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	<i>Christmas Day</i> Masses 9am. and 11am
Thursday 7th December <i>Advent Reflections</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel 7.30pm in Day Chapel	Tuesday 26th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Feast of Saint Stephen the first Martyr</i> <i>St Stephen's Guild Mass</i>
Friday 8th December <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Masses 7am, 10.15am and 7.30pm in Church	Our Patronal Feast	Wednesday 27th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Feast of Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>
Saturday 9th December <i>Confessions 9.30 - 10.00am -and after Mass until 11.30am</i>	Mass 10.15am in Church	Thursday 28th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Feast of The Holy Innocents</i> <i>Special Blessing for Infants & Children</i>
Sunday 10th December Masses 9am, 11am and 6pm	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Friday 29th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Feast of Saint Thomas Becket Bishop, Martyr</i>
Wednesday 13th December <i>Welcoming the new born King</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel 7.30 pm in Various Homes	Saturday 30th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Sixth Day within Octave of Christmas</i> Confessions 9.30 - 10.00am
Thursday 14th December <i>Advent Reflections</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel 7.30 pm in Day Chapel	Sunday 31st December Masses 9am Celebration of Jubilee Anniversaries, 11am and at 6pm <i>New Year's Eve</i> Candelit Prayer service before the Blessed Sacrament 9.00pm Followed by Mass at 10.00pm	<i>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>
Friday 15th December Saturday 16th December <i>Confessions 9.30 - 10.00am - and after Mass until 11.30am</i> <i>Parish Carol Service at 6pm</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel Mass 10.15am in Church	Monday 1st January 2024 Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>
Sunday 17th December Masses 9am, 11am, 6pm Children's Christmas Crafts - after 9am in Hall	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Bambinelli Sunday</i>	Sunday 7th January Masses 9am, 11am and 6pm	<i>Solemnity of the Epiphany of The Lord</i>
Monday 18th December <i>Service of Reconciliation at 7-7.30pm</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel	Monday 8th January 2024 Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel	<i>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</i>
Thursday 21st December <i>Advent Reflections</i>	Mass 10.15 am in Day Chapel 7.00 pm in Church	Friday 2nd February 2024 Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel .Confirmation 7pm in Church	<i>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</i> <i>World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Lj</i>
Friday 22nd December Saturday 23rd December <i>Confessions 9.30 - 10.00am - and after Mass until 11.30am</i>	Mass 10.15 am in Day Chapel Mass 10.15am in Church	Sunday 4th February 2024 Mass 9am Mass of Engaged Couples, 11am and at 6pm.	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Sunday 24th December Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> Masses 9am and 11am <i>Christmas Eve</i>		

Carols at 5pm followed by First Mass of Christmas at 5.30pm in Church
Carols at 7.30pm followed by Mass at 8pm in Church

Please check website & parish What's App for any changes to Mass times
Masses will be livestreamed - <https://www.oltonfriary.org.uk> (Church) and
<https://www.youtube.com/@oltonfriary> (Day Chapel).