



# Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

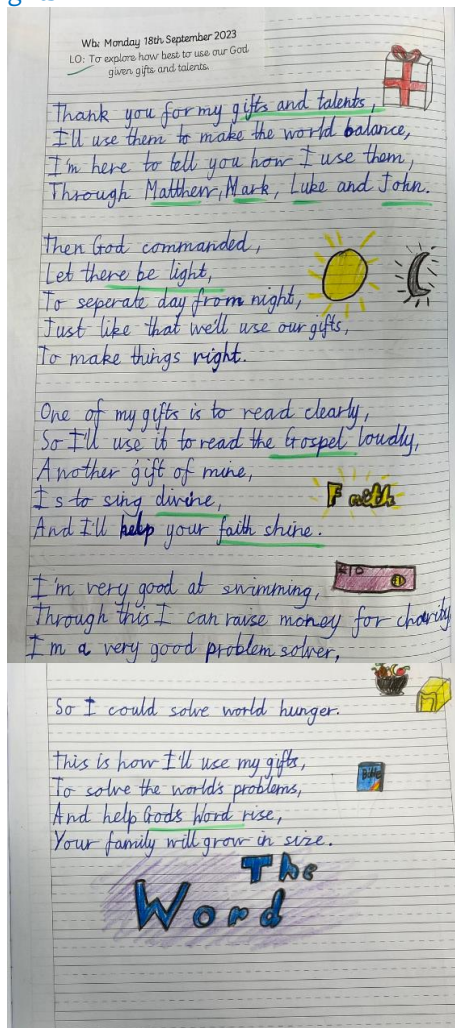
School Newsletter – 2

Date: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our new academic year gathers pace and our children continue to thrive in their new environments, I thought it would be nice to share with you all an example of a piece of work that Year 6 have been working on to explore how we can use our talents and gifts.



Have a wonderful weekend,  
Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

## Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the images of workers and a vineyard to show us something about the kingdom of Heaven and God's generosity. God's ways are not our ways. At first, it may appear unfair that the workers who started early were only paid the same as those who arrived later. But, on reflection, we see that not only was the Landowner being fair by paying what had been agreed, he was being overly generous through rewarding everyone equally (even those who came at the last hour).

God's generosity is unlimited and offered to each one of us. Pope Francis reminds us, "How generous is God, let us ask him for the grace of being generous too."

## SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- Buddies
- Secondary Applications
- Emails
- Birthday Treats
- Thanksgiving for Harvest
- Online Safety
- Homework Expectations
- Little Way Week
- Open Day
- Parking
- Key Dates
- Fun Fest
- FOLC News The Giving Machine
- Working Together Meetings
- Secondary Applications
- Term Dates
- Nursery Admission 2023/24

## Buddies



We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our Buddies Service in the School Hall, on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children in Year 6 and FS2 to receive a blessing at the start of their buddy journey. We hope that you are able to join us for this service.

## Emails

We like to communicate with our parents through a variety of ways (School App, Newsletter, School Gate, Telephone calls and emails). When we send an email out, this will have the school office email address or the PrimarySite address. We ask that all emails sent to teachers are sent through the school office email ([office@olc.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@olc.solihull.sch.uk)) so that we can ensure important messages are received.

## Birthday Treats



Just as a reminder that children are able to bring in small bags of sealed sweets to give out for their birthday (if they wish to) - these will be given out at the end of the school day.

## Thanksgiving for Harvest



On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, we started the collection for the Harvest Mass at the Friary that will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. We greatly appreciate any support of donations of dried or packets of food - please send these into school with your child(ren) by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October so that we can transport the donations to the Friary. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

## Homework Expectations



Over the weekend, you should receive an email detailing our homework expectations. Please do take some time to familiarise yourselves with this information so that you can support your child's learning at home. Please also remember that the Weekly Learning Plans are published on our website every week. These can also be used alongside your child's homework.

## Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

### Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

- PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES**  
Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.
- ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS**  
Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.
- AGREE SPENDING LIMITS**  
There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.
- DISCUSS AGE RATINGS**  
Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could also contrast to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.
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- FACTOR IN FRIENDS**  
If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend their time on the console. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen time – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.
- ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER**  
Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undoubtedly some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together. For a more competitive game, like Pro Evolution Soccer, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Pro Fun, which don't require high skill levels.
- TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS**  
Help your child to monitor their impulses as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show, setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together. For a more competitive game, like Pro Evolution Soccer, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Pro Fun, which don't require high skill levels.
- BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS**  
A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience of negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

## Little Way Week



Next week we will be celebrating our annual 'Little Way Week'. This is a week devoted to St Therese of Lisieux who saw how we can make a change by doing the little things in our everyday lives well. Therefore, we will be encouraging the children to follow St Therese by doing the little things (being kind, polite, doing their best) well across school next week.



We are looking forward to our Open Day in November where we will have the opportunity to meet prospective parents who are looking for a school place for their child for September 2024. We will be holding the Open Day on 7<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm; this will be held in the school hall.

## Parking

Please ensure that cars are parked in areas that do not have any restrictions - several cars have parked across pathways blocking pedestrian access. We want to ensure the safety of all and support our local community. Thank you for helping us with this matter.

### Dates for 2023/24

26.9.23 –UKS2 Working Together Meeting – 5.15pm [please note change of date from 12.9.23]  
25.9.23 – Little Way Week  
29.9.23 – Day of Thanksgiving for Harvest  
1.10.23 – Black History Month begins  
1.10.23 – Month of the Holy Rosary begins  
4.10.23 – Season of Creation ends  
10.10.23 – World Mental Health Day  
13.10.23 – Flu Immunisations (FS2 to Y6)  
19.10.23 – Y6 Retreat with One Life Music  
20.10.23 – FS2/Y6 Buddies Service – 2.15pm – School Hall  
26.10.23 – School closes for October half-term  
26.10.23 – School Photographs  
27.10.23 – INSET Day – School Closed to pupils  
31.10.23 – Closing date for Secondary Applications  
1.11.23 – All Saints’ Day – Holy Day of Obligation  
6.11.23 – School reopens for Autumn Term 2  
7.11.23 – FS1/FS2 Open Day – 5pm  
9.11.23 – Y6 Trip to St Chad’s  
11.11.23 – Remembrance Day  
12.11.23 – Diwali  
13.11.23 – Anti-bullying Week  
15.11.23 – Parents’ Evening  
16.11.23 – Parents’ Evening  
16.11.23 – Drop Everything and Read Day  
17.11.23 – Children in Need  
20.11.23 – Road Safety Week  
20.11.23 – World Children’s Day  
24.11.23 – World Science Day  
30.11.23 – St. Andrew’s Day  
1.12.23 – FS2 Nativity – 9.20am  
2.12.23 – Christmas Fayre at OLC  
3.12.23 – Advent begins  
8.12.23 – FS1 Nativity – 9.20am  
13.12.23 – Last Swimming Session for Class 6B  
15.12.23 – Christmas Jumper Day  
15.12.23 – KS1 Carols – 9.30am  
15.12.23 – LKS2 Carols – 10.30am  
15.12.23 – UKS2 Carols – 2.30pm  
20.12.23 – Christmas Dinner Day  
21.12.23 – Party Day  
21.12.23 – Whole School Theatre performance at School  
22.12.23 – Toy Day  
22.12.23 – School closes for Christmas Holidays

### Fun Fest



Bookings for October 2023 Fun Fest are online and can now be taken.

Opening from 30<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. We have brought back some of your favourite sessions, as well as some of our popular sessions, Witches, Wizards and Ghouls, our ever popular Jack O’Lanterns along with other Halloween themed sessions and finishing with our spooky fun filled Halloween Party.

Bookings can be made now via the website [www.fun-fest.co.uk/oltonview](http://www.fun-fest.co.uk/oltonview)

### Working Together Meetings



It has been wonderful this week to welcome families to the Working Together Meetings for FS/KS1 and LKS2. These events are crucial for us to be able to share our expectations across the school year for your child(ren). If you were unable to attend, we will be uploading the PowerPoints to our curriculum area of the school website following on from our UKS2 Working Together Meeting which will be taking place next Tuesday in the school hall.

### Secondary Applications

The closing date for secondary school 2024 applications is 31st October. Solihull residents should apply on the online portal at [www.solihull.gov.uk/pp](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/pp) Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers are made in March. Applying late will affect the offer you can expect to receive. For residents outside of the borough, please contact your home authority to submit an application.

### Nursery Admission 2023/24

If you are interested in places for 2023/24 for your child to begin with us in Nursery, please contact the school office.



### 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.

### Term Dates



Our Term dates can be found on our website following this link and scrolling to the end of the page: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/key-information/>

As well as our Term Dates for this academic year (2023-24), you will also find the Term Dates for the academic year (2024-25). We ask that holidays are booked during holiday periods and not during the school term.