



To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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@ourladycompass

School Newsletter – 1

Date: Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well would you believe it! The sun actually starts to make an appearance when schools return! Despite the weather over the summer holidays, we hope you have all enjoyed the break and that you are as excited as we are for the new year ahead. It has been wonderful welcoming back to school our children and all of the new children and families that have joined us here at OLC - the children have all settled in well in their new classrooms and routines and we are sure this year will be as exciting as all the others.

This Sunday, we celebrate 175 years of Education Sunday where we continue to pray for the education of all of our children. We ask you to keep all of the children at OLC in your prayers this weekend as they gain more experiences and opportunities throughout this academic year. Have a wonderful weekend.

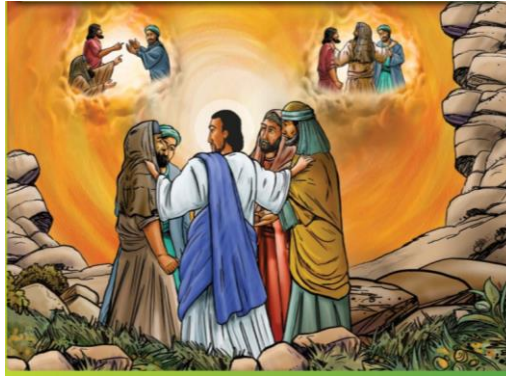
Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Weekly Learning Plans

Across this year, we will continue to upload our Weekly Learning Plans to our school website. These plans will give you an opportunity to support your child's learning at home. In the coming week, further information will be shared with all parents regarding our Reading and Homework expectations for this year. We are also looking forward to hosting our Phase 'Working Together Meetings' in school so that we can share the expectations for each of our phases across this school year.

We hope you will find these meetings informative and a further way of learning about your child's learning journey this year.

Wednesday Word



Jesus said to his disciples, "If your brother does something against you, point out his fault to him when the two of you are alone together. If he listens to you, then you have won your brother back. But if he does not listen to you, then you should take one or two others along with you, so that every word you say may be confirmed by them.

If he still refuses to listen, tell the whole church community; and if he even refuses to listen to the Church, treat him as an outcast. I tell you truly, if two of you on earth agree what to ask for, then my Father in heaven will grant it. **If two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.**"

Class Emails

Please note that all class emails will now be paused - please direct all queries to the school office email at office@olc.solihull.sch.uk
Thank you.

Thank you

Our Crossing Patrol Warden, Lucy, would like to thank you for all her wonderful gifts at the end of last term. She was certainly overwhelmed!

SUMMARY

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- Ukulele
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School Fund

We currently ask you all to pay School Fund in support of our school; we ask for £10 or £15 per family each term. Therefore, you can choose whether to contribute on a termly basis or pay for the full year. To pay for the full year on ParentPay would be £30 per child or £45 per family. We thank you in advance for these contributions which continue to help our school purchase and provide your children with resources that the school budget cannot unfortunately stretch to.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Sorrows



We are looking forward to celebrating our Feast day next week on Friday 15th September at 2.15pm by celebrating Mass in the School Hall. If any parents would like to join us for Mass, please let the office know so that we are aware of numbers attending as we have limited space in the school hall.

Swimming



Swimming lessons will begin for children in Class 6B on Tuesday 19th September; after Christmas, 5/6C will start their sessions and 5H will have their turn after Easter.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result, areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore we will continue to function as normal. Please be assured that the safety of all children and young people is paramount in our work.

Ukulele



We are pleased to announce that children in Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) will be starting Ukulele lessons on Tuesday. Class 4F will begin their lessons this term, followed by 3/4D after Christmas and 3KC after Easter.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it is being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which apps they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when appropriate, it's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally be them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert
A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is

NOS National Online Safety

Sports Clubs



We are looking forward to our Sports Clubs getting up and running again. If you would like to book onto any of these please follow this link to our website: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/school-clubs/>

Newsletter and School App

Throughout this academic year, the school newsletter will continue to be available on a fortnightly basis. We will also continue to share information through our school email and school app. If you have not yet downloaded the School App, please do so to stay updated with information we send out. Please follow this link to get set up: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/the-school-app/> The next newsletter will be issued on the 22nd September 2023. **Please note that recent issues with the app are have now been resolved.**



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.

PE Kit Days



Please see below a list of the days when your child is required to wear their PE kit [please notes the changes in days for 3KC and 4F]:

Monday: Classes FS1, 1R, 3KC, 3/4D, 5/6C

Tuesday: Classes FS2, 3KC, 4F, 5H, 6B (swimming)

Wednesday: Classes 1R, 1/2H, 2R, 3/4D, 4F, 5H, 6B

Thursday: Classes FS2, 1/2H, 2R, 5/6C, 6B

Friday: Classes FS1

Dates for 2023/24 Continued

- 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

Summer Changes

During the summer holidays, school has had lots of work done in readiness for its reopening. We are really pleased to share with you that our Computer Suite has also been revamped – we will share photos of this with you as soon as the final tweaks are completed.

We are so grateful to the FOLC for their donations of new benches for the playground.



And finally, due to the expansion of the OLAAS Central Team at Bethany House we have been fortunate enough to have new facilities in our Portacabin and Nursery for Footsteps, our Before and After School Club.

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.

Nut Aware School

As a Nut Aware School, we ask you all to ensure that you are checking your child's lunch boxes so that no nut products are sent into school. Thank you.

Dates for 2023/24

Further dates will be added throughout the term

- 8.9.23 – OLAAS MAC celebration Day
- 12.9.23 – Ukulele lessons begin for Class 4F
- 15.9.23 – Feast Day of Our Lady of Sorrows
- 19.9.23 – Swimming begins for Class 6B [please note change of date from the 12.9.23]
- 19.9.23 – FS Working Together Meeting – 4pm
- 19.9.23 – KS1 Working Together Meeting – 5.15pm
- 21.9.23 – LKS2 Working Together Meeting – 4pm
- 26.9.23 – UKS2 Working Together Meeting – 5.15pm [please note change of date from 12.9.23]
- 21.9.23 – National Fitness Day
- 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
- 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