



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 11

Date: Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
 As we journey together through the Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope, we remember the 3 challenges that His Grace presented to us: **Prayer; Social Action, and Fundraising.** In terms of prayer, we are your encouraging our children to develop a relationship with God by praying deeply and meaningfully for the hope we need to face the challenges in today's society. Regarding social action, we will be encouraging our children to spend time listening and supporting each other and their communities. In terms of fundraising, we will begin to raise funds during Lent for Father Hudson and Cafod. It really is a good time for us to reflect as we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us on this path of **Hope.**
 Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter (after a night of failed fishing) is finally successful and realises his true calling because he listens to and follows Jesus' instructions. It's important to make the right choice about who or what we follow in life. Simply following our desires and feelings, which often change, can leave us feeling unsatisfied. Jesus invites each and every one of us to make following him our most important priority. We follow Jesus whenever we are kind, try to make peace, and make others feel welcome. Choosing to follow him is not always easy but it really does guide and help our families to keep growing in wisdom and love.

SUMMARY

- Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope
- Water Bottles
- Wednesday Word
- INSET Day
- Random Act of Kindness Day
- Safer Internet Day
- Dates for 24/25
- We Love School Day
- Food Promotion Day
- Nursery Admissions 2025/26
- Online Safety
- Computer Suite
- Lenten Appeal
- Good Shepherd Appeal 2025
- After School Clubs
- OLC Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Attendance Matters
- FOLC 2025 Challenge
- Stay and Pray Lent
- World Book Day
- Well Done Louie
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Catering Reminder
- FunFest
- Family Hub Timetable

INSET Day

As a reminder, school is closed to all pupils on Monday 24th February as this is an INSET day – a day for staff training. We look forward to welcoming you all back after the half-term break on Tuesday 25th February 2025.

Water Bottles

We would like to remind parents that children are not to bring metal water bottles to school - this includes Stanley Cups/Tumblers. Please ensure that the children bring with them a reusable, leakproof, plastic water bottle that they can refill at school should they need to.

Boy's Football

After a hard fought victory against Meriden last week, our UKS2 boys fell to defeat against a strong George Fentham side on Tuesday afternoon. Although losses are hard to take at times, our team showed grace in defeat and we are sure that the resilience they have shown will take them through the rest of the league season. Good luck to the boys in the last 16 of the Borough Cup early next week against Marston Green!

Random Act of Kindness Day

On our return to school after half-term (25-02-25), we will be having our annual 'Random Acts of Kindness Day' at OLC, spreading kindness across the school. We look forward to seeing as many acts of kindness across the day as possible, such as caring for one another, helping a friend, using our manners and many other acts.



Dates for 2024/25

Further dates will be added throughout the term



11.2.25 – Safer Internet Day – theme
“Too good to be true?”
13.2.25 – Power Heroes – Food Promotion Day
14.2.25 – We Love School Day
14.2.25 – Last day of half-term
16.2.25 – Racial Justice Day
24.2.25 – School Closed – INSET Day
25.2.25 – School reopens after half-term
25.2.25 – Random Act of Kindness Day
27.2.25 – Young Voices Concert for School Choir
28.2.25 – St. David’s Day – children to wear a splash of yellow to school
1.3.25 – Secondary School Offer Day
1.3.25 – Women’s History Month
5.3.25 – Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent
6.3.25 – World Book Day
6.3.25 – World Book Day – Food Promotion Day
7.3.25 – World Women’s Day
8.3.25 – Sacrament of Reconciliation – Y3
12.3.25 – Parents’ Evening
13.3.25 – Parents’ Evening
13.3.25 – Lent Fast Day
14.3.25 – School Closed – INSET Day
17.3.25 – St. Patrick’s Day
20.3.25 – International Day of Happiness
28.3.25 – FS1 Mother’s Day Assembly 9.30am
28.3.25 – FS2 Mother’s Day Assembly 2.30pm
30.3.25 – Mothering Sunday
10.4.25 – FS1 and FS2 Easter Bonnet Parade – 9.30am
10.4.25 – KS1 (Y1 and Y2) Easter Bonnet Parade – 10.30am
10.4.25 – Food Promotions Day – Delicious Deserts
11.4.25 – LKS2 (Y3 and Y4) to lead
Stations of the Cross – 9.30am
11.4.25 – Last day of term

We Love School Day



On Friday 14th February we will be celebrating our annual ‘We Love School Day’ where children can wear non-uniform for the day and come in either red or pink colours for the day. We will also be asking for a small contribution of £2 (paid on ParentPay) for the day. The children will then discuss with the School Council what resources they would like these donations spent on in school.

Nursery Admission 2025/26

If you are interested in places for 2025/26 for your child to begin with us in Nursery, please contact the school office.

~ Food Promotion Day ~

We have a promotion taking place next week – if your child would like a school dinner on the 12th February, please book on Blue Runner. As part of our Pilgrim journey to Rome on Wednesday children will have the opportunity to explore Italian cuisine.



All children who are Free School Meals or Universal Free School Meals (FS2, Year 1 and Year 2) will already have these as the option for the day. However, we ask you book their choices by Sunday 9th February.

Safer Internet Day 2025 - Keeping children safe online

Please see information below from Solihull Local Authority

With children spending more time than ever online, connecting with friends, gaming and learning, it is vital to remember that the online world comes with risks. This Safer Internet Day (Tuesday 11th February), we are encouraging everyone to take a proactive role in children’s online safety. Did you know recent research suggests:

- Bullying is more likely to occur online than in person
- Children are being exposed to explicit and violent content online younger
- Children can be encouraged to engage in illegal activity through social media

Talking to children about online safety can protect them from harm, cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Building trust is important, letting children know they can come to you if something happens online. Start the conversation early. Ask open questions like ‘What apps are your friends using?’ or ‘Have you seen anything online that made you uncomfortable?’ Set boundaries together. Discuss screen time limits, online behaviour, and privacy settings. To stay informed with the latest guidance please see below some useful resources:

Safer Internet Day 2025 - UK Safer Internet Centre
Keeping children safe online | NSPCC
Safeguarding Children - Get Safe Online
Parental guides to online safety - The National College
Tips & videos for parents - Parentsafe

This Safer Internet Day, let us create a safer, kinder online world for our children, together.

Computer Suite



Thank you to the FOLC for helping to make our computer suite a reality! Through all the support with fundraising and organising events we now have a computer suite where every child has access to a computer to use rather than having to share computers. We are even more pleased at the quick turnaround as the challenge was set for the FOLC to complete the project within 2 years - they actually achieved this in 9 months! An extra thank you to Mr Mableson, who has been instrumental in ensuring this project was so successful. It has been great seeing the children enjoying their new learning environment.

Well done Louie



It was wonderful to hear about Louie being offered his pre-football academy contract for West Bromwich Albion. Well done Louie we are so proud of you. We look forward to hearing all about how your journey with WBA continues.

Lenten Appeal



At OLC, we will be challenging our children to take on the Big Lent Walk by walking 200km over Lent. Each class will be aiming to walk 200km over the 40 days, at school. The aim is to raise as much money as possible to help people fighting extreme poverty globally. To help support your child with this event during Lent your child will receive a sponsorship form to help raise as much money as possible. If you would like to find out more about this amazing cause please follow this link: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Good Shepherd Appeal 2025



Father Hudson's Care will be launching the 2025 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 11th April.

OLC Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

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 01217884300 (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.

After School Clubs

We have a variety of after school activities that take place such as Cookery, Lego, Art, Multi-Sports, Dance and Theatre. If you are interested in your child taking part in these clubs please contact Mrs Ahmed in the school office for further details or by following this link to our website: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Clubs&pid=26>

Attendance Matters

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY



Did You Know... ?

If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

FOLC The 2025 Challenge

The FOLC launched this voluntary challenge during the month of January. Thank you so much for everyone who took part. Please pass on your donations to the FOLC reps or to the school office.



The 2025 CHALLENGE

To Celebrate the beginning of 2025, we are challenging you to get active over the month of January & raise funds for your school. Select a challenge and get your family and friends to sponsor you.

Your goal is to raise £20.25.

Let's get Active!



Why not create your own challenges?

Name:

Class:

Amount Raised: £.....

*Please return cash donations in an envelope by 1st February 2025



Scan the QR Code to donate online

Children's Mental Health



Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2025 has joined together with Here4You to explore the importance of self-awareness and expressing emotions. Here4You is supported by The Walt Disney Company, and through the characters of Pixar's **Inside Out** and **Inside Out 2**, the resources encourage children and young people across the UK to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop. In 2015, Pixar's Inside Out captivated audiences worldwide by creatively depicting the inner workings of 11-year-old Riley's mind. The main characters were her emotions - Joy, Anger, Envy, Sadness, Disgust and Fear. Inside Out 2, set two years later, continues Riley's story as she enters puberty, taking steps to add more emotional complexity, introducing us to Embarrassment, Ennui and most importantly Anxiety.

This film has been critically acclaimed for its innovative portrayal of emotions and mental health. If you have not seen these films, we would highly recommend watching them! They are completely relatable, regardless of age and a brilliant platform from which to launch family conversations around mental health, socially, physically and emotionally - can be really tough at times.

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 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 18th March at 2.30pm

KS1 (Years 1 and 2): Wednesday 19th March at 2.30pm

LKS2 (Years 3 and 4): Thursday 20th March at 2.30pm

UKS2 (Years 5 and 6): Friday 21st March at 2.30pm

World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. This year, we would like the children to come to school in their pyjamas/dressing gowns. Across the day, the children will engage in bedtime stories read by OLC staff - children from the older classes will also have an opportunity of reading stories to, and engaging in reading activities with, children in the younger classes. We look forward to a lovely day which aims at supporting the children to engage in reading for pleasure.

Catering Reminder



BLUERUNNER SOLUTIONS

Thank you to all parents who have now registered on BlueRunner and are now booking meals for their children. Although children can currently still order their meal in class if this has not been pre-booked, it is important that you please register using the link below to get started if you have not already done so:

<https://olaas.myschoolmealorders.com/login>

Please keep topping your accounts – we encourage all to book your child's lunches on BlueRunner by Sunday for the week ahead.

Family Hub Timetables

Please see the updated family hub timetables and activities below that may be of interest:

- [Elmwood family hub timetable - January 2025](#)
- [Hatchford Brook family hub - January 2025](#)
- [Riverside family hub timetable - February 2025](#)
- [Shirley Heath outreach hub - stay and play information](#)
- [Shirley Heath outreach hub timetable](#)

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact:

Louise Hudson louise.hudson@solihull.gov.uk.

Fun Fest



The February half-term timetable is now live on the Fun Fest website: <https://fun-fest.co.uk/oltonview/> and bookings are now being taken for the holiday club during February half-term. If, however, parents from OLC are unable to book due to spaces being full, please contact FunFest via the following email address:

solihulloffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk