



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 12

Date: Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
Welcome back to our new half-term; we hope that you had a fun-filled half-term and that you are all looking forward to this new term ahead as we journey closer to the season of Lent. Looking back at our previous half-term we were blessed with so many cherished events, such as the beginning of the Year of Hope and in particular our Pilgrimage to Rome day. The children fully immersed themselves in the events of the day and certainly embraced the message of Hope.



We were also privileged to be joined by Bishop David who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Year 6 children. We will continue to pray and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide our children as they continue to grow in their faith; thank you to all who contributed to making this such a wonderful evening of celebration for all our children.



Have a wonderful weekend.
Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is using parables – short stories – to teach us important lessons. Just as good fruit is a sign of a good tree, so our words and actions show what is truly inside our heart.

“Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.” St Anthony of Padua

This Gospel also reminds us not to criticise others' actions but rather to look at our own actions and try to grow in goodness. Decide on some kind of action that you could take to show your love for God and others. Perhaps you can: visit a person who may need your help; try to be humble and truthful about any of your own faults; say sorry to one another for anything you have done wrong; help around the home more; offer to help out with a voluntary project; resist being quick to criticise; always try to look for the good in others; remember to be understanding, compassionate, caring and speak kindly of others.

Random Act of Kindness Day



On Tuesday we enjoyed our annual 'Random Acts of Kindness Day' at OLC. This was a day that reminded us all to spread kindness and love across the school. It was wonderful to see the continued use of exemplary manners being shared and greetings, smiles and friendliness that we experience daily at OLC. However, it has been great to see these continue following on from this day as we have progressed through the week.

SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- Random Act of Kindness Day
- Dates for 24/25
- We Love School Day
- Food Promotion Day
- Nursery Admissions 2025/26
- Online Safety
- Blue Sky
- Lenten Appeal
- Energy Drinks
- Women's History Month
- Stay and Pray Lent
- World Book Day
- Football results
- FOLC 2025 Challenge
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- Catering Reminder

Message of Hope



As we continue to journey through as pilgrims through the Year of Hope we have created our Message of Hope which we would like to share with our community: **As pilgrims of hope, we commit to sharing kindness in prayer and strive to make lives brighter.**

Dates for 2024/25
Further dates will be added
throughout the term



- 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

BlueSky



We have recently changed our Social Media channel to the new platform: Bluesky. Please do follow us on this platform to see events and activities that take place in school. Our Bluesky feed is @olcolton.bsky.social. We have already been uploading many of the wonderful events that take place at OLC.

We Love School Day



On Friday 14th February we celebrated our annual ‘We Love School Day’ where children brightened up the school by wearing either red or pink colours for the day. The children created poems/artwork and participated in more activities to demonstrate their love for OLC. If you have not had chance to make a small contribution of £2 (paid on ParentPay) for the day, you still can do so. The children will then discuss with the School Council what 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 ~

If your child would like a school dinner on the 6th March, please book this on Blue Runner. As part of our World Book Day celebrations children will be able to sample the menu below:



All children who are Free School Meals or on 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 2nd March.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

ESRB RATING: PEGI 12
 ESRB includes nobody under the age of 13 should play.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

IN-GAME CHAT
 Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant; text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown in the side of the screen. Moderation on chat is relatively low, so it's important to recognise that inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
 While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling cosmetic skins from comic book movies and comic-book titles. Such stores also include a 250 Battle Pass (though like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of rewards cosmetic items. These items are 'ephemeral' - but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
 With such a huge player base, it's impossible to prevent where your child will be teamed up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice or text chat. For starters, most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players - either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

ADVISE FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS
 The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral messages of the roster of characters (some can play on their, the goddess of death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, isn't overwhelming them.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF
 The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the game is about. Show it to them, consider playing Marvel Rivals together to gauge how you feel about it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in practice mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT
 Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about your child's exposure to strangers, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play console titles, safety settings might also use their console's party chat feature or host it on a third-party service like Discord.

DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS
 Parents should ensure that no payment options - such as debit cards - are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs, including payment methods involving in-game spending and limits in case of financial overruns, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert
 Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming world for over 15 years. A regular contributor to the Daily Star, he has also written for a number of other gaming websites. He has published on a wide range of topics, including PC, Tech and plenty more.

Wake Up Wednesday
 The National College

Twitter: @wake_up_weds | Facebook: www.thenationalcollege | Instagram: @wake_up_wednesday | TikTok: @wake_up_weds

Lenten Appeal



OLC will be challenging the 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/>

FOLC 2025 Challenge



Thank you to all who organised and participated in the FOLC 2025 challenge. The interest in the event was magnificent and it not only raised a good amount of funds for the FOLC, it also helped us to have that feel good feeling after Christmas where we may find the January period a little trickier with the darker mornings and nights. We now look forward to the fun Easter events that will begin soon from the FOLC.

Mother's Day



We look forward to welcoming parents of children in FS1 and FS2 to the Mother's Day assembly. These will take place in the school hall on Friday 28th March at 9.30am for FS1 (Nursery) and 2.30pm for FS2 (Reception).

Parents' Evenings

We look forward to our Parents' Evening Meetings, taking place on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th March, where you will have the opportunity to hear about your child's academic progress.

This week, you should have received a notification on email, asking you to create a password for your parent's account:

this has been set up to enable you to be able to book your Parents' Evening Meetings in the coming week - you will then be able to access your account. Please contact the school office if you have any difficulty with this.



Catering Reminder



BLUERUNNER SOLUTIONS

Thank you to all parents who have now registered on BlueRunner and are booking meals for their children. Where parents have not pre-booked their child's lunch, we continue to order lunch in class. If you have not yet done so, please register using the link below to get started:

<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.

Energy Drinks

As a reminder, no energy drinks (such as Prime) should be sent into school with your child. Children are only allowed to bring to school water or squash.

Women's History Month



During the month of March, we will be celebrating Women's History Month. The 8th March is World Women's Day. To celebrate this day and month we will be sharing the activities that children will be completing in school. Children will have the opportunity to learn and explore how women have influenced and shaped the world. We cannot wait to share the children's amazing work with you all.

Good Shepherd Appeal 2025



Following on from our previous newsletter, the focus for the Good Shepherd Appeal has slightly altered and instead of sending in envelopes filled with spare change, this year we will join with the Diocesan £1 pledge to support Father Hudson's Caritas. In doing so, we will have a non-uniform day in exchange for a £1 donation during Lent on Friday 4th April.

INSET Day – School Closed

A reminder that on Friday 14th March school will be closed to all pupils as this is an INSET day for staff.

Boys' Football



Congratulations to the boys' football team who this week made OLC proud by coming from 2-0 down to win 4-3 against Marston Green Primary school in the Borough Cup last 16. The team showed resilience to come from behind and bring home the win. The team will now face Knowle Primary School in the quarter finals in April. Well done OLC!

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.

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 parents to join their 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