



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

Kineton Green Road

Solihull

B92 7EG

Tel: 0121 706 9508

Email: office@olc.solihull.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/>

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 13

Date: Friday 14th March 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
Over the last weeks in school we began our journey of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service celebrated by Father Austin who reminded us to pray, fast and give to those who are in need. We were privileged to welcome into school Father Hudson's Caritas to tell us all about their great work and to hear about how our fundraising donations are used to help other. We also enjoyed World Book Day at OLC where children experienced the love of reading through bedtime stories whilst dressed in their pyjamas and listening to the older children read to them.

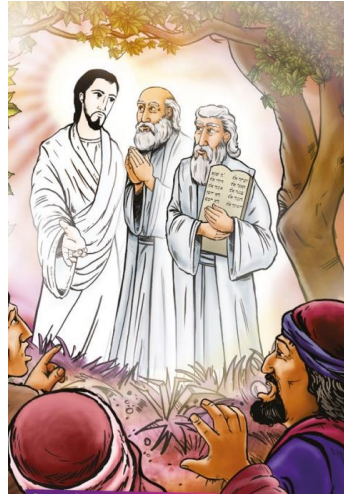


It was also fabulous to once again hear about the football team triumphing again as they beat St Patrick's School and St Margaret's School to continue their winning streak. I guess we may all need to have a lie down and recuperate after all this excitement, and get ready for more exciting weeks ahead.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



There are times when we all need encouraging; that is, to be inspired with courage and to have our hope renewed, especially when we are going through difficult times. The snapshot of Jesus' glory in this Sunday's Gospel was an encouragement to the three disciples. For the first time they received a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus. But soon they would go through difficult times and see Jesus crucified. So beforehand, God tells them to listen to Jesus and allows them to see Jesus for who he really is. Following Jesus isn't easy: it never was. But if, like the disciples, we too listen to Jesus, we will experience the encouragement that God offers freely to each one of us – today.

Parents' Evening

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Spring Term Parents' Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday this week, and to all the FOLC helping hands for providing refreshments and facilitating the Book Fair. If you were not able to attend your meeting on one of these days, we ask that you contact the school office to arrange a suitable time to meet with the class teacher so that you can hear about how your child is progressing academically and next steps to support your child going forward.

SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- Women's History Month
- End of Term Finish Time
- Let us Journey Together in Hope
- Dates for 24/25
- St. Patrick's Day
- Nursery Admissions 2025/26
- Online Safety
- Blue Sky
- Lenten Appeal
- Stay and Pray Lent
- Football results
- Parents' Evenings
- Summer Fayre

End of Terms Finish Time

We would like to notify all parents that following governor approval, on the last day of each term (Christmas / Easter / Summer) school will close at 2pm. The first date of the 2pm finish time will be on the last day of this term - Friday 11th April. This also includes our Footsteps provision which will not operate on Friday 11th April afternoon; all children will need to be collected at 2pm.

Let us journey together in hope



As we pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis as he recovers in hospital we would like to share the message below of his Holiness for Lent with you all:

Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent in faith and hope with the penitential rite of the imposition of ashes. The Church, our mother and teacher, invites us to open our hearts to God's grace, so that we can celebrate with great joy the paschal victory of Christ the Lord over sin and death, which led Saint Paul to exclaim: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:54-55). Indeed, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the heart of our faith and the pledge of our hope in the Father's great promise, already fulfilled in his beloved Son: life eternal (cf. *Jn* 10:28; 17:3). This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to *journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community. First of all, to *journey*. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father. This would be a good "examination of conscience" for all of us wayfarers. Second, to *journey together*. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters. Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (cf. *Gal* 3:26-28). It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience. This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance. This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality. Third, let us *journey together in hope*, for we have been given a promise. May *the hope that does not disappoint* (cf. *Rom* 5:5), the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. As [Pope Benedict XVI](#) taught us in the Encyclical, "the human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: 'neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord' (*Rom* 8:38-39)". Christ, my hope, has risen! He lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ! This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded? Sisters and brothers, thanks to God's love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (cf. *Rom* 5:5). Hope is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul". It moves the Church to pray for "everyone to be saved" (*1 Tim* 2:4) and to look forward to her being united with Christ, her bridegroom, in the glory of heaven. This was the prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila: "Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one" (*The Exclamations of the Soul to God*, 15:3). May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey.

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

- 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
- 4.4.25 – Non-Uniform Day - £1 pledge
- 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

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

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.

St Patrick's Day



For St Patrick's Day, on Monday 17th March, children will be able to come to school in non-uniform and wear the colour green.

Summer Fayre

Please save the date for the annual Summer Fayre that takes place at the Olton Friary where both the parish and FOLC come together. This will take place on Saturday 21st June between 12pm and 3pm.

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.

Women's History Month



Over the last few weeks and as part of Women's History Week children in FS and KS1 have been learning about sports women who have inspired us all. In FS1, they been learning all about Alex Scott and her impact on the women's game of football whilst KS1 learnt about the athlete Keeley Hodgkinson and the success she has recently achieved. We look forward to sharing some of the works from children in LKS2 and UKS2 on the next newsletter.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the UK's children had played it. At its heart, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

ONLINE PLAY RISKS
 Because Roblox connects random players across the world it can put younger players into an environment with strangers where they could use the platform for malicious reasons. For example, some in-game games are used for an in-game chat function and some social media-esque messaging to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS
 The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls in place, users can be exposed to such after the play period. Messages of threat, requests and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

MATURE CONTENT
 Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly true for mature games, and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences available on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

RISK OF ADDICTION
 Roblox games can feature rewarding or addictive gameplay loops that keep players coming back for more. This can lead to excessive playtime on Roblox, which can impact on schoolwork and other activities.

SCAMS
 Many of the games on Roblox feature in-game items, such as avatars, hats, clothes, and digital art worth a lot of real money all contained on the market. Scammers will attempt to trick younger users in the hopes of getting more items and then using the real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via in-game transactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT
 While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and educators to monitor the types of games a child is experiencing. Parents can use parental controls to filter out games that are not suitable for their child's age and which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

PLAY TOGETHER
 Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game is fun, and to establish boundaries or even ban the child from playing. Parents can also monitor their child's playtime and encourage them to play responsibly.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS
 Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report issues and block users. Encourage the parent/educator to report any inappropriate content. You can set age ratings for which children are allowed to play. Roblox's parental controls can also help you monitor your child's profile completely privately. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS
 Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. It's being honest and giving time to see a younger user's profile. However, you can encourage them to not only take care of themselves, but also others. And that can be important to build confidence in other players. Behaving responsibly, with this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert
 Ben Upcombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about the latest in gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at @benupcombe.

Wake Up Wednesday | The National College

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.01.2023

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/>