



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 15

Date: Friday 11th April 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
As we begin our time of Holy Week on Sunday we are reminded throughout the week of the challenges that Jesus faced. These challenges are also a reminder of our own challenges that we experience throughout our lives and how we can overcome them with the strength of our Lord, Jesus. During our final few weeks of this term, our children have been exemplary models by also overcoming challenges they have faced and sharing how we can work together as a school community. I was particularly blow away by the Chaplaincy Team and their Lenten service the other week as they showed such courage, faith and leadership through their prayerful service – a true example for others to follow.



Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



“To experience Holy Week is to enter more and more into God’s love and self-giving.” Pope Francis

This coming Sunday is known as Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It is the start of Holy Week. This is the week when the Church especially remembers Jesus’ final days in Jerusalem. Palms will be handed out in Church in remembrance of the welcome and great praise that the people gave to Jesus when he entered the City.

“The Church is born from Jesus’ supreme act of love on the Cross.” Pope Francis

Holy Week is a very special time: it includes Palm Sunday, the celebration of the Last Supper, the washing of feet, the agony in the garden, Jesus’ arrest, crucifixion and his resurrection. Everybody is invited to come and join with the Church this Sunday. As a family, share ideas about what else you could do, or join in with, to celebrate the start of Holy Week and make it special. For ideas, please see: catholicchurch.org.uk

SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal
- Nursery Admissions 2025/26
- FS2 2025/26
- Summer Lunch Menu
- Dates for 24/25
- £1 Pledge
- St George’s Day
- Safe Parking
- Summer Term Uniform
- Online Safety
- Blue Sky
- One Life Y3 Retreat
- OLAAS Newsletter
- St Peter’s 50th Anniversary Mass
- Football Result
- Umberslade Adventure
- Stations of the Cross

Summer Lunch Menu

Please follow this link to see the updated lunch menu for the Summer Term:

<https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=Catering+at+OLC&pid=62>

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD’s Myanmar Earthquake Appeal has been set up to provide water, food, solar lights, mosquito nets and water purification tablets to those devastated by this disaster. If you wish to support this appeal and help the Catholic Church in Myanmar bring comfort and relief to families who are in urgent need please donate at: [DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal](#) or via the Archdiocesan website: [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham](#)

FS2 2025/26

Over the Easter holidays, parents who have applied for a place in FS2 (Reception) from September 2025 will receive their offer from the local authority; this will be sent out on 16th April by email and may arrive the evening before.

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.

Dates for 2024/25

Further dates will be added throughout the term

28.4.25 – School reopens for Summer Term
29.4.25 – Y3 Retreat in school for pupils
5.5.25 – May Bank Holiday – School Closed
8.5.25 – VE Day – 80th Anniversary
10.5.25 – Y3 First Holy Communion – Group 1 – 11am
11.5.25 – World Day of Vocations
12.5.25 – Y6 SATs test to begin
15.5.25 – Food Promotion – Out of this World
16.5.25 – Non-uniform Day in exchange for bottle donation for Summer Fayre
16.5.25 – May Procession
17.5.25 – Y3 First Holy Communion – Group 2 – 11am
18.5.25 – Going Forth Mass for Y3 @ Olton Friary – 9am
19.5.25 – Y5 to begin Bikeability
23.5.25 – Sweets and Chocolate donation for Summer Fayre
23.5.25 – School finishes at normal time for May Half-term
24.5.25 – 10th Year Anniversary of Laudato Si
2.6.25 – School reopens after Half-Term break
8.6.25 – Pentecost
9.6.25 – Feed a family of 4 (LKS2) 2.30pm
11.6.25 – Class Photographs
19.6.25 – Food Promotion – into the Deep Blue
20.6.25 – MAC Sports Day for Year 6 @ Tudor Grange
21.6.25 – Summer Fayre @ Olton Friary – 12pm – 3pm
26.6.25 – UKS2 Sports Day – 9.15am
26.6.25 – FS Sports Day – 10.30am
26.6.25 – LKS2 Sports Day – 1.15pm
26.6.25 – KS1 Sports Day – 2.15pm
27.6.25 – Whole School Mass @ Olton Friary – Sacred Heart
1.7.25 – Provisional Sports Day if required due to weather
2.7.25 – Year 6 Residential to Alton Castle
9.7.25 – Year 6 Production – 10am
17.7.25 – Year 6 Leaver's Awards – 10am
17.7.25 – Food Promotion Day – The Big Picnic
18.7.24 – Year 6 Leaver's Mass at Friary – 10.15am
18.7.24 – Year 6 Leaver's Celebrations – 12.45pm
18.7.25 – School finishes at 2pm for Summer Holidays

£1 pledge



Thank you to all who contributed to the £1 pledge non-uniform day that took place last Friday. We raised a whopping £187. This money will now be sent to Father Hudson's Charity and will continue to support all their great work. If you have not had chance to contribute yet, the ParentPay item will stay open until Monday 28th April.

St. George's Day



On the 28th April, we will be celebrating St. George's Day at OLC. In doing so, we ask children to wear their school uniform for the day with a splash of red. This can be as simple as a pair of red socks, a red tie, red hair band and so on. We look forward to celebrating the day of one of our patron Saints.

St. Peter's 50th Anniversary Mass

In thanksgiving for 50 years of St Peter's Catholic School



**Holy Mass celebrated by His Lordship Bishop David Evans
Monday 30th June at 6pm
Followed by refreshments**



All are welcome
6pm, St Peter's Hall
Let us know you are coming

St Peter's 50 Years Celebration Mass



[Click here](#) or call our office

Safe Parking



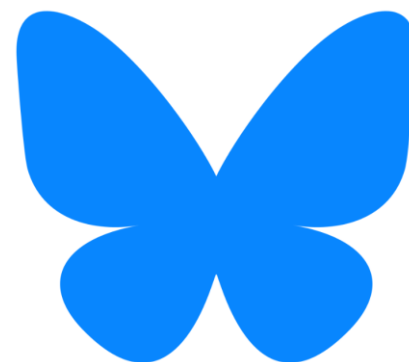
Outside our school, you will have all noticed our parking signs that are located at different spots to remind us all of where not to park. Please do not pull up by these signs and leave these areas car free. Thank you for supporting us with keeping our children safe.

Summer Term Uniform



As we begin the Summer Term after Easter we will now change to our Summer Uniform. This will be in place up until the October half-term in the next academic year. Children can also wear caps, and suncream should be applied before your child comes to school. To view our school uniform policy please follow this link: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

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.

One Life Music Retreat for Year 3

As part of Year 3's preparation for their First Holy Communion, the children will be joined by Dan and Emily from One Life Music on the 29th April. This will take place at OLC and will be a retreat where children will further develop and understand the next part of their Sacramental journey. We are sure that this will be a wonderful day for the children and staff.

OLAAS Newsletter



OLAAS termly newsletter is now available. To access the newsletter please follow the link of the e-flipbook to find out about all that is happening across our academy of schools: https://heyzine.com/flipbook/OLAAS_NewsletterSpring2025

Football Result



Well done to the boys on a fantastic football season. Although it was not meant to be this year, they can hold their heads high after finishing third in the borough after a tough 3-2 defeat to St Augustine's. The team has a lot to be proud of and will continue showing the best of OLC! Well done. Team OLC!

Suncream/Hats



As we look forward to the summer months ahead, we ask that suncream is applied to your child(ren) before they arrive at school. Please also ensure they are sent in with a sun hat and a plastic water bottle.

Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

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

SEARCH ENGINES

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS**: Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.
- MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION**: Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.
- ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE**: Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.
- ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE**: Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE**: Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.
- UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES**: Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS**: While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.
- IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS**: One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.
- QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT**: While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.
- PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY**: Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Umberslade Adventure

LKS2 were blessed with beautiful weather on their visit to Umberslade Adventure this week. The children had such a wonderful time!



Stations of the Cross

During our final few weeks of this term, each class has journeyed together across the school grounds following the new Stations of the Cross signs that we had installed. The children showed such reverence as they spent time with Jesus during his final days on earth.

