



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 4

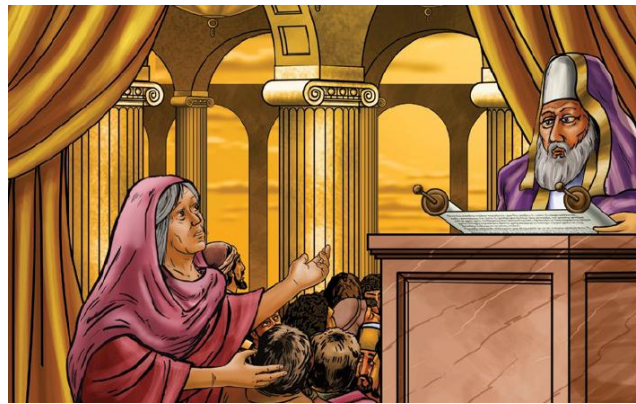
Date: Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we reach the end of this first half-term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many things we have achieved together as a school community. From the energy of new learning to the kindness shown in everyday moments, it has been a term filled with growth, connection, and care. One of the highlights has been the launch of our Buddies service, where our Year 6 pupils have stepped into mentoring roles to support our FS2 children. It has been heartening to see friendships blossom and confidence grow, as our Buddies offer a listening ear, a helping hand, and a reminder that we all belong. This week also saw the beautiful Flower Festival at the Olton Friary, a celebration of creativity, remembrance, and community spirit. If you have not had chance to visit the displays around the church – we highly recommend you do. The event was then followed by the marking of the anniversary of our beloved office manager, Mrs Donnelly, whose warmth and dedication touched so many lives. As we head towards the half-term break (which for the children begins on Friday 24th October, as the school is closed for an INSET day for teacher training), I want to thank all our families, staff, and pupils for your continued support and enthusiasm - we look forward to returning to school on Monday 3rd November for our next term, an exciting lead up to Christmas. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us that God is not like the unjust judge who is irritated by the woman pestering him. No matter how much we pray to God, he does not think we are pestering him - he is our loving Father. There are many kinds of prayer. This Gospel reminds us about the value of 'Asking Prayer' and not giving up in our prayer requests. Ask your child what the word 'prayer' means to them. Prayer, at its simplest, is spending time with God – talking, listening, being together – telling God all about our lives. We can trust that God always hears our prayers and will always do what is best for us and those we pray for. We can pray anywhere, anytime.

Winter Uniform



After the October half-term break, we now ask that children wear their winter uniform. The school uniform policy can be found by following this link: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

SUMMARY

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- Winter Uniform
- Nursery Admissions 2025/26
- Dates for 25/26
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- Black History Month
- Drop off Reminder
- South Solihull Sports Expectations
- Cost of Living
- Online Safety
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- FunFest Bookings
- School News and School App
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Nursery Admission 2025/26



If you are interested in places in our Nursery for this school year for your child to begin with us, please contact the school office.

Dates for 2025/26

Further dates will be added throughout the term



- 20.10.25 – Diwali
- 23.10.25 – Last day of half-term for pupils
- 24.10.25 – School Closed to pupils for INSET Day
- 31.10.25 – Closing date for Secondary Applications
- 1.11.25 – All Saints' Day – Holy Day of Obligation
- 3.11.25 – School reopens for Autumn Term 2
- 4.11.25 – FS1/FS2 Open Day – 5pm
- 10.11.25 – World Science Day
- 10.11.25 – Anti-bullying Week
- 11.11.25 – Remembrance Day
- 12.11.25 – Parents' Evening
- 13.11.25 – Parents' Evening
- 14.11.25 – Children in Need
- 17.11.25 – Road Safety Week
- 17.11.25 – Flu Immunisations (FS2 to Y6)
- 19.11.25 – Drop Everything and Read Day
- 20.11.25 – World Children's Day
- 20.11.25 – OLAAS MAC celebration Day
- 20.11.25 – One Life Retreat Day – Y6
- 21.11.25 – End of Jubilee Year
- 23.11.25 – Christ the King – Youth Mass
- 30.11.25 – St. Andrew's Day
- 30.11.25 – Advent begins
- 3.12.25 – FS2 Nativity – 9.20am
- 6.12.25 – Christmas Fayre at OLC
- 9.12.25 – Last Swimming Session for Class 6D
- 10.12.25 – FS1 Nativity – 9.20am
- 11.12.25 – Y4/Y5/Y6 Reconciliation
- 12.12.25 – Christmas Jumper Day
- 12.12.25 – FS1 Application Deadline for 26/27
- 12.12.25 – KS1 Carols – 9.30am
- 12.12.25 – LKS2 Carols – 10.30am
- 12.12.25 – UKS2 Carols – 2.30pm
- 16.12.25 – Stay and Pray Whole School – 2.30pm
- 17.12.25 – Christmas Dinner Day
- 18.12.25 – Party Day
- 18.12.25 – Whole School Theatre performance at School for children
- 19.12.25 – Toy Day
- 19.12.25 – Last Day of Term before Christmas Holidays – School finishes at 2pm

Food Promotion Day

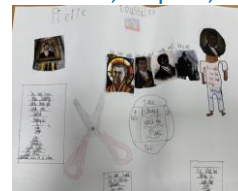
If your child would like a school dinner on the 5th November please book on ParentPay. As part of the Promotion Day children will be able to sample the menu below:



All children who are on 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 to book their choices by Sunday 2nd November.

Black History Month

Throughout October, pupils across the school have been deeply engaged in learning about and celebrating Black History Month. Across the year groups, children explored the lives and legacies of inspirational Black figures, both past and present, whose contributions have shaped history and continue to influence our world today. The work across LKS2 and UKS2 this week has been both inspiring and thought-provoking, and we are proud of the maturity, empathy, and creativity our pupils have shown. Their contributions serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of inclusion, respect, and learning from history.



Drop off Reminder

A gentle reminder to all families to ensure children are dropped off safely and on time each morning. The school gates open at **8:45am** for children in **FS1/FS2/UKS2** and their siblings only; children in **KS1 and LKS2** are dropped off at **8.55am** and we ask that pupils arrive promptly to help them settle and start their day calmly. During the morning drop off, children in FS/KS1 should use the pathway and children in LKS2/UKS2 should use the driveway - siblings have the option to use the same entrance. Please avoid parking directly outside the school entrance to keep the area safe and accessible for all. Thank you for your continued support in making our mornings smooth and secure for everyone.

Cost of Living



Lk 16:19-31 Jesus said to the Pharisees:

"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table..." In this bible reading we are asked to think about the inequalities of life. Some families are struggling with the cost of living increases - it is now more than ever that we should look in our cupboards to see what we can spare. If you are struggling at this moment and you would like a food parcel or support with uniform, or you know someone who would appreciate a food parcel or support with uniform, please speak in confidence to Mr Emery or Mrs Vella.

South Solihull Sports Expectations

At the bottom of this newsletter, you will find a poster outlining the Solihull Sports Expectations – a helpful guide for pupils, staff, and families to understand the values we promote through sport. These expectations encourage respect, teamwork, resilience, and fair play, both on and off the field. Please take a moment to read through the poster and discuss it with your child. Together, we can continue to build a positive sporting culture across our school community.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as friends with text or short videos. Recent sightings in ten teenagers show memes (79% 'Yikes'), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While memes help to disseminate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include harmful messages, such as racism, sexism, or violence, especially around health, politics, or current events. Young people may not question their accuracy.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

When someone shares the contents, videos, or images from the internet, children and young people may become less critical in their thinking. They may believe what they see, even if it's not true. A meme that says 'light-bulb idea' can carry a message that is not true. This can lead to a young person believing something that is not true.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

Repeated exposure through memes can make someone feel less sensitive to the impact of 'over time'. This can lead to a young person becoming less sensitive to the impact of harassment and abuse, or someone who is being bullied.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

While memes are often shared on social media, they can be saved or shared elsewhere. Once shared, they may be copied, saved, or reposted without the person's consent. This means that even if a young person deletes a meme, it may still be available elsewhere. This can lead to a young person's digital footprint being larger than they think it is.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are often created and not always age appropriate. Young people may be exposed to content that is not suitable for them. This can include content that is violent, sexual, or otherwise inappropriate. This can lead to a young person being exposed to content that is not suitable for them.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or to spread misinformation. They may be designed to look like a meme, but they are not. This can lead to a young person being misled or deceived. This can lead to a young person being misled or deceived.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world. Discuss what they are doing online, what they are seeing, and what they are doing. This can help you to understand their online world. This can help you to understand their online world.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people to be able to question what information they see online. Encourage them to be able to question what information they see online. Encourage them to be able to question what information they see online.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviors, such as taking breaks, setting time limits, and not using devices before bed. This can help them to understand what healthy boundaries are. This can help them to understand what healthy boundaries are.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come from a place of hate or discrimination. Encourage them to be able to question what information they see online. Encourage them to be able to question what information they see online.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Christine Mesner-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queens University of Belfast. She has published in various journals, and her work focuses on how digital spaces shape identity and experience.

The National College

ParentPay

As we come to end of a half-term we ask that any arrears on your ParentPay account are addressed so that your accounts do not fall into deficit. However, if for some a reason you are unable to settle your deficit, please do inform us so that we can support you.



We are looking forward to our Open Day in November where we will have the opportunity to meet prospective parents who are looking for a school place for their child for September 2026. We will be holding the Open Day on 4th November at 5pm - this will be held in the school hall.

Parents' Evening

We look forward to our Parents' Evenings taking place after the half-term, where you will have the opportunity to hear about your child's progress. Bookings will go live on Thursday 23rd October at 6pm. You should have received an email this week as you will need to register and activate your parents booking account before you are able to book your slot.

Olton Friary Link



To hear all about the wonderful events that take place at the Olton Friary, please follow this link below that will lead you to their notice page on their website: <https://www.oltonfriary.org.uk/weekly-notices/>

School News + School App

We are excited to announce the launch of our new school App: Juniper Education. We ask that you follow the instructions sent by email to download the App so that we have a further method of communicating with you. In addition to this app, there is also an App, called School News that you can download which is a mini-version of the school website and has links to different areas of the website that parents would need - please do download the School News app and search for our school.

Youth Group at Olton Friary



Our children are blessed with the opportunity of attending a Youth Group at the Friary which takes place every Friday evening from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. This is very popular and a great opportunity for young people to participate in exciting activities, meet other young people and make new friends.

Fun Fest Bookings open for Half-Term

October Age 3 - 7
27th - 31st October 2025
Fun Fest Olton

HOLIDAY CLUB	AM	PM
Mon	Pottery	Harry Potter Princesses
Tues	Creative Cooks	Dance & Movement
Weds	Treasure Quest	Sand Fest
Thurs	Misty Mayhem	Mini Olympics
Fri	Sublime Slime	Jack O' Lanterns
		Great Outdoors Scavenger Hunt Puppet Making Autumn Gardening Cupcakes Heaven Playful Painting Halloween Party

Secondary Applications



Apply for your secondary school place

The closing date for secondary school 2026 applications is 31st October. Solihull residents should apply on the online portal at www.solihull.gov.uk/pp. Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers are made in March. Applying late will affect the offer you can expect to receive. For residents outside of the borough, please contact your home authority to submit an application.

7-12 year olds

	AM	PM
Mon	Horrible Histories!	Pottery
Tues	Football Camp	Trail Blazers
Weds	Sublime Slime	Mission Impossible
Thurs	Creation Zone	Who Dunnit
Fri	Jack O' Lanterns	Sand Fest
		Bling Gymnastic Bizarre Inventions Wacky Races Chain Reaction Roots & Shoots Picturesque Painting Archery Halloween party

FunFest have been approved to run HAF for both October and February half term. Any eligible parents will receive 4 sessions per child, running from 8am 1pm. For more information on how to book contact: solihulloffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk

New Menu



Aspens Catering are excited to launch the new school menu after half-term, bringing a fresh variety of nutritious and delicious options to keep our pupils energised and ready to learn. From hearty favourites to exciting new dishes, the updated menus offer something for everyone. This will be shared with you shortly.




SOLIHULL EVENT EXPECTATIONS

COMPETITORS

- Respect your teammates, competitors, officials and event organisers
- Respect the rules of the game & theme of competition
- Be organised - arrive on time for your event, have the correct kit / equipment
- Be the best you possibly can be – always give 100% effort
- Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat - Have Fun!
- Help to make the School Games an enjoyable experience for ALL!

LEADERS

- Show respect for all competitors and participants
- Remain impartial - encourage, support and praise all participants equally
- Be organised and prepared - have a good knowledge and understanding of your event
- Be a positive role model - enthuse, motivate, inspire! Have Fun!

TEACHERS & OFFICIALS

- Prepare your team, make sure participants understand the intent of competition
- Make sure you understand the rules of the competition & be able to support your team
- Show respect for all participants, officials, leaders and event organisers, encouraging fair play
- Be organised – make sure your team arrives on time with the correct kit and equipment
- Be a positive role model – promote positive sporting values

SPECTATORS

- Show respect for all participants, officials, leaders and event organisers
- Respect the intent of the competition you are watching & the rules applied, remember they may be different to competitive sports outside school.
- Stay within all designated spectator areas and respect the environment you are in
- Be a positive, supportive and encouraging role model
- Do not video or take photographs of any young people at events including their own children.













Christmas Fayre Donations – Let's Make It Magical!



Our much-loved Christmas Fayre is just round the corner, and we would be so grateful for your support with donations to help make it a festive success! Here is how you can get involved:

Thursday 21st November – Bottle Donations

Children who bring a bottle (sealed and unopened – from soft drinks to sauces or something a little stronger!) can enjoy a non-uniform day as a thank you!

Thursday 28th November – Sweets and Chocolates

Donations of sweet treats will be rewarded with extra playtime – a well-deserved treat for helping out!

Thursday 5th December – Cakes

Homemade or shop-bought – all cakes are welcome and will help make our Fayre deliciously festive.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. We can't wait to celebrate with you!