



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 7

Date: Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
 As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded that this is a time of preparation, reflection, and hope. Advent invites us to pause amidst the busyness of life and look forward with anticipation - not only to the celebration of Christmas but also to the values of kindness, peace and generosity that this season represents. Here at school, we have so much to look forward to in the coming weeks. Our Christmas Fayre has brought the community together in festive spirit, while the Nativity performances give our younger pupils the chance to share the story of Christmas in a special way. We are also excited for our Carol Services, which provide a beautiful opportunity to celebrate through music and reflection.

As we journey through Advent, let us hold onto the words of Isaiah: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). May this season be a time of light, hope, and joy for all.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful and joyful Advent. Have a wonderful weekend.
 Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Christmas Carols

We cannot wait to welcome our families and friends for a joyful celebration of Christmas Carols on Friday 13th December in the School Hall. Come and share in the festive spirit as we fill the hall with music and cheer! For performance times, please check the dates section of this newsletter.

Wednesday Word



Buying presents, decorations and planning our Christmas meal are all good ways of preparing for Christmas. But through all these preparations we do need to keep in mind the real reason for all the festivities. It is important that we spend some time preparing ourselves too.

In this Sunday’s Gospel, we hear John the Baptist calling the people to repent (to come back to God) and to prepare themselves for Christ’s arrival.

Christian ‘repentance’ is a wholly positive experience when we invite God into our lives and take a grip on ourselves, changing some of our ways or even, maybe, our direction in life.

So, let us listen to John the Baptist and prepare our hearts well – being ready to receive and share God’s love with all we meet as part of this week’s Christmas preparations.

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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 2025/26
Further dates will be added throughout the term



FOR YOUR DIARY

6.12.25 – Christmas Fayre at OLC
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

Swimming

Class 5/6F will begin their swimming sessions after the Christmas break on Tuesday 13th January until Tuesday 24th March. Please ensure that the Microsoft Form that has been sent out has been completed for these sessions.

Stay and Pray



As we continue our journey through the season of Advent, we are excited to invite you to our Advent Stay and Pray session on Tuesday 16th December at 2.30pm. Like last year, the session will be a whole-school event, while during Lent we will hold smaller Phase Stay and Pray sessions. Due to limited space in the school hall with all the children present, attendance will be by reservation only. If you would like to join us, please contact the school office as soon as possible, as places are limited. This special session offers parents a wonderful opportunity to spend 20–30 minutes in prayer with their children, sharing in the peace and joy of Advent together.

Christmas Card Winners

Thank you for your beautiful Christmas Card designs! A big thank you to everyone who submitted such wonderful artwork for our parish Christmas card. Fr Biju had the difficult task of choosing from so many creative entries and has selected two joint winners. Each design will be featured on our parish Christmas cards. Congratulations to Abel Newman (Reception) and Aoibhinn Kelly (Year 5) - your designs will help spread joy and the true spirit of Christmas throughout our parish community!



The Panto comes to OLC

We are thrilled to welcome the Panto to OLC on Thursday 18th December! This special performance is our little Christmas treat for the children - a chance for them to relax, laugh and enjoy some festive fun after all their hard work throughout this term.

Christmas Party Day



On Thursday 18th December, children are invited to come to school in festive non-uniform as we celebrate our Christmas Party Day! We have lots of fun planned - and we are especially excited to welcome a very special guest, who will be taking a break from his busy Christmas workshop to visit OLC!

FS2 (Reception) Applications 2026/27

The application process for Reception placements for next year is now open. To apply for a place, please contact your Local Authority. Please note that the closing date for admissions is 15th January 2026.

Weather Updates



As winter approaches and forecasts can change quickly, please note that any school closures due to severe weather will be communicated through our new school app, via email, and with a notice on our website. To stay informed, please ensure you have downloaded the new app.

Toy Day

On Friday 19th December, we will be holding our annual Toy Day! Children are welcome to bring a toy from home to enjoy and share with friends. Please ensure that toys are not valuable or electrical, so everyone can have a safe and fun experience.

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-notice/>

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.

Elf on the Shelf



It is that magical time of year again - our cheeky little friend, the Elf on the Shelf, is back and ready for mischief! We would love to see what your elf has been up to at home - whether they are helping with homework, playing games, or causing a little festive chaos. Capture the fun and send your photos to office@olc.solihull.sch.uk We cannot wait to see the creative adventures your elves are having!

Christmas Jumper/Clothes Day

Christmas JUMPER DAY



On Friday 12th December, we will be celebrating our annual Christmas Jumper / Christmas Clothes Day! Children are invited to come to school in festive non-uniform, wearing their favourite Christmas jumper or outfit. We kindly ask for a £2 contribution, which will go towards additional resources for our Enrichment Programme.

And the festive fun does not stop there - children can also wear their Christmas jumper or clothes with their outdoor learning kit on Christmas Dinner Day, Wednesday 17th December.

Let us make the school sparkle with Christmas spirit and spread some festive cheer together!

Christmas Fayre – Let's Make It Magical!

Christmas Fayre

Come to See Me!
Ho! Ho! Ho!
SANTA'S GROTTO

ENTRANCE
£1
ADULTS

RAFFLE
BOTTLE TOMBOLA
CAKES

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
GAMES
PHOTO WITH SANTA!

TOYS
TURKEY BAPS
ELF TRAIL

COME AND JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE. EVERYONE WELCOME!
SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
12PM - 3PM AT OLC SCHOOL

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who joined us for this truly special occasion - it was such a wonderful success, raising a total of £5653.62 which will be shared between us and the Friary. This has only been possible because of you!

We are also deeply grateful to our amazing FOLC team. Your dedication and hard work never cease to amaze us, and we feel so fortunate to have your support. Thanks to everything you do, our children enjoy opportunities that simply would not be possible otherwise.

From all of us, thank you again for making such a difference!

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's following feed shows videos from known creators, while the detailed 'For You' feed serves endless clips based on swiping history. Most are harmless, but considerable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans targeted or inappropriate content, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 18 and 1.8 billion people use TikTok, meaning there is a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by even 'the cat' among people using fake avatars of their own can be public view by default. This means that not only is it possible to be visible to every one else on the app, it also suggests that videos to others and direct reports to themselves or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear light-hearted, but they can expose young people to harmful issues. Misinformation is a problem, and Ofcom reports that around one third of 16-year-olds use 'misinfo' as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, derogatory, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, leading to discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence appearing important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 57 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability and distract from healthier activities. Consistently slipping between short clips may also affect attention spans, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family pairing allows parents to limit their child's account to monitor their activity. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chance of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages - and if they can, to whom. Children control all these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through in-app shops. If a disapproved purchase occurs, turn on a discussion about influencing marketing, and how online promotions can be misleading.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. However, they don't have to see it. It's important to know how to spend the night, increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential flags, as is falling to complete homework and missing meals. Remember, the power controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

READ THE SIGNS