



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 10

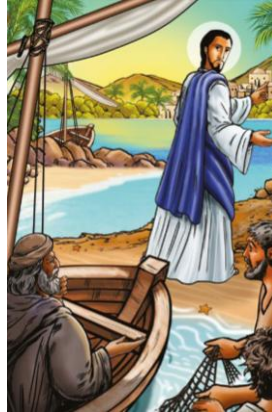
Date: Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we reach the end of our third week back after the Christmas break, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our pupils, staff, and families for helping us begin this new term in such a positive and purposeful way. January can often feel like a long and rather grey month, yet the children have brought such joy, energy, and colour into school. Over the coming weeks, we look forward to two very special moments in our school's faith life. Our Year 6 pupils are continuing their preparation for Confirmation, a significant and deeply meaningful step in their spiritual journey. It has been inspiring to see their maturity, thoughtfulness, and willingness to engage with the responsibilities that come with this sacrament. We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they move closer to their special day. We are also preparing to celebrate Candlemas, a beautiful feast that reminds us of Christ as the light of the world. As part of our celebrations, families have been invited to take part in a Candlemas project at home. We are very much looking forward to receiving these by Friday 30th January, as mentioned in the email sent earlier this month. To guide us through this season of light, I am reminded of these words from Scripture: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it". (John 1:5) May this message continue to inspire us as we support our children in growing in faith, hope, and joy.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus starting to gather together the first Christian community. Christian communities (just like families) are never perfect – even Jesus' closest disciples weren't always the ideal set of people. However, everyone works better with others in community. Our schools and parish communities were founded to be places of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness. People in the past answered Jesus' call to form our Catholic school communities which now welcome and support us and our children. Now it's our turn to continue the work, to build on and develop the warm and loving community of our school – together.

Social Media



We would like to remind families that Bluesky is the social media platform we use to share school news, activities and celebrations, and we have been using it successfully for the past year. We warmly encourage all parents and carers to follow us so you can see the wonderful learning experiences, events and day-to-day moments taking place across the school. You can find us on Bluesky at @olcolton.bsky.social. We look forward to continuing to share our school life with you!

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Thank You

Jo, our Crossing Patrol Warden, would like to express her heartfelt thanks for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts she received at the end of last term. She was truly touched by your kindness, generosity, and ongoing support.

Dates for 2025/26

Further dates will be added throughout the term

2.2.26 - Candlemas
5.2.26 – Social Media Assembly for Parents – 2.30pm
6.2.26 – Year 6 Confirmation @ Olton Friary – 7pm
8.2.26 – Racial Justice Day
9.2.26 – Children’s Mental Health Week – Dress to impress Day
10.2.26 – Safer Internet Day – theme
“Together for a better internet?”
13.2.26 – We Love School Day
13.2.26 – Last day of half-term
18.3.26 – Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent
22.2.26 – First Sunday of Lent
23.2.26 – School Closed – INSET Day
24.2.26 – School reopens after half-term
24.2.26 – Random Act of Kindness Day
27.2.26 – St. David’s Day – children to wear a splash of yellow to school
1.3.26 – Secondary School Offer Day
1.3.26 – Women’s History Month
5.3.26 – World Book Day
6.3.26 – World Women’s Day
7.3.25 – Sacrament of Reconciliation – Y3
11.3.26 – Parents’ Evening
11.3.26 – FS1 Mother’s Day Assembly 9.30am
11.3.26 – FS2 Mother’s Day Assembly 10.30am
12.3.26 – Parents’ Evening
13.3.26 – INSET Day – School Closed to Pupils
15.3.26 – Mothering Sunday
17.3.26 – St. Patrick’s Day
17.3.26 – FS Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
18.3.26 – KS1 Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
19.3.26 – UKS2 Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
20.3.26 – LKS2 Stay and Pray – 2.30pm
20.3.26 – International Day of Happiness
20.3.26 – FOLC Disco
26.3.26 – FS1 and FS2 Easter Bonnet Parade – 9.30am
26.3.26 – KS1 (Y1 and Y2) Easter Bonnet Parade – 10.30am

Dates for 2025/26 continued

27.3.26 – LKS2 (Y3 and Y4) to lead Stations of the Cross – 9.30am
27.3.26 – Last day of term – 2pm finish for Easter Holidays



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.

For children beginning with us in September 2026 you will have received your offer letter on Friday 23rd January. If you have not received this by email, please contact the school office.

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.

Supporting Our New OPAL Initiative

As shared in our newsletter before Christmas, we will be introducing OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to enhance play opportunities for our pupils. To make this initiative a success, we are looking for donations of items that will spark creativity and fun outdoors. If you have any of the following at home and no longer need them, we would love to give them a new purpose:

- Old pots and pans
- Fancy dress costumes
- Small household items suitable for imaginative play

Your contributions will help us create a rich and engaging outdoor environment for all children. Please bring any items to the school office in the new term. Thank you for your support in making OPAL a reality!

FOLC AGM

The FOLC AGM has now been moved to Tuesday 10th February at 5pm in the school hall. This meeting is a great opportunity to meet members of the committee and hear about all the wonderful work the FOLC does in supporting OLC. It is also an opportunity for anyone interested in joining the committee or becoming a ‘helping hand’. Please do put this revised date in your diary and come along to meet the wonderful team of volunteers.

Y6 Confirmation



Please keep our Year 6 children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 6th February at the Olton Friary. This is a very special moment in their faith journey, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen each of them as they take this important step. The children have been working thoughtfully and reverently in their preparation, and they are very much looking forward to this beautiful celebration with their families, sponsors, and our school community. May this time be filled with joy, peace, and a deep sense of God’s presence for them all.

Church Centenary Celebrations

This April marks 100 years since the foundation stone of our church was laid, and we are delighted to commemorate this special milestone. On the anniversary itself, Tuesday 21st April, a celebration will take place at the Olton Friary at 6.30pm. The festivities will continue throughout the week, concluding on Sunday 26th April. Please save these dates and add them to your calendar and diaries.

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/hire-and-events/events/>

Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed the parental questionnaire before Christmas. The results can now be viewed on our website following this link: <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=Parental+Questionnaire&pid=65>

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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



Football Report

Well done to our Year 5 and Year 6 footballers for their fantastic efforts this week following a hard-fought series of matches. The boys made an excellent start to their league campaign, securing three consecutive victories and scoring an impressive 30 goals.

Congratulations to the girls who concluded their league season on Thursday with a superb 1-0 win against St Margaret's at Solihull Moors.

As always, we are incredibly proud of all our children, and thank you to parents for your continued support - especially in the challenging weather of late!

Social Media Workshop



We would like to invite all parents and carers to join us for a Social Media Workshop on Thursday 5th February at 2.30pm in the school hall. The session will be led by Mrs Costello from St Peter's, who will share valuable insights into the challenges children face when navigating the online world. The workshop will offer practical advice on how you can support your child in developing safe, healthy and responsible habits when using social media. This is a fantastic opportunity to deepen your understanding of the digital landscape your child is growing up in - and it is also a convenient opportunity to attend just before collecting your child from school. We hope you will join us for what promises to be an informative and supportive session.

End of Day Collection

We kindly ask parents and carers to ensure children walk their scooters while on the school drive, as this area becomes particularly busy at drop-off and pick-up times. Riding scooters here can create risks for both children and adults. Please also keep children close to you when moving through the site, helping everyone stay safe and avoid accidents. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school environment calm and secure for all.

Special Guest to visit OLC

We are delighted to announce that OLC will be welcoming a very special guest to school on Thursday 29th January. To help all children take part fully in the exciting activities planned for the day, all pupils will need to come to school wearing their PE uniform. A huge thank you to FOLC for organising this exciting opportunity. We look forward to revealing our special guest on Thursday and hope our children have the will and the skill, the speed, the strength, the heart to be a winner!

Snacks



As a reminder, children can have a snack sent with them into school to eat during their playtime. We ask that this snack is a healthy choice such as a piece of fruit rather than chocolate or crisps. Sending a healthy snack is a way of supporting your child in making positive choices regarding food that is good for them.

Well done Carson



We are delighted to share some exciting news from our school community - Carson has officially signed for Birmingham City! This is a tremendous achievement and a moment of real pride for everyone who has supported Carson on his journey so far. Congratulations, Carson - we are incredibly proud of you. Keep working hard, stay grounded, and enjoy every moment. The best is yet to come!



Children's Mental Health Week



We are especially looking forward to launching Children's Mental Health Week week with our annual "Dress to Impress Day" on Monday 9th February (please note change of date), when children are invited to come to school in non-uniform. This tradition not only fills the school with colour and personality, but also encourages children to express themselves with confidence - perfectly aligned with this year's theme of belonging and celebrating each child's place within our school community. We hope that Children's Mental Health Week will help our pupils recognise the importance of their own voice, their own space, and their own identity as they continue to grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

FUNFEST

February Half-Term

16th - 20th February 2026 *VIPs*
Fun Fest Olton



| | AM | | PM | |
|-------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Mon | Sports Action | Brainiacs | Fun Fest Bootcamp | Pottery |
| Tues | The Chase | Cupcake Heaven | Trail Blazers | Nerf Challenge |
| Weds | Creation Zone | Dodgeball | I'm a Kid get me out of here | Athletics |
| Thurs | The Kube | Sublime Slime | Hockey | Dream Makers |
| Fri | Bonkers Bingo | Football | Fun Day Friday | |

February Half-Term

16th - 20th February 2026 *Age 3-4*
Fun Fest Olton



| | AM | | PM | |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Mon | Fun Fest Bootcamp | Jewellery Making | Sports Action | Music Maestros |
| Tues | Sublime Slime | Football | Pottery | Sports Action |
| Weds | Cupcake Heaven | Playful Painting | Scavenger Hunt | Gymnastics |
| Thurs | Messy Mayhem | Wacky Races | SandFest | Great Outdoors |
| Fri | Princesses & Superheroes | Great Outdoors | Fun Day Friday | |

February Half-Term

16th - 20th February 2026 *Age 5-7*
Fun Fest Olton



| | AM | | PM | |
|-------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Mon | Pottery | Dodgeball | Athletics | Jewellery Making |
| Tues | Tag Rugby | Messy Mayhem | Great Outdoors | Fun Fest Bootcamp |
| Weds | Around The World | Gymnastics | Cupcake Heaven | Sports Action |
| Thurs | Great Outdoors | Sublime Slime | Mission Impossible | Cupcake Heaven |
| Fri | Football | The cube | Fun Day Friday | |