



# Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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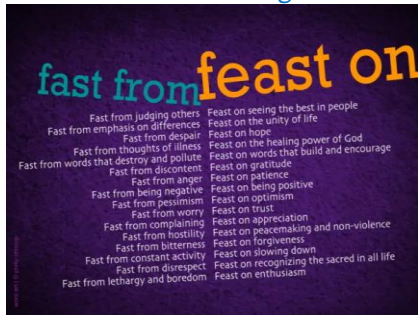
Website: <http://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/>

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 12

Date: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children, Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and refreshing half-term break. Although Ash Wednesday fell during the holiday this year, I know many of our families marked the beginning of Lent within their parishes. This week, we have taken time to help the children reflect on the meaning of Ash Wednesday - a moment to pause, consider our choices, and look for ways to grow in kindness, prayer, and generosity. The ashes remind us that Lent offers a fresh start, inviting us to do small things with great love. Our Lenten focus this year centres on “fasting from and feasting on” - encouraging children to fast from things that distract or discourage, and to feast on actions that bring joy, hope, and compassion. We look forward to seeing how our pupils bring these values to life in the coming weeks.



As a school, we are also delighted to share that we have been awarded the LiveSimply Award, recognising our commitment to living simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with others. This achievement reflects the collective effort of our pupils, staff, and families.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

## Wednesday Word



In this Sunday’s Gospel, the disciples received a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus through the change in the way he looked (his transfiguration). This sacred encounter took place on the Holy Mountain – Mt Tabor. Often in the Bible, mountains are described as sacred places. Our churches are sacred places, dedicated to the worship of God, but other places are sacred too: a home filled with the love of God. The Holy Mountain experience was a sacred moment. To be sacred is to be holy – to be dedicated to God. God wants us to be his sacred people – to be holy and to try to live and love like Jesus did. Praying at home helps us to recognise and respect our homes as sacred places, full of God’s love.

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

KS1 (Years 1 and 2): Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

LKS2 (Years 3 and 4): Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

UKS2 (Years 5 and 6): Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

## SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- Stay and Pray Lent
- INSET Day
- Nursery Admissions 2025/26
- Dates for 25/26
- Women’s History Month
- Parents’ Evenings
- OPAL
- Olton Friary Link
- World Book Day
- Online Safety
- Mother’s Day
- Secondary Offer
- Food Promotion Day
- Easter Disco
- Football Team
- Easter Raffle
- Lenten Appeal

## INSET Day – School Closed

A reminder that on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March school will be closed to all pupils as this is an INSET day for staff.

## 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

- 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
- 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

### Women's History Month

During the month of March, we will be celebrating Women's History Month. The 6<sup>th</sup> of March is World Women's Day, and to mark this important day and month, we will be sharing the activities children will be completing in school. Our focus this year is on young women who are working to influence positive change across the world. Children will have the opportunity to learn about and explore how these young women - and others throughout history - have shaped and continue to shape our world. We cannot wait to share the children's amazing work with you all.

### Parents' Evenings

We look forward to our Parents' Evenings taking place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, where you will have the opportunity to hear about your child's academic progress. You should have received an email on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February to book your appointment. If you have not received this email please contact the school office.

### Supporting Our New OPAL Initiatives

As shared in our previous newsletters, we are now moving into the next stage of collecting resources for our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme, with the aim of having everything ready for children to enjoy after the Easter holidays. A huge thank you to everyone who has already donated costumes, old pots and pans, and small household items. These contributions will be fantastic in helping us build imaginative and enriching play opportunities. We are now asking for further donations from our Spare Parts List, which can be found on the next page of this newsletter. Any items you are able to send in will help us take this exciting project to the next level. In addition, we will be organising a Community Build Day during the Easter holidays - a chance for parents, carers, and anyone with a trade or handy skills to come in and help craft and create resources for the playground. The date will be confirmed soon, but in the meantime, please keep the donations coming so we can make this vision a reality for our children. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

### 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/>

### World Book Day

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This year, we are again inviting all children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas or dressing gowns. Throughout the day, pupils will enjoy a range of cosy, story-themed activities. Staff from OLC will be sharing their favourite stories, and older children will have the chance to read with and support younger pupils in a series of paired reading sessions and activities. In addition to this staff will also be providing a bedtime story session online during the evening time for children to log on and watch. Further details will be sent closer to the date. We are looking forward to a wonderful day that promotes a love of reading and encourages our children to read for pleasure.

### Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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



### Mother's Day



We look forward to welcoming parents of children in FS1 and FS2 to the Mother's Day assembly. These will take place in the school hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am for FS1 (Nursery) and 10.30am for FS2 (Reception). Please click on the appropriate link below to submit the form to request tickets to this special occasion - these can be collected from the school office.

[FS1 MOTHER'S DAY ASSEMBLY – Fill out form](#)

[FS2 MOTHER'S DAY ASSEMBLY – Fill out form](#)

# What are **LOOSE PARTS?**

Loose parts are items that can be used to facilitate different kinds of play, or any material that a child can manipulate for playful purposes.

## Natural Loose Parts



Acorns



Grass



Leaves



Logs



Pine Cones



Rain & Water



Sand



Snow



Shells



Soil



Sticks



Stones



Wild Flowers



Wood Cookies

## Upcycled Loose Parts



Baking Pans



Cake Moulds



Ice Cube Trays



Kitchen Tools



Measuring Spoons



Pots & Pans



Strainers



Baskets



Cable Spools



Cardboard Items



Cones



Containers



Corrugated Pipes



Dress-Up Items



Fabric



Funnels



Milk Crates



Nets



Old Electronics



Pool Noodles



PVC Pipes



Rolling Carriers



Ropes



Shovels & Spades



Sinks & Tubs



Tarps



Tires & Wheels

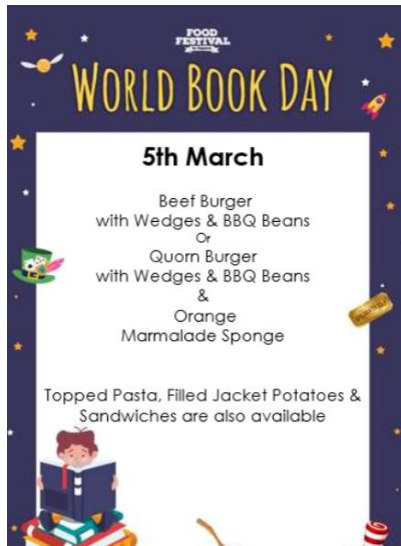


Wooden Planks



### Food Promotion Day

If your child would like a school dinner on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> April please book on ParentPay. As part of the Promotion Day children will be able to sample the menus below:



**FOOD FESTIVAL**  
**WORLD BOOK DAY**

**5th March**

Beef Burger with Wedges & BBQ Beans  
Or  
Quorn Burger with Wedges & BBQ Beans & Orange Marmalade Sponge

Topped Pasta, Filled Jacket Potatoes & Sandwiches are also available

Illustration of a child reading a book.

### **Easter Lunch** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Yorkshire Pudding  
or  
Roasted Vegetable & Cheese Puff Pastry Wreath.  
Served with skin on Roasties, Vegetables and Gravy.

Chocolate Cracknel.

Topped Pasta, Filled Jacket Potatoes & Sandwiches also available



**Aspens**  
FOOD SERVICE

All children who are entitled to 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 book their choices by the before each promotion day.

### Easter Disco



**EASTER Disco**

**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

INFANTS 6-7PM  
JUNIORS 7.15-8.15PM

OLC SCHOOL HALL

Tickets on sale now at  
[www.pta-events.com/folc](http://www.pta-events.com/folc)

Friends of Our Lady of Compassion

### Secondary Offer

As reminder children in Year 6 should receive the secondary place offer by email from your Local Authority by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. If you have not received this, please contact the LA you reside in.

### Lenten Appeal



**CAFOD**

**THE BIG LENT WALK**

**WALKING TOGETHER  
IN FAITH AND COMMUNITY**

As part of our Lenten fundraising for CAFOD, each class will be working together to reach 1,000,000 steps (approximately 666.7km) over 40 days. Children will be encouraged to stay active, with families supporting them by sending in photos or screenshots of steps completed each day - their own and those of family members. We ask each child to contribute £2 towards our fundraising. We can't wait to see how far each class travels and who can go the extra mile!

**LENT 2026**

### Easter Raffle



**Easter Raffle**

Get YOUR TICKETS

SCAN ME

2pm  
Friday  
27th March

OLC, School Playground



**Easter RAFFLE**

Fabulous prizes to be won, including  
Popcorn Maker,  
Ice Cream Machine,  
Alcohol Hamper and much more....

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW ON  
[WWW.PTA-EVENTS.COM/FOLC](http://WWW.PTA-EVENTS.COM/FOLC)

DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE  
AFTER SCHOOL AT 2PM  
ON FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH