



# Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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**To Live As Jesus Taught Us.**

School Newsletter – 14

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we come to the end of a busy and joyful Spring Term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements, celebrations and moments of growth we have shared as a school community. The children have worked incredibly hard, showing resilience, kindness and a real enthusiasm for learning. Staff continue to give their very best each day, and the sense of togetherness across our school remains something truly special.

We now move towards the season of Easter - a time of hope, renewal and new beginnings. Easter invites us to pause, to appreciate the light that can follow even the longest winter, and to recognise the promise of fresh starts in our own lives. My hope is that this season brings each of us a sense of peace, gratitude and joy. As part of our Easter reflection, I would like to ask our community to join together in offering prayers for peace in our world. We hold in our thoughts all those affected by conflict, and we pray especially for an end to the suffering in Ukraine and Iran. May peace, compassion and understanding guide all those who work towards reconciliation. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support throughout this term. The partnership between home and school continues to make a tremendous difference to the children's wellbeing and success, and we are truly grateful for everything you do. Finally, a special thank you goes to the FOLC, whose continued dedication adds so much richness to school life. Their generosity has once again brought smiles to the children's faces, and we are delighted to share that every child will be bringing home a special bunny at the end of term - beautifully provided by the FOLC. These thoughtful touches help create lasting memories for the children, and we are deeply appreciative. I wish you all a peaceful, restful and joyful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the Summer Term.

Warmest wishes,

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

## Wednesday Word



***"This week alone, unique in the full sense of the word, is the week of the Lord's Passion. It is Holy Week."***  
**St John Paul II**

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.

***"Holy Week is a time to give Jesus our hearts. On the Cross He gave us all of His love."*** St. Teresa of Calcutta

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 and receive a palm leaf, blessed by the priest, to take home. 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.

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## Catering Menu

Please follow this link to the new Summer Menu that will be provided after the Easter holidays:

<https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=410&type=pdf>

## 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

- 13.4.26 – School reopens for Summer Term
- 15.4.26 – Food Promotion – Easter Meal
- 21.4.26 – Celebration of the Laying of the Foundation Stone at Olton Friary – 6.30pm
- 22.4.26 – World Earth Day
- 23.4.26 – St. George’s Day – children to wear a splash of white/red with uniform
- 26.4.26 – Foundation Stage Celebration Mass at Olton Friary – 9am
- 30.4.26 – Y3 Retreat in school for pupils – OneLife Music
- 4.5.26 – May Bank Holiday – School Closed
- 8.5.26 – VE Day
- 9.5.26 – Y3 First Holy Communion – Group 1 – 11am
- 10.5.26 – World Day of Vocations
- 11.5.26 – Y6 SATs test to begin
- 14.5.26 – Ascension – Holy Day of Obligation
- 15.5.26 – Non-uniform Day in exchange for bottle donation for Summer Fayre
- 8.5.26 – May Procession led by KS1
- 16.5.26 – Y3 First Holy Communion – Group 2 – 11am
- 17.5.26 – Going Forth Mass for Y3 @ Olton Friary – 9am
- 18.5.26 – Y5 to begin Bikeability
- 21.5.26 – Food Promotion – Out of this World
- 21.5.26 – FS1 Teddy Bear Picnic + new starters 2026/27 – 2pm
- 22.5.26 – Y2 Trip to Black Country Museum
- 22.5.26 – Sweets and Chocolate donation for Summer Fayre
- 22.5.26 – School finishes at normal time for May Half-term
- 24.5.26 – Pentecost
- 1.6.26 – School reopens after Half-Term break
- 1.6.26 – Y6 Residential to Blackwell
- 10.6.26 – Class Photographs
- 11.6.26 – International Day of Play
- 18.6.26 – Food Promotion – Sunshine Splash
- 20.6.26 – Summer Fayre @ Olton Friary – 12pm – 3pm
- 26.6.25 – UKS2 Sports Day – 9.15am
- 26.6.25 – FS Sports Day – 10.30am

### Dates for 2025/26 continued

- 20.6.26 – World Refugee Day
- 21.6.26 – Fathers Day
- 24.6.26 – UKS2 Sports Day – 9.15am
- 24.6.26 – FS Sports Day – 10.30am
- 24.6.26 – LKS2 Sports Day – 1.15pm
- 24.6.26 – KS1 Sports Day – 2.15pm
- 26.6.26 – Whole School Mass @ Olton Friary – Sacred Heart
- 30.6.26 – Provisional Sports Day if required due to weather
- 7.7.26 – Year 6 Production – 10am
- 10.7.26 – Festival of Faiths and Culture Day
- 16.7.26 – Year 6 Leaver’s Awards – 10am
- 17.7.26 – Year 6 Leaver’s Mass at Friary – 10.15am
- 17.7.26 – Year 6 Leaver’s Celebrations – 12.45pm
- 17.7.26 – School finishes at 2pm for Summer Holidays

### OPAL Community Build Day

We are incredibly thankful to all the volunteers who have already put themselves forward to support our Community Build Day on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Your generosity and willingness to give your time is truly appreciated, and it will make a real difference to the development of our new playground spaces. We will begin the day at 9.00am, meeting on site to organise teams and outline the plan. If anyone else would still like to join us - no matter your level of experience or skills - you would be most welcome. Every extra pair of hands helps, and there will be tasks suitable for everyone. If you have access to any of your own tools, please feel free to bring them along, as this will support the smooth running of the day. We also ask that everyone comes prepared to be hands-on: Please avoid wearing clothing you would not want to get messy or damaged. The day will go ahead come rain or shine, so do dress appropriately. For those taking part, please refer to the email sent out last week, which included the playground plan to give you a clearer idea of the project and the roles involved. We are really looking forward to a productive, enjoyable day of community spirit and teamwork. Thank you once again to everyone who has already stepped forward to help.

### Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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



### Communication



We try our best to communicate with parents through a variety of ways. Below are the communication channels we currently use:

- A member/s of the leadership team on the school gate in the morning and afternoon
- Class teachers available to talk to parents through email and phone calls and at the end of the school day.
- School Website (with links to our newsletter)
- Fortnightly Newsletter
- Emails
- BlueSky

### 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/>

### £1 pledge



On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April we will have a non-uniform day as part of the a £1 pledge towards Father Hudson's Caritas. Last year we raised a whopping £187. The donation can be paid on ParentPay and we hope we can go even bigger this year by raising even more than last year.

### Our Champions!

Fantastic news! Our boys' football team has triumphed in the final, and the children were absolutely ecstatic with their brilliant victory. Well done boys – we are so proud of you!



### 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/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=67>

### 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.

### Food Promotion Day

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

#### 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



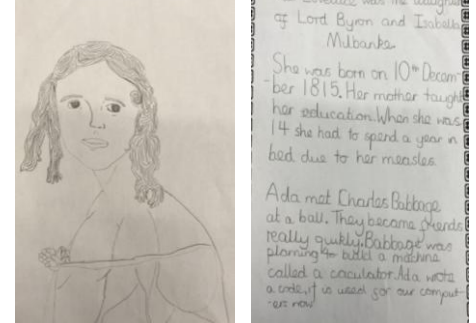
#### Aspens

All children who are eligible for 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 Sunday before each promotion day.

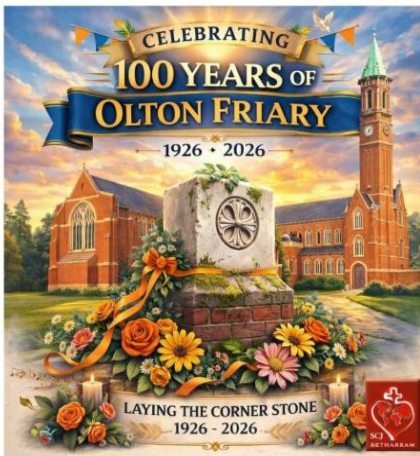
### Women's History Month

Throughout March, we have once again celebrated Women's History Month. As part of our focus, we have shined a light on inspiring young woman who are actively working to make a positive difference in the world today.

#### Ada Lovelace



### Celebrating 100 Years of Olton Friary



You are warmly invited to join Olton Friary Parish in the centenary celebrations of the laying of the foundation stone.

#### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 6.30pm

Thanksgiving Mass concelebrated with Capuchin Franciscans, Jubilee songs and readings from 6.15pm

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 9am Celebration Mass with Archbishop Longley

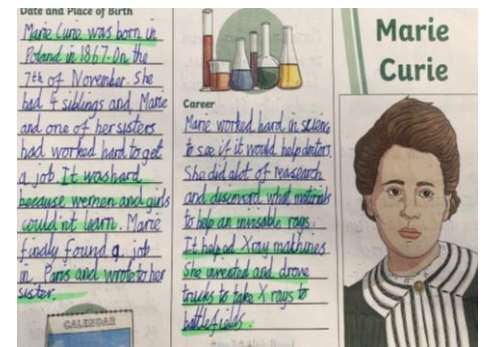
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 11am Celebration Mass with Archbishop Longley, The Mayor of Solihull, MP for Solihull West & Shirley and local councillors

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 6pm Celebration Mass with Rev Canon Jonathan Veasey

All masses are preceded with Jubilee songs and readings

Following the 6.30pm mass, an evening buffet will be served  
After the 9am & 11am mass, tea and cakes will be served in the Parish Hall  
Also after the 11am mass, tours of the Church and Friary will be available, subject to availability.

Please RSVP to: [info@oltonfriary.org.uk](mailto:info@oltonfriary.org.uk)



## Newsletters

Our most recent newsletters can now be found on our website under the heading "New Newsletters." Older newsletters remain available in the standard Newsletter section. While the Juniper App is being updated, we will continue to post the latest newsletters in the New Newsletters area. Once all app updates are complete, we plan to merge the two sections into one.

## Way of the Cross



On Good Friday at Olton Friary, children are invited to take part in the Children's Way of the Cross at 10.45am. They will have the opportunity to journey with Jesus through the Stations of the Cross and take part in activities, including arts and crafts.

## Summer Fayre



## Summer Fayre – Message from the FOLC

We are very excited to invite you to our annual Summer Fayre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, taking place at the Friary from 12.00pm to 3.00pm. It promises to be a wonderful community event for all our families.

### Donations Needed

If you are having a clear-out over the school holidays, FOLC would be very grateful for donations of:

- Good quality toys
- Fancy goods
- Clean, good-quality teddies

These can be brought to the school office anytime up until 19<sup>th</sup> June

(ideally before 4<sup>th</sup> June to help with early sorting).

### Collection Days

- 15<sup>th</sup> May – Bottle collection in exchange for non-uniform day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Sweet or chocolate donations in exchange for extra playtime
- 19<sup>th</sup> June – Cake donations for the Fayre

### We Need Your Help!

As children move on from the school, we have lost some of our regular volunteers. If you can spare even one hour, it truly makes a big difference. Helping is also a lovely way to meet others and support both the school and the Friary.

### Help Needed on the Following Dates:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June – 7.30pm at the Friary

- Labelling bottles
- Sorting donations
- Making hampers

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June – 12.30pm - 5.00pm

- Transporting items to the Friary
- Setting up for the Fayre

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June – between 10.00am and 5.30pm

- Helping on stalls
- Preparing before the event
- Tidying away afterwards

If you can help on any of these dates, please contact a FOLC representative.

### Raffle Prizes

Do you have any raffle prizes you can donate? Your generosity helps us raise much-needed funds for our children and our school. Please speak to your FOLC representative if you can contribute.

### Thank You

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Events like the Summer Fayre are only possible because of the kindness and involvement of our wonderful community.

FOLC

✿ **Easter Holiday Fun – Fun Fest Olton** We are excited to announce that **Easter bookings are now open** for Fun Fest Olton! Spaces are filling fast, so make sure you secure your child's place today.

### 📅 HAF Bookings – Fun Fest Olton Only

- Opens: **Monday 9th March**
- **Eligibility:** Children must **attend a Solihull school** or **live in the Solihull borough**
- **Spaces:** Limited to 28 children over 2 weeks
- **Sessions:** Each child can book **4 sessions, 8:00am – 1:00pm**

⚠️ **Important:** Before booking your HAF sessions, please **email us at [solihulloffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk](mailto:solihulloffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk)** so we can provide full instructions and secure your child's spot. Don't miss out on a fun-filled Easter with games, crafts, and activities – book now!

<https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/jhdqCVvNRtXEW3KFGfpSEqrqD?domain=funfestolton.co.uk> Please note Our Lady of Compassion children will get priority. Therefore any problems booking a space please do email Emma