



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 15

Date: Friday 17th April 2026

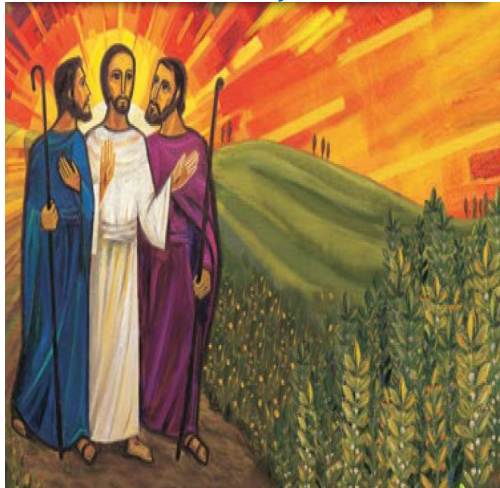
Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
The Easter break has offered a welcome pause, and it has been encouraging to see how smoothly and positively the pupils have returned to school. As we begin the summer term, there is a real sense of focus across the school, with children quickly re-engaging with their learning and taking pride in their work. As we move forward together, we do so with a spirit of hope and purpose, remembering the words of Proverbs: “Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established” (Proverbs 16:3).
The summer term will be a busy and exciting one, with several important events taking place, including statutory assessments, educational visits, enrichment activities and opportunities to celebrate learning through performances and shared events. We are also looking ahead to Sports Day, transition activities for pupils moving to new classes or schools, and our end-of-year celebrations for leavers. As these weeks unfold, we hold our school community in prayer, asking God to guide and bless our pupils, staff and families - that this term may be one of learning, kindness and joy, and a time when everyone is supported to grow and flourish.

Warmest wishes,
Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

FS2 2026/27

This week, parents who have applied for a place in FS2 (Reception) from September 2026 will receive their offer from the local authority; this will have been sent out on 16th April by email.

Wednesday Word



Our lives are enriched when we know Jesus. He is with us at all times and in all places. We can encounter him in prayer and in one another. The more we know about Jesus through reading the gospels, the easier it is for us to recognise him. Knowing and following Jesus helps happiness and love to grow in our families. Each of us can choose something to do for each other at home or at school to be more like Jesus. Perhaps we can: decide to pray each day; read the gospels together; remember to regularly ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?” and then try to do the same ourselves.

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/>

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.

SUMMARY

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- Nursery Admissions 2025/26
- Morning Drop-Off
- Dates for 25/26
- Diary Dates
- Celebrating 100 years of the Olton Friary
- Online Safety
- OPAL Community Build Day
- Summer Fayre
- Message from FOLC regarding Summer Fayre

Morning Drop-Off Reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers that children should be dropped off at the main gate in the morning, and not taken through the gate onto the school site. This helps us to ensure a calm, safe and well-organised start to the school day for everyone. If there is a specific reason why your child cannot be dropped at the gate, please discuss this with Mrs Vella, who will be happy to work with you to arrange an appropriate alternative. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Dates for 2025/26

Further dates will be added throughout the term

- 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 – May Procession led by KS1
- 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
- 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 – 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
- 12.6.26 – Whole School Mass @ Olton Friary – Sacred Heart
- 18.6.26 – Food Promotion – Sunshine Splash
- 20.6.26 – Summer Fayre @ Olton Friary – 12pm – 3pm
- 20.6.26 – World Refugee Day
- 21.6.26 – Father's 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

Dates for 2025/26 continued

- 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



Apologies for the incorrect dates included in last week's newsletter, and for any confusion this may have caused. The dates have now been updated and are correct. Thank you for your understanding.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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

10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

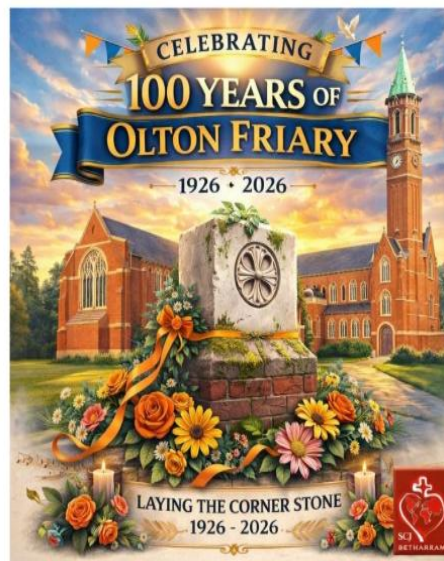
Last year, around one in five young people aged 10-15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope, a turning point that brightens their day and releases their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're organising this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

- 1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE**
Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, or a meal they've prepared, or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.
- 2 REACH OUT**
It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a line to say 'Hi... how are you?' or to let them know you're thinking of them could totally make their day.
- 3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS**
If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Recommending a film or TV show you think they'd like could bring a smile to someone who really needs it.
- 4 OFFER TO HELP**
Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!
- 5 POST POSITIVELY**
Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative, just because you're communicating online (and not face to face). Search for things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.
- 6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION**
If someone posts something that you like or something positive or shows kindness themselves, go online and thank them. Showing someone you appreciate them is a great way to let them know your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.
- 7 BE UNDERSTANDING**
Showing empathy towards others is an important part of being kind. If you notice that someone you know is upset, or if you see a message, sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.
- 8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS**
When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A short-an-sweet inspirational message or a short video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.
- 9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING**
Thinking before we act can help just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive. Think if it's really necessary to post, and if it's better to post positively or not post at all.
- 10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE**
If someone posts something that you like or something positive, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an encouraging comment. Showing positivity to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture, but could mean a lot to them.

Meet Our Expert
Carly Rogers is an expert in online safety and technology. She's been helping young people stay safe online for over 10 years. Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, author and consultant.

National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday
www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

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 21st April 6.30pm

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

Sunday 26th April 9am Celebration Mass with Archbishop Longley

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

Sunday 26th 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

Community Build Day – Thank You and What’s Next

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent OPAL Community Build Day. Thanks to the time, effort and enthusiasm of parents, carers, staff and volunteers, the day was a tremendous success and has already had a very positive impact on our school environment. It has been wonderful to see how much the children have enjoyed using the new zones across the playground, with pupils engaging creatively, playing collaboratively and making full use of the enhanced spaces during playtimes.

Building on this success, we are pleased to announce that we are planning a second OPAL Community Build Day during the May half-term on Wednesday 27th May. We would be extremely grateful for any support on the day as we work to complete key areas of our outdoor provision, including the sand pit area, the woodland area and our potion station. Any time or help you are able to offer would be very much appreciated and will help us continue to develop rich and exciting play opportunities for all our children. Thank you once again to everyone involved - your support is making a real difference to our pupils’ play and wider school experience.



End-of-Day Collection Reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers that children should be collected promptly at the end of the school day and should not play on the playground equipment once they have been picked up. After dismissal, children are no longer under school supervision and the equipment is not in use at this time. Thank you for your support in helping us keep everyone safe and ensure a calm end to the school day.

Congratulations



Warm congratulations to Mrs Silverwood and Mr Brennan on the arrival of their precious little bundles of joy. This is such a special and exciting time, and we hope these early days are filled with love, happiness and cherished moments.

We send our very best wishes to the Silverwood and Brennan families as they begin this wonderful new chapter together, and wish them much joy, laughter and many memorable moments in the days and years ahead.

Summer Fayre – Message from the FOLC



We are very excited to invite you to our annual Summer Fayre on Saturday 20th 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 19th June

(ideally before 4th June to help with early sorting).

Collection Days

- 15th May – Bottle collection in exchange for non-uniform day
- 22nd May – Sweet or chocolate donations in exchange for extra playtime
- 19th 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 4th June – 7.30pm at the Friary

- Labelling bottles
- Sorting donations
- Making hampers

Thursday 19th June – 12.30pm–5.00pm

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

Friday 20th 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