



# Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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**To Live As Jesus Taught Us.**

**School Newsletter – 16**

**Date: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been a real pleasure to see our community come together to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Olton Friary. This significant milestone was marked with such respect, joy and reflection, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved in making the celebrations so meaningful. From our staff and pupils to parish members and volunteers, your time, enthusiasm and commitment ensured the occasion was truly memorable. As the saying goes, “Community is not just about being together, but about doing things together”. As we look ahead to the coming week, I would like to remind families that Monday is a Bank Holiday, and we hope this provides a welcome opportunity for rest and time together. At the same time, our Year 6 pupils are now entering the final stages of preparation for their SATs. They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year, and we are very proud of the positive attitude they have showed. As a school community, we hold our Year 6 children especially in our prayers at this important time:

*Loving God,*

*We place our Year 6 children into your care as they prepare for their SATs.*

*Give them calm hearts, clear minds and confidence in all they have learned.*

*Help them to remember that they are valued not for test results,*

*but for who they are and the gifts they bring to our world.*

*Surround them with your peace, guide them in all they do,*

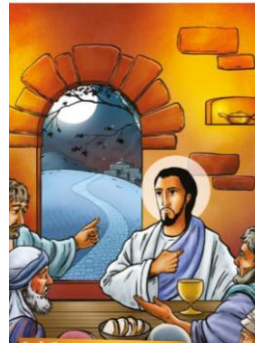
*and bless all those who support them at home and at school.*

*Amen.*

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

## Wednesday Word



In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for his departure from the world. Jesus is returning to his Father and will make a place ready for each of them in heaven. Jesus tells the disciples to trust in him. No amount of worrying will increase their safety or comfort; it’s through trusting in Jesus that they will find security and hope. We too are called to trust in Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit we carry on his work and are empowered to do even greater works. This does not mean performing a series of great, flashy miracles. It means being Christ in the world around us, generously sharing the love he brings into our own lives with those we meet. This isn’t easy - it never was – but trust in Jesus and see what happens!

## Olton Friary Link

To hear all about the wonderful events that take place at the Olton Friary please follow the link below that will lead you to their notice page on their website:

<https://www.oltonfriary.org.uk/weekly->

## 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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- OPAL Community Build Day
- OPAL Wishlist
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- Y6 SATs week
- Summer Fayre
- Message from FOLC regarding Summer Fayre
- Well done Eilish + Oisín
- FunFest

## First Holy Communion



We ask you all to keep our Year 3 children in your prayers over the coming weeks as they prepare to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion (FHC). The FHC’s will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May for Group 1 and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May for Group 2. We thank all who have helped to support and prepare our children for their special day.

**Dates for 2025/26**  
**Further dates will be added**  
**throughout the term**

- 4.5.26 – May Bank Holiday – School Closed
- 8.5.26 – VE Day
- 8.5.26 – May Procession led by KS1 – 2.15pm
- 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
- 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

**Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday**

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



**Coats**

We encourage all children to bring a coat or anorak to school every day, even during the spring and summer months when the weather may feel milder. During periods of rain, children will still be able to enjoy outdoor lunchtime play in our OPAL play areas, so having appropriate outerwear helps ensure their play can continue even on wet days. Thank you for your continued support with this by sending your child to school with a coat.

**Mary's Meals**

a simple solution to world hunger

During the month of May, we are encouraging children to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. This May, schools across the UK will join us in prayer for the work of Mary's Meals. Since their humble beginnings, Mary's Meals has been built on a foundation of prayer and many little acts of love from those who believe in their mission. Today they are feeding more than 2 million children each school day in 20 countries, with many more that are in need of their support. We ask that you join us by taking part in the 'Pray In May' campaign. Through prayer we can connect and offer support to such great initiatives.

**Food Promotion Day – Out of this World**

If your child would like a school dinner on the 21<sup>st</sup> May please book on Parent Pay. As part of the Promotion Day children will be able to sample the menu below:



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 Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Queen Peace**

During the month of May, we continue to honour Mary and look ahead with joy to our **May Procession at 2.15pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, led by our Year 1 and Year 2 children.** Parents are warmly invited to join us, and, weather permitting, the procession will take place on the school playground. As Mary once pondered the early events of Jesus' life in her heart, so too are we invited to reflect on what the Holy Spirit reveals to us through her life. We come to know Mary not only as the Mother of Christ, but also as our own Mother. She is a woman created and set apart by God - a model of purity, humility and inner beauty; the chosen vessel entrusted with the most precious life the world has ever known. As our Mother, Mary never abandons us. She was created by God, preserved by Him and chosen for His plan. The Holy Spirit descended upon her, Christ grew within her, and Jesus himself listened to her, loved her and honoured her above all others - not because she sought it, but because she was worthy of it. Her 'yes' to God set humanity back on the path of salvation; her 'yes' changed the world forever. Just as our Blessed Mother reflects the light of Jesus more fully than any other person in history, we too are called, as her children and as children of the light, to reflect and radiate the love and heart of Christ to the world around us.

### Community Build Day – Thank You and What’s Next

As a reminder, our **OPAL Community Build Day** will take place during the **May half-term on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May**. On the day, we will be continuing work on several key areas of the playground, including the **sandpit area**, and we are appealing for some specialist support from our school community. In particular, we are hoping to transport sand from a playground drop-off point to the sandpit itself. We wondered whether there may be **any families within the school who have access to a digger** and would be willing to help with this on the day. Support with this would make a significant difference towards helping us complete this exciting play space for the children. If you are able to help, please speak with **Mr Emery or Mrs Vella**, or contact the **school office by email**. Any support would be very much appreciated.

### OPAL Wishlist

As part of the continued development of our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) provision, we are kindly seeking support with donating or purchasing items from our OPAL wishlist. If you are able to help by purchasing any of the items listed below, please let the school office know and we will send you a purchase link.

**Small World items:** Jumbo woodland animals/ JCB vehicles/ Magnetic road/ Hot Wheels cars/ Pipettes

**Outdoor Building:** Wooden blocks/ Offcuts of wood

**Outdoor Equipment:** Wheelbarrows/ Children’s brooms

**Den Building:** Extra-large metal peg clips/ Laminated dust sheets

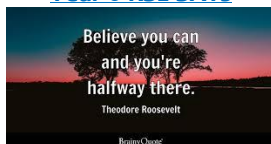
**Quiet/RestAreas:** Outdoor cushions

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us enrich play and learning opportunities for all our children.

### Water/Snacks

As a reminder, children are asked to bring a piece of fruit or a healthy snack with them to eat during playtime, rather than chocolate or crisps from their lunchbox. They are also encouraged to have water in their water bottle rather than squash or juice. We have also noticed that some children are bringing in bottles that have a ‘mist’ spray attached to them. Although these may be exciting for the children, we ask that these are not brought into school to avoid any distractions to the children’s learning. Please support with these reminders.

### Year 6 KS2 SATs



Our Year 6 children have been preparing tremendously hard for their end of year tests which will take place during the week of 11<sup>th</sup> May. In supporting our children through the week, we ask that they arrive at school for 8am. In addition to this they will be provided with toast and juice each morning and will take part in a daily ‘wake up, shake up’ session. During the week the children can also bring a little mascot with them to school.

### 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.

### 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

**Well done Oisín and Eilish**



Oisín and Eilish both performed exceptionally well at the England Schools Indoor Ski Championships on Monday at The Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead. Each completed their slalom runs cleanly, without missing a gate. This was Eilish's first indoor competition, where she finished an impressive 18<sup>th</sup> in the U10 girls' category. Oisín also skied superbly, placing 28<sup>th</sup> out of 54 competitors in the U12 boys' category. They are now very much looking forward to taking part in the British Schools Championships at the end of June.

**May Half Term at Fun Fest Olton – Book Now!**



We are excited to be offering 4 days of fun-filled activities this May Half Term at Olton! From creative crafts and games to sports and themed activities, there's something for every child to enjoy in a safe, engaging and welcoming environment.

Our experienced team will be delivering a wide range of enriching activities designed to keep children active, social and entertained throughout the week.

Spaces are limited and filling quickly, so we encourage you to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Please note: HAF (Holiday Activities and Food programme) will not be available for this half term.

If you have any questions or need support with your booking, please don't hesitate to get in touch. [solihulloffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk](mailto:solihulloffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk)

Our Lady of Compassion children get priority booking.

We look forward to welcoming your children for another fantastic holiday club experience!

**FunFest Half-Term**

### May Half Term

26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Fun Fest Olton

Age 3-4

	AM		PM	
Mon	CLOSED			
Tues	Messy Mayhem	Wacky Races	Spring gardens	Scavenger Hunt
Weds	Sand Fest	Sports Action	Superheros & Princesses	Jewellery Making
Thurs	Under The Sea	Treasure Quest	Sublime Slime	Treasure Quest
Fri	Creative Cooks	Great Outdoors	Fun Day Friday & Water Fight	

### May Half Term

26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Fun Fest Olton

Age 5-7

	AM		PM	
Mon	CLOSED			
Tues	Sublime Slime	Athletics	Creative Cooks	Lego Adventures
Weds	Jewellery Making	Sports Action	Puppet Making	Dodgeball
Thurs	Playful Painting	Tag Rugby	Football	Pottery
Fri	Scavenger Hunt	Mission Impossible	Fun Day Friday & Water Fight	

### May Half Term

26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Fun Fest Olton

VIPs

	AM		PM	
Mon	CLOSED			
Tues	Pottery	Olympic Challenge	Harry Potter	Sublime Slime
Weds	Cupcake Heaven	Nerf Challenge	Pietersque painting	The Chase
Thurs	Dodgeball	Bonkers Bingo	The Kube	Jewellery making
Fri	Athletics	Magical unicorns	Fun Day Friday & Water Fight	