



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 17

Date: Friday 15th May 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding half term, it is a good moment to pause, give thanks and reflect on both the wider world and the life of our school community.

This week, many of us have been inspired by the celebration of Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. His lifelong commitment to caring for creation reminds us of our shared responsibility to look after our common home - a message that sits closely with our Catholic faith and the values we seek to instil in our children.

“The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.”

- Sir David Attenborough

We have also marked the first anniversary of Pope Leo's papacy, giving thanks for his guidance, wisdom and leadership. His message of faith, service and compassion continues to inspire us as a Catholic school striving to live out the Gospel each day.

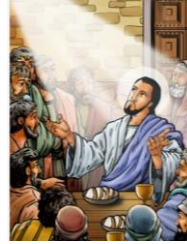
I would also like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to our Year 3 children who have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion last week or over this weekend. It has been a truly special and prayerful time for the children and their families, and we are very proud of them as they continue their journey of faith.

As the half term draws to a close, I would like to thank our pupils for their enthusiasm and commitment to learning, our staff for their dedication and care, and our families for their continued support. We wish everyone a restful and refreshing break and look forward to welcoming you back for the final half term of the year.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is telling his Father in heaven that he has now completed what was asked of him. Then, Jesus prays for his friends. This reminds us that Jesus prays for all his friends, which includes you and me too. This takes place after the last supper and, very soon, Jesus will be arrested. So before leaving his friends he is preparing them for the difficult time to come. Jesus wants his friends to stay united with one another and with God - forever. Friendship is one of life's great blessings and Jesus' friendship is also offered to each one of us. When we have good friendships, we can support each other, have fun together, and share our joys and challenges. We can also learn from each other and grow in our faith.

Year 6 KS2 SATs

Well done to all of our Year 6 children who completed their end of KS2 SATs tests this week. We could not be prouder of the way that you conducted yourselves throughout this week and we know whatever you achieve from these tests you are all superstars! We now look forward to celebrating your last 8 weeks with us, and all the end of year celebrations that come with it. Enjoy your weekend and have a well-earned rest - you certainly deserve it! A special thank you also to all the staff who prepared the children so well.

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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-notice/>

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



- 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.

Food Promotion Day – Out of this World

If your child would like a school dinner on 21st 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 17th May.

Year 6 Residential to Blackwell Adventure



After the May half term, our Year 6 pupils will be heading off on their much anticipated residential visit to Blackwell Adventure. This exciting experience will give the children the opportunity to challenge themselves, build resilience and enjoy a range of outdoor activities while working closely with their classmates. We are sure it will be a memorable and rewarding experience as they come together for a special part of their final year at Our Lady of Compassion School.

Bikeability – Year 5



During the week commencing 18th May, children in Year 5 will be taking part in Bikeability. This is a valuable opportunity for pupils to develop their confidence and skills in riding a bike safely and responsibly. If you have not yet returned the consent forms, please do so as soon as possible. Children may bring their bikes to school on Monday and leave them on site for the duration of the week if they wish. While we are happy to accommodate this, please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for any bikes that are damaged or lost.

Altar Servers and Parish Choir

If your child has received their First Holy Communion and is in Year 3 or above, please consider encouraging them to further live out their faith by becoming an Altar Server at the Friary. This is a wonderful way for children to grow in confidence, responsibility and service within our parish community. If your child is interested, please speak to Father Biju or Father Austin. The Friary is also seeking anyone who may be interested in joining the parish choir for the 6pm Sunday Mass. All enquiries are very welcome.

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 27th 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 and help us complete this exciting play space for the children. If you feel you may be 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.

FS1 Teddy Bear Picnic



We would like to warmly invite parents of our current FS1 children, along with parents of children joining FS1 in September, to a Teddy Bear Picnic on Thursday 21st May at 2.00pm. This will be a lovely opportunity to spend some relaxed time together and help our youngest children feel excited and confident about their FS1 journey. Children are welcome to bring along their favourite teddy bear, as well as a few snacks and a picnic blanket, to enjoy the afternoon picnic together. We look forward to sharing this special time with you and welcoming our new families into our school community.

Sacred Heart Mass and Year 5 Commitment Mass

We look forward to celebrating the Sacred Heart Mass after the half term. This annual Mass is a special opportunity to give thanks to God for the community of Olton Friary, and particularly for our Parish Priest Father Biju, Father Austin, the Brothers of the Friary and all clergy who support our school and parish life. Families are very welcome to join us on Friday 12th June at 10.15am. We would also like to warmly invite our Year 5 parents to attend the Year 5 Commitment Mass on Monday 6th July at 1.30pm. This marks the beginning of the children’s journey as Confirmandi, as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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

Congratulations



Warmest congratulations to Miss Hannah on the arrival of her beautiful new bundle of joy. This is such a precious and exciting time, and we hope these early days are filled with love, happiness and many treasured moments.

We send our very best wishes to the Hannah family as they begin this wonderful new chapter together, and wish them every joy, much laughter and countless special memories in the days and years ahead.



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 is 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. 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 Age 3-4

26th – 29th May 2026
Fun Fest Olton

	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 Age 5-7

26th – 29th May 2026
Fun Fest Olton

	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 VIPs

26th – 29th May 2026
Fun Fest Olton

	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	