



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 20

Date: Friday 3rd July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we approach the final few weeks of another wonderful academic year, I would like to begin by thanking all our parents and carers for their support, flexibility and understanding during the recent heatwave. The extremely high temperatures presented challenges for schools across the country, and we are grateful for the way our school community worked together to ensure that children remained safe, comfortable and able to continue enjoying their learning. One of the highlights of the past week has undoubtedly been our Sports Day. It was fantastic to see so many children demonstrating determination, teamwork and sportsmanship, whilst also enjoying the opportunity to compete and celebrate together. Thank you to all the staff, volunteers and families who helped make the day such a success. The encouragement from the sidelines and the enthusiasm shown by our pupils reflected everything that is special about our school community. Many of our children have also been closely following England's progress in the FIFA World Cup. England have successfully progressed from the group stages and are now preparing for the knockout rounds, giving us all another reason to come together and cheer on the team. The excitement and sense of national pride have certainly provided plenty of conversation around school! As we look ahead, there are still many exciting events and celebrations to enjoy before the end of term. Please take a moment to check the diary dates below carefully so that you do not miss any of the end-of-year celebrations, performances and special events that mark the conclusion of another successful academic year. Finally, I am pleased to let you know that our next newsletter will include all key dates for the new academic year up to Christmas, helping families to plan ahead for the months to come. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School. Together, we have much to celebrate, and I look forward to sharing these final weeks of the school year with you all.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



A good companion is priceless and helps us to make the best of ourselves. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus offers his companionship to us and to our children. In this much-loved and encouraging gospel passage, Jesus invites us to go to him to rest and to be refreshed. Jesus came to take away fear and loneliness – to help people feel loved and accepted. We can experience Jesus' companionship through other people and through spending time with God in prayer. We do not need to be clever, rich or popular for God to care for us. Regardless of our faults or weaknesses, Jesus always loves us and offers us his comfort and everlasting companionship.

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/>

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Parent Pay



ParentPay®

As we approach the end of term, we would ask everyone to check the balance on their ParentPay account and clear any outstanding amounts. You might also find it useful to set up balance alerts on your ParentPay account. This can be done by going into communication / message alerts on your account. However, please note there is a charge of 6p for any text alerts. Email alerts are free of charge.

Dates for 2025/26

Further dates will be added throughout the term



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

Year 5 Commitment Mass

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.

World Cup – England Game

Due to the England game taken place at 1am on Monday morning children will have the opportunity to watch the highlights of the game during their first lesson of the day. If you wish to refrain from telling them the result prior to coming to school, we will do our best to support them in the excitement of watching the game for the first time. We will also authorise any late arrivals up to 10.30am.

More Skiing Success



On Monday 29th June, the Our Lady of Compassion Ski Team attended the British Schools Indoor Open Champs 2026 in Manchester at the Snow Centre. There were schools from Scotland, Wales and across England competing on the day and the OLC Ski Team participated in the Junior Ski Races during the morning and achieved results to be proud of. Oisín placed a 26th out of 35 athletes in the Under 12's race and Eilish achieved 14th place in the Under 10's.

Festival of Faiths and Culture Day

Next week, we are looking forward to celebrating our Festival of Faiths and Culture Day. This special day will provide children with the opportunity to learn about and celebrate the different faiths, cultures and traditions that make up our diverse community. Through a range of engaging activities, pupils will develop their understanding, respect and appreciation of others, while reflecting on the values of inclusion, kindness and unity that are at the heart of our school and Catholic ethos.

Classes 2026/27

During the 'Moving Up' Day this week children had the opportunity to meet with teachers from their next year group. Please find the classes below:

FS1 – Mrs Sandhu-White

FS2 – Mrs Kinchin and Mrs Monington/Mrs Haycock

Y1 – Mrs Mitchell

Y1/2 – Miss Dowling

Y2 – Mrs Redfern

Y3 – Mr Brennan

Y3/4 – Mrs Kendrew/Miss Cottrell

Y4 – Mrs Day

Y5 – Mrs Freeman

Y5/6 – Miss Houlihan

Y6 – Miss Sidwell

Staffing Updates 2026/27

We would like to share with you some staffing changes that will be taking place at the start of the next school year. At the end of this academic year, we will be saying a fond farewell to Mr McEvilly, who will be leaving OLC to take up a new position at a new school. We would like to thank Mr McEvilly for his commitment, dedication and contribution to our school community during his time with us. He has been a valued member of staff and will be greatly missed by both pupils and colleagues. Whilst we are naturally saddened to see him leave, we are delighted that he has been given this exciting opportunity and we wish him every success and happiness in his new role.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Miss Houlihan to OLC. Miss Houlihan will be joining our staff team in September, and we are excited for her to become part of our school community. We know that she will make a valuable contribution to school life and look forward to the enthusiasm, skills and experience that she will bring to her role. I am sure you will join us in thanking Mr McEvilly for all he has done for our school and in extending a warm Our Lady of Compassion welcome to Miss Houlihan as she begins her journey with us in September.

Earrings Policy Update – September 2026

Following the successful transition from allowing earrings to a no-earrings approach, our Governors have approved a further revision to the School Uniform Policy, which will take effect from September 2026. From this date, earrings may not be worn in school, with the exception of plastic spacers worn during the healing period following ear piercing. We therefore ask parents to carefully consider the timing of any ear piercing and, where possible, arrange this at the beginning of the summer holiday to allow sufficient healing time before the start of the new academic year.

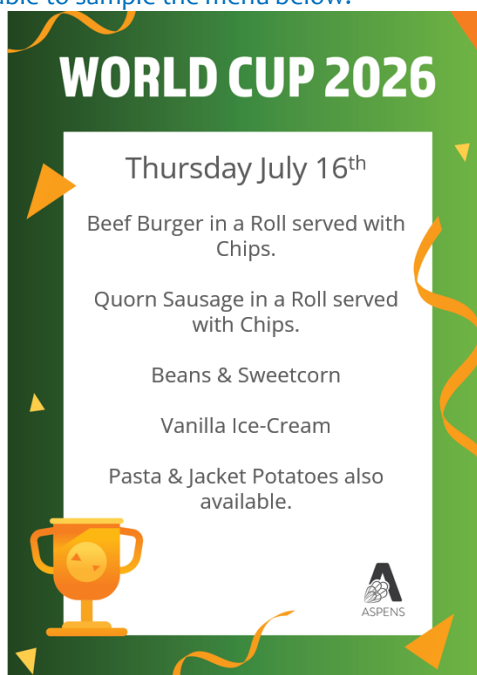
Please note that if a child attends school wearing earrings, they will not be permitted to take part in PE lessons, breaktime activities or lunchtime play due to health and safety requirements. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all children and in ensuring that our uniform policy is applied consistently across the school.

Footsteps 2026-2027

Footsteps places have now been confirmed by email for next academic year (September 2026 - July 2027.) If you have not received a confirmation email and were expecting one, or if you wish to apply for any remaining places at Footsteps Before and After School Club for September, please email Footsteps at footsteps@olc.solihull.sch.uk.

Food Promotion Day – World Cup 2026

If your child would like a school dinner on the Thursday 16th July, please book on Parent Pay. As part of the Promotion Day children will be able to sample the menu below:



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 Sunday 12th July.

Food Promotion Day – Goodbye and Good Luck

Year 6 have chosen the following menu for their leaver's meal and would also like Year 5 to join them during lunchtime on Tuesday 14th July. If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 and would like a school dinner on this date, please book on ParentPay. As part of the Promotion Day children will be able to sample the menu below:



All children who are entitled to Free School Meals will already have these as the option for the day. However, we ask that you book their choices by Sunday 12th July.

FS1 Update Reminder

We are excited to let you know that our FS1 Pool Party will be taking place on Tuesday 7th July – a lovely way for the children to celebrate together and enjoy some end-of-year fun! In addition, invitations will soon be sent out for our FS1 Graduation, which will take place on Wednesday 15th July at 9.15am. This is always a special occasion as we celebrate the children's achievements and mark this important milestone in their journey. We look forward to sharing these memorable events with you.

St Anne's Crowned House Champions at Sports Day!



Congratulations to St Anne's House Team, who were proudly presented with the House Team Trophy after an outstanding performance at this year's Sports Day. Throughout the day, the children demonstrated determination, teamwork, resilience and excellent sporting spirit. St Anne's pupils gave their very best, earning valuable points and supporting one another every step of the way. Their enthusiasm, encouragement and commitment reflected the true spirit of Sports Day. While the trophy was awarded to St Anne's, every child who took part should feel incredibly proud. Sports Day was a wonderful celebration of participation, perseverance and teamwork, with all four houses competing brilliantly and showing great respect for one another. Well done once again to St Anne's House Team on a fantastic achievement and a well-deserved victory! We look forward to seeing which house will lift the trophy next year.

"Run in such a way as to get the prize." — 1 Corinthians 9:24

Fun Fest Summer Bookings Now Open – 5 Weeks of Fun Await!

We're excited to announce that **Fun Fest Holiday Club bookings** are now open for **five fantastic weeks of summer fun!**

We've made some exciting updates this year — **our 7–12-year-olds are now VIPs!** This age group will enjoy their very own schedule of activities, along with new resources tailored specifically to their interests and needs.

We're also pleased to confirm that we will once again be offering **HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) sessions** from 21st July to 21st August, running 8am–1pm daily.

To book your HAF sessions, please contact Emma at:

solihulloffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk, who will be happy to guide you through the process.

We will operate a **waiting list** where needed to accommodate as many families as possible. If you're from **Our Lady of Compassion Primary**, you'll be given **priority access** to spaces.

We can't wait to welcome you to Fun Fest this summer!

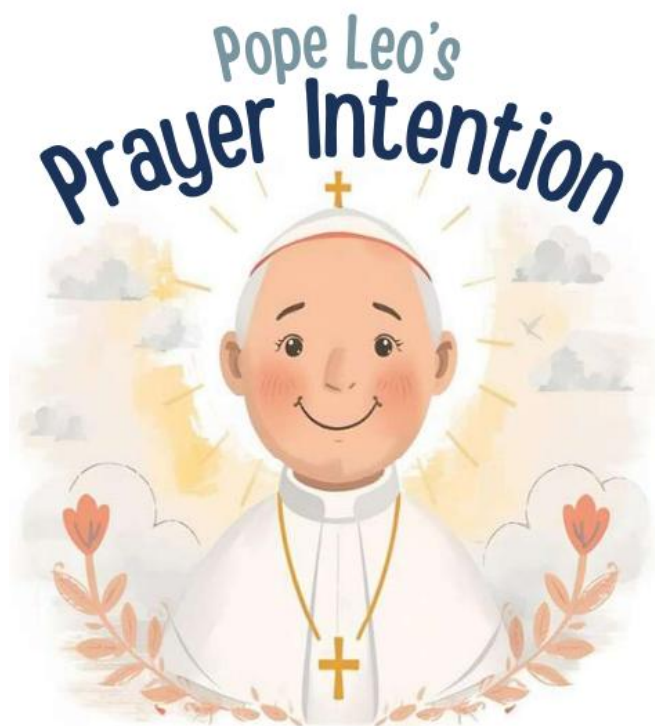
Summer Holidays	
21 st – 24 th July 2026	
Fun Fest Olton	
	AM
Mon	CLOSED
Tues	Pottery
Weds	Sublime Slime
Thurs	Nailed it
Fri	Spa Experience
	PM
	Great Outdoors
	Podgeball
	Creation Zone
	Mission Impossible
	Jewellery Making
	Basket Ball
	Cupcake Heaven
	Wacky Races
	Roots & Shoots
	Messy Mayhem
	Friday Finale & Water Fight

Summer Holidays	
21 st – 24 th July 2026	
Fun Fest Olton	
	AM
Mon	CLOSED
Tues	Sports Action
Weds	Creative Cooks
Thurs	Mini Olympics
Fri	Sports Action
	PM
	Pottery
	Scavenger Hunt
	Treasure Quest
	Superheroes & Princesses
	Great Outdoors
	Wacky Races
	Sand Fest
	Music Maestro's
	Messy Mayhem
	Puppet Making
	Fun Day Friday & Water Fight

End of Year Reports

We are looking forward to sharing our end-of-year reports with parents by Monday 13th July which will be emailed out. Alongside the reports you will receive we ask that all parents respond to the online form that can be accessed through a link via the email of the reports to confirm receipt of the report - it is also an opportunity for comments to be shared. We ask that if you have changed your email address recently that you share this with the school office so that we can ensure you receive the reports on the 13th July.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for July



This July, let us pray that all life is cared for and protected, because every person is a special gift from God.

Children's Books



At the end of the school year, we will be sending all of the children's books home with your child. As there are a lot of books to send home, we will be releasing these books to you throughout the final week.

School Uniform 2026-2027

We would like to remind parents and carers of the changes to our school uniform from September 2026. Full details of the new uniform requirements can be found by following the link below. We recognise that many families may already have existing uniform items, so 2026–2027 will be a transitional year. This means that pupils may continue to wear the current uniform throughout the 2026–2027 academic year. Both the existing and new uniform will be accepted during this period, allowing families time to make the change gradually. For full information, including details of the new uniform and purchasing arrangements, please visit:

<https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=67>

Thank you for your continued support as we introduce these changes.