



To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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School Newsletter – 1

Date: Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

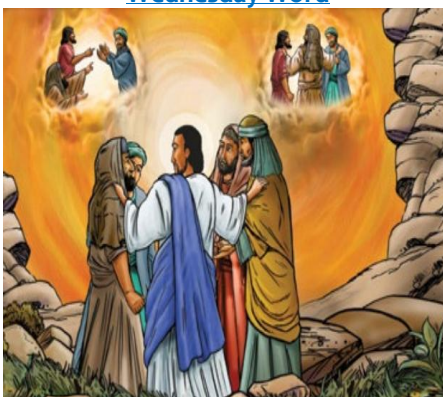
A very warm welcome back to all our children, families and staff as we begin a new school year together. It has been wonderful to see the school filled once again with smiling faces, excitement and enthusiasm for the year ahead. As we embark on this journey together, we are reminded that every new beginning is an opportunity to grow in knowledge, friendship and faith. We look forward to sharing many achievements, celebrations and special moments throughout the year. In our first assembly, each child received a special "Everybody Needs a Little Jesus" token. These are for the children to keep throughout the school year as a reminder that Jesus is always with them, guiding, comforting and encouraging them in all that they do. We hope they will treasure this small gift and use it as a reminder to bring God's love, hope and salvation to everyone they meet through their words, actions and kindness. As a school community rooted in faith, let us work together to help our children grow, not only academically but also as compassionate, caring and faithful young people who shine Christ's light in the world. We wish all our families God's blessings for a happy, successful and faith-filled year ahead. **"Let your light shine before others."** (Matthew 5:16) Have a wonderful weekend, Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Olton Friary Vacancy

Our Housekeeper/Cook is soon to retire. Role involves cooking & some housekeeping:

- * part for SCJ community & part for parish
- * 18 hours per week - 9.30-1.00 Mon-Fri
- * Diocesan living wage - £13.45 per hour
- * begins October 1st 2026
- * More info? Please contact Olton Friary Parish office on 0121 706 0505.

Wednesday Word



What does Jesus say is the first thing that we should do if someone upsets us? Sometimes we make mistakes and occasionally upset one another. The important thing is to overcome such upsets in a loving way and become friends again. This is also known as reconciliation. This Sunday's Gospel suggests ways of doing this peacefully and calmly. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we should always try hard to be reconciled – to heal relationships and to try to make friends again. Prayer is an important part of reconciliation. We can ask Jesus, anytime, to bring peace to a situation, and to guide us back to friendship. We can't always undo mistakes if we have done something wrong and upset someone, but we can always learn from our mistakes and try to make amends.

Term Dates

Our term dates for this academic year (2026-2027) and next year (2027-2028) are accessible by following this link:

<https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=Key+Information&pid=36>

We ask that you familiarise yourselves with these dates to maximise your child's attendance.

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Sacramental Dates



Following on from the last newsletter before the Summer Holiday break, please see a reminder of the Sacramental Dates for 25/26 as follows:

- Year 6 Confirmation – Friday 6th February 2026 at 7pm
- Year 3 First Holy Communion – Saturday 9th and Saturday 16th May 2026 at 11am

Dates for 2026/27

Further dates will be added throughout the term



8.9.26 – Our Lady's Birthday
7.9.26 – After School Clubs begin
10.9.26 – St Peter's Open Day – 5.30pm
13.9.26 – Education Sunday
14.9.26 – FS Working Together Meeting – 2.30pm
14.9.26 – Donations of Harvest Gifts
15.9.26 – Swimming begins for Year 5
15.9.26 – KS1 Working Together Meeting – 2.30pm
16.9.26 – National Fitness Day
16.9.26 – LKS2 Working Together Meeting 2.30pm
17.9.26 – UKS2 Working Together Meeting – 2.30pm
21.9.26 – International Day of Peace
21.9.26 – Fairtrade Fortnight begins
24.9.26 – Year 6 Prefect Service at Friary – 2pm
27.9.26 – Day of Thanksgiving for Harvest
28.9.26 – Little Way Week
30.9.26 – School Photographs
1.10.26 – Black History Month begins
1.10.26 – Month of the Holy Rosary begins
1.10.26 – Feast Day of St. Therese
2.10.26 – Feast Day of Guardian Angels
2.10.26 – Cafod Family Fast Day
4.10.26 – Season of Creation ends
7.10.26 – Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary
9.10.26 – Feast Day of St John Henry Newman
9.10.26 – World Mental Health Day – children to wear splash of yellow with school uniform
12.10.26 – Feast Day of St Wilfrid
13.10.26 – Feast Day of St Edward
14.10.26 – FS2/Y6 Buddies Service – 2.15pm
16.10.26 – World Food Day
23.10.26 – Last day of half-term for pupils
31.10.26 – Closing date for Secondary Applications
1.11.26 – All Saints' Day – Holy Day of Obligation
2.11.26 – School Closed – INSET Day
3.11.26 – School reopens for Autumn Term 2
3.11.26 – FS1/FS2 Open Day – 5pm
4.11.26 – Year 6 Trip to St. Chad's
8.11.26 – Diwali
10.11.26 – World Science Day
11.11.26 – Remembrance Day

Dates for 2026/27 Continued

11.11.26 – Parents' Evening
12.11.26 – Parents' Evening
12.11.26 – One Life Retreat Day – Y6
16.11.26 – Anti-bullying Week
16.11.26 – Road Safety Week
20.11.26 – Children in Need
20.11.26 – World Children's Day
22.11.26 – Christ the King – Youth Mass
24.11.26 – Last Swimming Session for Year 5
29.11.26 – Advent begins
30.11.26 – St Andrew's Day
1.12.26 – KS2 Stay and Pray – 2.45pm
2.12.26 – FS2 Nativity – 9.20am
5.12.26 – Christmas Fayre at OLC
9.12.26 – FS1 Nativity – 9.20am
10.12.26 – Y4/Y5/Y6 Reconciliation
11.12.26 – Christmas Jumper Day
11.12.26 – FS1 Application Deadline for 27/28
11.12.26 – KS1 Carols – 9.30am
11.12.26 – LKS2 Carols – 10.30am
11.12.26 – UKS2 Carols – 2.30pm
16.12.26 – Christmas Dinner Day
17.12.26 – Party Day
17.12.26 – Whole School Theatre performance at School for children
18.12.26 – Toy Day
18.12.26 – Last Day of Term before Christmas Holidays – School finishes at 2pm

Weekly Learning Plans

Across this year, we will continue to upload our Weekly Learning Plans to our school website. These plans will give you an opportunity to support your child's learning at home. **We are also looking forward to hosting our Phase 'Working Together Meetings' in school** so that we can share the expectations for each of our phases across this school year. We hope you will find these meetings informative and a further way of learning about your child's learning journey this year.

Nut Aware School

As a Nut Aware School, we ask you all to ensure that you are checking your child's lunch box so that no nut products are sent into school. Thank you.

Swimming



Swimming lessons will begin for children all children in Year 5 on Tuesday 15th September; Year 4 will start their sessions and Year 3 will have their turn after Easter. Year 5 parents only - please ensure that you complete the consent form that will be sent out this week.

PE Kit Days



Please see below a list of the days when your child is required to wear their PE kit – please be aware that these days are subject to change to accommodate timetables – we will keep you updated with any changes:
Monday: Classes FS1, Y5, Y5/6, Y6, Y1, Y2
Tuesday: Classes Y3, Y3/4, Y4, Y6, Y1/2
Wednesday: Classes FS2, Y3/4, Y1, Y2
Thursday: Classes FS2, Y5, Y5/6, Y1/2
Friday: Classes FS1, Y3, Y4

Earrings Policy Update – September 2026



Following the successful transition from allowing earrings to a no-earrings approach, our Governors have approved a further addition to the School Uniform Policy, which will take effect from this term. Going forwards, earrings are not to be worn in school, with the exception of plastic spacers. 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.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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



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-notices/>

School Fund

We currently ask you all to pay School Fund in support of our school; we ask for £10 per child or £15 per family each term. Therefore, you can choose whether to contribute on a termly basis or pay for the full year. To pay for the full year on ParentPay would be £30 per child or £45 per family. We thank you in advance for these contributions which continue to help our school purchase and provide your children with resources that the school budget unfortunately cannot stretch to.

Harvest Gifts

On Monday 14th September, we will start the collection for the Harvest Mass at the Friary that will take place on Sunday 27th September. Therefore, if you wish to support and donate any packets of food, please send these into school with your child(ren) by Friday 25th September so that we can transport the donations to the Friary. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Guitar



We are pleased to announce that children in Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) will be starting Guitar lessons on Tuesday. Class Y4 (Mrs Day's class) will begin their lessons this term, followed by Y3/4 (Mrs Kendrew / Miss Cottrell) after Christmas and Y3 (Mr Brennan) after Easter.

OPAL Community Build Day



We are excited to be holding our next OPAL Community Build Day on Wednesday 28th October, from 9.00am to 3.00pm, and we would love your support! Following the fantastic progress made during our previous build days, we have a number of exciting projects planned to enhance our outdoor play spaces for the children. Volunteers will be helping to: build new welly storage, continue developing our woodland area, create a maze for the children to enjoy, construct an Apex frame in the meadow area. These projects will make a real difference to the children's play experiences and help bring our OPAL vision to life. If you are able to spare some time and help on the day, please email the school office so that we know how many volunteers to expect. Whether you can stay for the whole day or just a few hours, your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us create even more exciting opportunities for our children to play, explore and thrive outdoors!

Sports Clubs



We are looking forward to our After School Clubs starting this week. If you would like to book onto any of these please follow this link to our website:
<https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/school-clubs/>

Nursery Admission 2026/27

If you are interested in places for 2026/27 for your child to begin with us in Nursery, please contact the school office.

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 styles 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.

Attendance

As you would have heard in the news, there is a continued push from the Department of Education to improve attendance across schools. This information was shared with you all prior to the summer holidays and we ask that, in particular, holidays are not taken in school time. OLC's attendance is in line with the national data however our attendance would be significantly above national average without the holiday absences that are taken in the school term.

Food Promotion Day

If your child would like a school dinner on 15th September please book on ParentPay. 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 the Sunday before the promotion day.