



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

Kineton Green Road

Solihull

B92 7EG

Tel: 0121 706 9508

Email: office@olc.solihull.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/>

To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 2

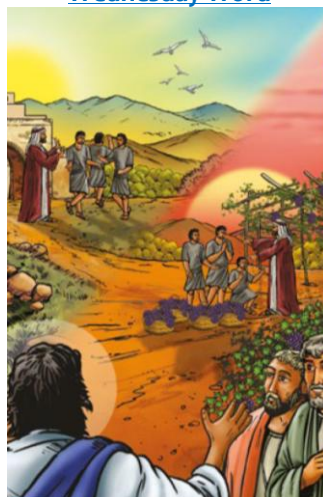
Date: Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This week has been a particularly special one as we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the patronal feast day of our school. Through prayer, reflection and time together as a community, we have been reminded of Mary's courage, faith and unwavering trust in God, even during the most difficult moments of her life. Her example continues to inspire us to show compassion, kindness and resilience in our daily lives and to truly live out our mission, "To Live as Jesus Taught Us". It has been wonderful to see our children engaging so thoughtfully in learning about Our Lady of Sorrows and reflecting on how they can support and care for others. As a Catholic community, we are called to be people of hope, love and service, and this week has provided an opportunity to renew our commitment to these values. As we look ahead, we are excited to mark the **International Day of Peace**. This important occasion encourages us to reflect on how each of us can contribute to creating a more peaceful world through our words, actions and relationships. Peace begins with small acts of kindness, understanding and forgiveness, and we will be exploring with the children how they can be peacemakers within our school, their families and the wider community. May the example of Our Lady continue to guide us as we work together to build a community rooted in faith, compassion and peace.

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the images of workers and a vineyard to show us something about the kingdom of Heaven and God's generosity. God's ways are not our ways. At first, it may appear unfair that the workers who started early were only paid the same as those who arrived later. But, on reflection, we see that not only was the Landowner being fair by paying what had been agreed, he was being overly generous through rewarding everyone equally (even those who came at the last hour). God's generosity is unlimited and offered to each one of us.

SUMMARY

- Welcome Back
- Wednesday Word
- Fairtrade Fortnight
- Sacramental Dates
- Dates for 26/27
- School Photographs
- Meal Booking System
- Parking
- Working Together Meetings
- Online Safety
- Beach Toys
- Olton Friary Link
- Year 6 Prefects Service
- Birthday Treats
- Open Day
- Homework Expectations
- Nursery Admissions 26/27
- OPAL Community Build Day
- Children's Choir
- Secondary Applications

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight is a national campaign that celebrates the people behind some of our favourite products, from farmers to factory workers, and highlights the importance of fair prices, safe working conditions, and caring for our environment. Over the next two weeks, we will be learning about how Fairtrade helps communities around the world. When shopping with your child, please look out for Fairtrade products and talk about why choosing them can make a difference. As a challenge, ask your child to find three Fairtrade items at home or in a shop and record them in a list or draw pictures of them to share in class. It is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their understanding of global citizenship and responsible choices in an engaging way.

Sacramental Dates



Following on from the last newsletter before the Summer Holiday break please see a reminder of the Sacramental Dates for 26/27 are as follows:

- Year 6 Confirmation – Friday 6th February 2027 at 7pm
- Year 3 First Holy Communion – Saturday 8th and 15th May 2027 at 11am

Dates for 2026/27

Further dates will be added throughout the term



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
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

Dates for 2026/27 Continued

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

Meal Booking System



To help us minimise unnecessary waste, we ask that school meals are booked via ParentPay by Sunday evening for the week ahead. We would also encourage you to discuss your child's meal choices with them before the start of the week, so that they are aware of what has been ordered on their behalf. This helps to avoid confusion at lunchtime and reduces the likelihood of meals being declined or wasted. Thank you for your support in helping us manage our catering provision effectively and sustainably.

Working Together Meetings

It has been wonderful this week to welcome families to the Working Together Meetings. These events are a crucial opportunity for us to be able to share with you our expectations for the school year for your child(ren). Over the next few days, we will be uploading the PowerPoint presentations from the meetings to our website. This will allow families to revisit the information that was shared and ensure that those who were unable to attend can still access the key messages and updates.

School Photographs



On Wednesday 30th September, we will be having individual photographs taken for each child. All children are to wear their school uniform on the day; any classes that would usually have PE are to bring their PE kit with them to change into before their PE lesson.

Harvest Gifts

On Monday 14th September, we began the collection for the Harvest Mass at the Friary that **will now take place on Sunday 4th October**. Therefore, if you wish to support and donate any dried or packets of food please send these into school with your child(ren) **by Friday 2nd October** so that we can transport the donations to the Friary. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Parking

West Midlands
POLICE

**IS YOUR CAR
PARKED
ILLEGALLY?**

SCHOOL - KEEP - CLEAR

It is if...

- You are parked within 10 metres of a junction
- You are parked in front of an entrance to a property
- Parked on Zig Zag lines
- Parked on Double Yellow Lines
- Parked causing any other obstruction

THE CONSEQUENCES
A fine and potentially points on your licence

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 this link below that will lead you to their notice page on their website:

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

Year 6 Prefect Service

Please join us on Thursday 24th September October at 2pm, at Olton Friary Church for our Year 6 Prefects Service where the children will be blessed and commissioned as Prefects, reaffirming their pledge to pupil leadership within the Catholic community of our school. In their new role, the children will have the opportunity to further embed their commitment to our school mission statement – to live as Jesus taught us.

Beach Toys Needed for Our Sandpit!

We are looking for donations of clean, good-quality beach and sandpit toys to help enhance our outdoor play area. If you have any spare buckets, spades, moulds, watering cans, sieves, or other sand toys that are no longer needed, we would be very grateful to receive them. These resources help support imaginative play, creativity, and teamwork in our sandpit.

Birthday Treats



Just as a reminder, children are able to bring in small bags of sealed sweets to give their friends as a birthday treat (if they wish to); these will be given out at the end of the school day.

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!



We are looking forward to our Open Day in November where we will have the opportunity to meet prospective parents who are looking for a school place for their child for September 2027. We will be holding the Open Day on 3rd November at 5pm - this will be held in the school hall.

Homework Expectations

Please take some time to familiarise yourselves with the information shared with you at the Working Together Meetings regarding homework expectations, so that you can support your child's learning at home. Please also remember that the Weekly Learning Plans are published on our website every week. These can also be used alongside your child's homework.

Children's Choir 🎵

Does your child love to sing? We invite all children **aged 7 and above** to join our "Children's Voices" choir at the **9.00am Family Mass**. Singing in the choir is a wonderful way to encourage your child's faith through music, while building confidence and a sense of teamwork. A short rehearsal takes place every **second Sunday of the month, immediately after Mass**. Attendance every Sunday is not expected - just a regular commitment. Interested? Just speak to any of our choir leaders, **Anne, Claire, or Rose**, after Mass, or contact **Rose** at holysingalong@gmail.com.

Secondary Applications

The closing date for secondary school 2026 applications is 31st October. Solihull residents should apply on the online portal at: www.solihull.gov.uk/pp Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers are made in March. Applying late will affect the offer you can expect to receive. For residents outside of the borough, please contact your home authority to submit your application.

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.

Food Promotion Day

If your child would like a school dinner on 1st October, please book on ParentPay. As part of the Promotion Day children will be able to choose from 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 each promotion day.

October Half-Term Cycling Courses

A chance to learn a life skill, feel proud, and discover the pure joy of riding a bike.



October Half Term Cycling Courses



Scan the QR for booking details or visit solihull.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking

Ages 5–7 • Indoor Learn to Ride

Tudor Grange Leisure Centre

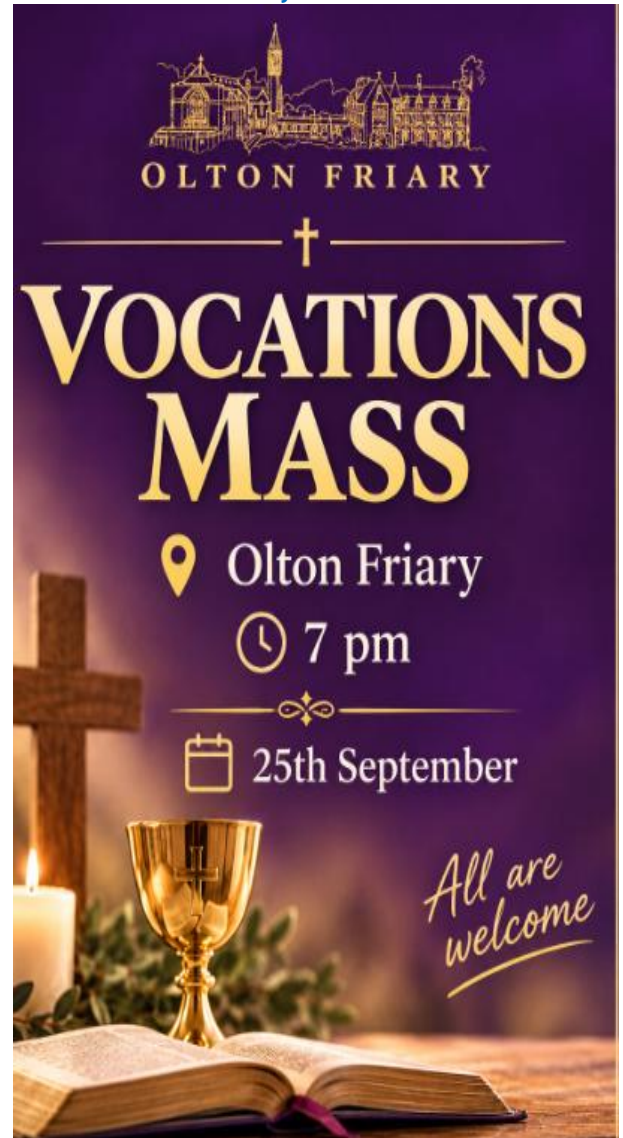
★ A supportive indoor space for children who are not able to pedal independently to experience that first spark of cycling freedom.

Bikes and helmets provided

27th – 30th October 2026



Olton Friary Vocations Mass



On behalf of Fr Dean Andrew Franklin, we would like to invite all young people to attend the **Deanery Vocation Mass**, which will take place here at **Olton Friary on Friday, 25 September, at 7.00 pm**. Thank you very much for your support. God bless, Fr Bijou.

Updated PE Kit Days



As we settle into the new academic year, we have made some adjustments to our timetable. Please see the updated PE schedule below which was shared with you this week and make a note of your child's PE days. We ask that children arrive at school wearing their PE kit on these days and that all clothing is clearly labelled. Your support helps us to maximise learning time and ensures children are comfortable and ready to learn:

FS2 (both classes) - Wednesday & Thursday

Year 1 (Mrs Mitchell) - Monday & Wednesday

Year 1/2 (Miss Dowling) - Monday & Thursday

Year 2 (Mrs Redfern) - Monday & Wednesday

Year 3 (Mr Brennan) - Tuesday & Friday

Year 3/4 (Mrs Kendrew/Miss Cottrell) Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 4 (Mrs Day) - Tuesday & Friday

Year 5 (Mrs Freeman) - Tuesday [swimming] & Thursday

Year 5/6 (Miss Houlihan) - Tuesday [swimming Year 5; PE Year 6] & Thursday

Year 6 (Miss Sidwell) - Monday & Tuesday

New Reading Scheme

We are also delighted to have introduced our new reading scheme this year, which provides a wider range of high-quality, carefully matched books to support children in developing their reading skills and confidence. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Friends of OLC (FOLC), whose generous support has enabled us to invest in these wonderful new resources for our children. The books form part of a structured reading scheme and are intended to be used by many children over the coming years. We therefore ask that all books are treated with care and returned to school promptly. In the event that a book is lost or damaged beyond repair, parents will be asked to contribute £4.50 towards the replacement cost of the book. By working together, we can help ensure that these valuable resources remain available for all children to enjoy and benefit from.