



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 3

Date: Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

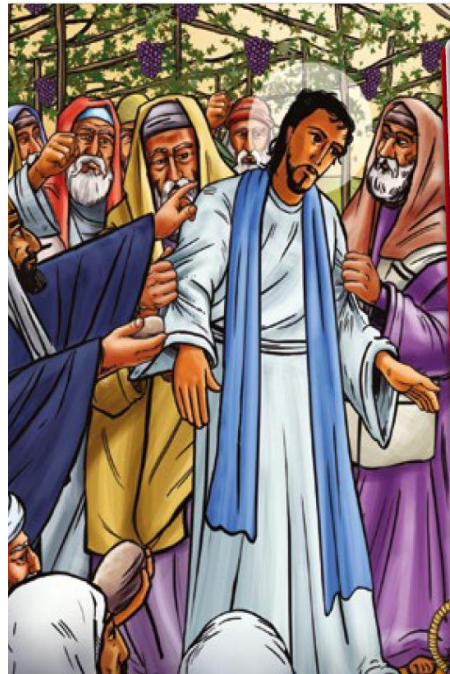
This week has been a truly special one in school as we have celebrated Little Way Week and begun October by reflecting on the importance of the Holy Rosary. Throughout the week, our children have been learning about the example of St Thérèse of Lisieux, who showed us that even the smallest acts of kindness, love and service can make a big difference. Her "Little Way" reminds us that holiness is found not in grand gestures but in the everyday choices we make to help others, show compassion and live as Jesus taught us. Linked to this, our collective worship and classroom reflections have focused on the idea that actions can often speak louder than words. Whilst kind words are important, it is our actions that demonstrate our faith in practice. We have encouraged the children to think about how they can show kindness, forgiveness, respect and generosity through what they do each day, whether that is helping a friend, including someone who feels lonely, caring for our environment or serving others without expecting anything in return. As we turn our hearts towards Our Lady during the month of October, the Month of the Rosary, we have also reflected on Mary's wonderful example of faith, humility and service. Through praying the Rosary, we are invited to walk alongside Mary and grow closer to Jesus, learning from her example of saying "yes" to God's call through both her words and her actions. It has been wonderful to see our children embracing these messages throughout the week. Their thoughtful reflections, acts of kindness and commitment to living out our mission, "To live as Jesus taught us," continue to make us proud.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. May we all be inspired by St Thérèse and Our Lady to show God's love through our actions each day.

God bless,

Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



It's easy to get caught up in the daily busyness of life and forget what life's really all about. However, to assist us on our path through life, God sends messengers to help us remember what is most important. In this Sunday's Gospel, the servants represent God's messengers (the Prophets), and the tenants of the vineyard represent the leaders of Israel at that time. Jesus told this story because some of the leaders were not listening to God's messengers. In many ways we are like 'tenants' in this world. The messengers that God sends today remind us that God has a plan for our lives. We are created for everlasting life and, for now, we are here to share, enjoy and develop what God gives to us in this life.

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48 Hour Rule

As a school we ask that children who have been unwell and have symptoms of sickness and diarrhoea do not attend school for 48 hours. On page 3 of this newsletter there is a poster that may help when considering whether your child should be in school or when they may need to remain at home. We encourage all children to attend school every day as long as they are well enough to do so.

Dates for 2026/27

Further dates will be added throughout the term



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 Y5
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

Buddies



We are pleased to announce that our Buddies Service will take place on Wednesday 14th October in the School Hall at 2.15 pm. During a wonderful occasion, our children in Year 6 and FS2 will receive a blessing to commemorate the start of their buddy journey. We hope that you are able to join us for this service.

Hello Yellow Day

On Friday 9th October, we are inviting children to wear a splash of yellow with their school uniform (this can be yellow socks, a yellow hair band, a yellow scarf...), in recognition of World Mental Health Day and the theme 'Hello Yellow Day', supporting Young Minds awareness. If you would like to make a donation to support this, please follow this link:

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/supports/fundraising/helloyellow/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMlvtizleXJ-gIVjd_tCh1OQwfDEAAAYASAAEgK03PD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds

Samaritan's Purse Operation



Once again this year, the school will be taking part in the Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Box Appeal). The Samaritan's Purse website can be accessed following this link:

<https://samaritanpurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>
It will give you an idea of the items to be put in the shoebox. Shoe Boxes will need to be returned to school by the 6th November. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Black History Month

This October, we are proud to celebrate Black History Month, a time to recognise and honour the rich heritage, achievements, and contributions of Black individuals throughout history and in our society today. This year's theme, "Honouring Our Communities," encourages us to reflect on the strength, resilience, and positive impact of communities, and to consider how we can play our part in celebrating and supporting those around us. Throughout the month, our children will explore inspiring stories, significant figures, and meaningful contributions that have helped shape our world. We will also be thinking about how we can honour our own communities through acts of kindness, respect, inclusion, service, and by ensuring that every person feels valued and heard. By sharing stories, resources, and learning experiences, we hope to inspire curiosity, deepen understanding, and strengthen our commitment to being a school where everyone belongs and where every voice matters. Below are a few examples of the wonderful work completed by our children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. We look forward to sharing work from Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 in the coming weeks.



We have been learning about Rosa Parks. She was a brave lady who helped make things fairer by saying, "no," when people were being treated unfairly, because of the colour of their skin.





British Sign Language

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE - FINGERSPELLING



british-sign.co.uk

LEARN BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE ONLINE
AT WWW.BRITISH-SIGN.CO.UK

This year, you may be aware that we have introduced British Sign Language (BSL) as our Modern Foreign Languages curriculum across the school. Learning BSL offers many benefits for children. It develops communication skills, promotes inclusion and understanding of the Deaf community, enhances memory and concentration, and builds confidence through a new and engaging way of expressing ideas. As a visual language, BSL also supports pupils' listening, attention and non-verbal communication skills. We are already seeing great enthusiasm from the children, and you may find them coming home eager to teach you some of the signs they have been learning in class! We would encourage families to join in and learn alongside them as we celebrate this exciting addition to our curriculum.

Is my child too ill for school?



UK Government



Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES

Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO

Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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



Admission Arrangements

Our Lady of Compassion is consulting on its admission arrangements for 2028-29 from 1st October 2026 to 12th November 2026. You can find a copy of the proposed admission arrangements on our website. If you have any comments or views you should send them to Laura Grice, OLAAS Governance Lead at gricel@olaas.co.uk or 5pm on 12th November 2026.

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/>

Food Promotion Day

If your child would like a school dinner on the 5th November 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 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.

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.

Secondary Applications

The closing date for secondary school 2027 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 an application.

OPAL Community Build Day - POSTPONED



We are sorry to let you know that we need to postpone our OPAL Community Build Day, which was due to take place on Wednesday 28th October. Many of the exciting projects we have planned to further enhance our outdoor play spaces require volunteers with specific skills and tools. Unfortunately, the company that had kindly offered to support us on the day is no longer able to attend, meaning we are unable to proceed as planned. We will be arranging a new date in the near future and will share details with you as soon as they are confirmed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families and community members for their continued support. We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm, generosity, and encouragement you show towards our school and the OPAL programme. Your support makes a real difference to the opportunities we can provide for our children.

Youth Group at Olton Friary

Our children are blessed with the opportunity of attending a Youth Group at the Friary which takes place every Friday evening from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. This is very popular and a great opportunity for young people to participate in exciting activities, meet other young people and make new friends.

OLC Designated Safeguarding Leads

OLC is committed to safeguarding all our pupils - we take child protection and safeguarding very seriously. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Vella. The deputy safeguarding leads are Mr Emery and Miss Moir. If you do have any safeguarding concerns, please do inform a DSL. During the holiday, please phone MASH on 0121 788 4300 if you have any concerns about a child.