Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

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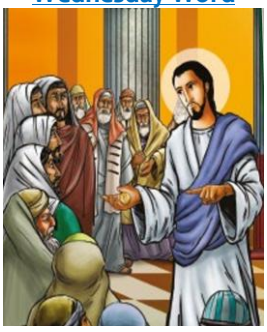
To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 4
Date: Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
As we reach the end of our first half term together, it is hard to believe how quickly the weeks have passed. With the arrival of the autumn season, the changing colours of the leaves and the darker evenings remind us that we have now firmly settled into the rhythm of a new school year. Autumn is often a time of reflection and gratitude, and it has been wonderful to see our school community grow together over these first few weeks. This half term has been filled with learning, achievement and opportunities for our children to shine. Whether in the classroom, through prayer and worship, or during the many activities that enrich school life, our pupils have demonstrated enthusiasm and kindness. They continue to live out our mission of *'Living as Jesus Taught Us'*, and I have been immensely proud of the way they support one another and contribute so positively to our school community. I would also like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping our children flourish and achieve their full potential. As we move through this season and look ahead to the next half term, we are excited for the many opportunities that await us, including our preparations for Advent and the special celebrations that bring us together as a faith community**. School closes for the half-term break on Friday 23rd October. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 3rd November, as Monday 2nd November is an INSET day and the school will be closed to all pupils while staff undertake professional development and training.**
I wish all our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break.
Thank you once again for your support, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 3rd November.
Best Wishes
Mr N Emery (Headteacher)

Wednesday Word



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' enemies are plotting his downfall and try to trick him with a devious question about paying taxes. If Jesus says they should pay, it means that he accepts the Roman Emperor, and not God, as his ultimate boss. If he says they shouldn't pay, he can be attacked for being disloyal to the Roman Empire. But then Jesus follows up with a real clincher: 'Pay to the Emperor what is due to the Emperor and pay to God what is due to God!' This Gospel story also asks us: 'What is due to God in our own lives?' Surely 'our gratitude' would be a good answer to this question. Being grateful to God brings great joy. There are many blessings in life – let's not just take them for granted.

Homework Reminder

As a reminder, homework expectations for all children can be found on our website in the *Working Together* presentations that were shared during the parent meetings in September. To access these presentations, please follow the link below:
https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=Working+Together+Meetings+Information&pid=63

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open day

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.

Dates for 2026/27

Further dates will be added throughout the term



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

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/

Winter Uniform



After the October half-term break, we ask that children wear their winter uniform. The school uniform policy can be found by following this link: https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=67

ParentPay

As we come to end of a half-term we ask that any arrears on your ParentPay account are addressed so that your accounts do not fall into deficit. However, if for some a reason you are unable to settle your deficit, please do inform us so that we can support you.

Nursery Admission 2026/27

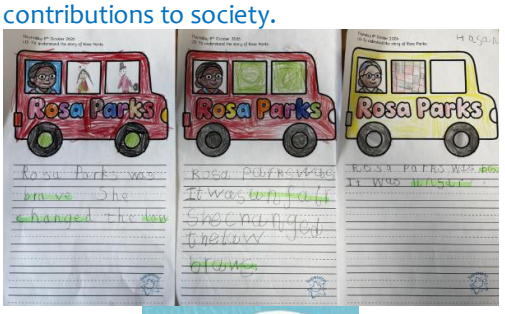
If you are interested in places for 2026/27 for your child to begin with us in Nursery, please contact the school office.

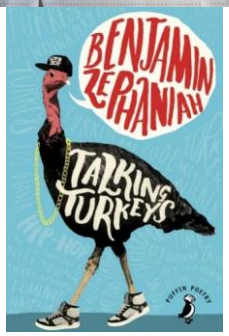
Drop off Reminder

A gentle reminder to all families to ensure children are dropped off safely and on time each morning. The school gates open at **8.45am** for children in **FS1/FS2/UKS2** and their siblings only; children in **KS1 and LKS2** are dropped off at **8.55am** - we ask that pupils arrive promptly to help them settle and start their day calmly. During the morning drop off children in FS/KS1 should use the pathway and children in LKS2/UKS2 should use the driveway with siblings who have the option to use the same entrance. Please avoid parking directly outside the school entrance to keep the area safe and accessible for all. Thank you for your continued support in making our mornings smooth and secure for everyone.

Black History Month

During Black History Month, our children have been learning about the lives and achievements of influential Black figures who have made a lasting impact on society. In Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2), pupils explored the life of Rosa Parks, learning about her courage, determination and the important role she played in the Civil Rights Movement. The children reflected on how one person's bravery can help bring about positive change. In Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4), pupils studied the life and work of acclaimed poet and activist Benjamin Zephaniah. They explored a range of his poems, including *Talking Turkeys* and *Football Mad*, and discussed the themes, humour and messages within his writing. The children analysed *Talking Turkeys*, considering Zephaniah's beliefs about vegetarianism, compassion and social activism. They annotated the poem with their own thoughts and interpretations before confidently performing their own versions to their classmates. It has been wonderful to see the children engage so thoughtfully with these inspiring individuals and develop a deeper understanding of their contributions to society.





RSE Update

Thank you to everyone who took part in the RSE consultation and shared their feedback. We are pleased to confirm that, following this process, our RSE curriculum has been updated and will be introduced after the half-term break in line with Diocesan expectations. If you would like to view the learning content for your child, please follow the link below (username and password can be found on our website): Parent Portal

Congratuations Leo!





We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Leo Bailey has signed for Birmingham City Football Club. Leo's achievement is the result of his hard work, dedication and passion for football. Throughout his time at school, he has shown great commitment, determination and resilience, and we are incredibly proud to see him take this exciting next step in his sporting journey. On behalf of everyone at Our Lady of Compassion, we would like to congratulate Leo and his family on this wonderful achievement. We wish him every success as he begins this exciting new chapter and look forward to following his progress in the years ahead.

Parents' Evening

We look forward to our Parents' Evenings taking place after the half-term, where you will have the opportunity to hear about your child's progress. Bookings will go live on Thursday 22nd October at 6pm. Prior to making your booking, you will have received an email this week to inform you that you will need to register and activate your parents' booking account before the 22nd October.

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.

2nd Solihull Brownies

We currently have a few spaces available at 2nd Solihull Brownies for girls aged 7-8 years. Throughout the term, Brownies enjoy a wide range of activities, including:

- Games and team challenges
- Outdoor adventures
- Planting and gardening/Arts and crafts
- Working towards Skills Builder badges, such as First Aid and Communication
- Visits to interesting places and activities with other local Brownie units

We meet every Monday during term time, from 6.15pm to 7.20pm, at:
Our Lady of Compassion School *(Portacabin building)*
Kineton Green Road
Olton, Solihull
B92 7EG

OPAL Play at Lunchtime

As part of our exciting OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme, children are enjoying a wide range of outdoor play opportunities during lunchtime. We are committed to ensuring that children can benefit from outdoor play throughout the year, whatever the weather! To help make this possible, we would be grateful if parents could send their child into school with a pair of wellies and a waterproof coat or waterproof trousers that can be left in school (and all labelled clearly with your child's name on). Having these items available means that children can continue to explore, play, create and enjoy the outdoors safely and comfortably, even on wetter days. Outdoor play is an important part of children's physical, social and emotional development, and we are delighted to see so many children embracing these opportunities. Thank you for your continued support in helping us make play happen in all weathers!

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 menus 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.

Fun Fest – Holiday Bookings – now available

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Bookings for FunFest this holiday are now open, with a range of exciting activities available for children during the half-term break.

HAF-funded places are available for eligible children who:

- Are in **Reception to Year 11** and in full-time education.
- Receive **Targeted Free School Meals** (benefits-related FSM).
- Have a valid **Solihull HAF code**.

Families with children attending a Solihull school should have received their HAF code directly from Solihull Council. This code is required when booking a funded place. If your child lives in Solihull but attends a school outside the borough, you can apply to Solihull Council for a HAF code. Please note that eligibility for **Universal Infant Free School Meals** or the **Expanded Free School Meals** provision does not automatically qualify a child for a HAF-funded place. A valid Solihull HAF code must be provided when making a booking. We encourage eligible families to book early to secure their place and take advantage of the fantastic activities on offer throughout the holiday.

For more information on how to book contact:
solihulloffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk







OLC Christmas Market – Save the Date



We are delighted to announce that the OLC Christmas Market will be taking place on Friday 27th November from 3.25pm to 5.00pm on the school playground. After collecting your children at the end of the school day, we warmly invite families to stay and enjoy a wander around the market. There will be a variety of festive stalls offering Christmas gifts, seasonal treats and plenty of opportunities to pick up some early Christmas presents. This is also a wonderful opportunity to support FOLC and the many stallholders who help make this event possible. As always, your support plays a vital role in enriching experiences for our children and strengthening our school community. We hope you can join us for an enjoyable afternoon of festive shopping, community spirit and Christmas cheer as we begin the countdown to the Christmas season.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) – October half term

Funded activities are running this October half term holiday. Families eligible for Targeted free school meals, should use the unique booking code provided by email on 1st October. More information on how to book places **HAF activities** .

Families in receipt of **Targeted free school meals** are eligible to access the programme and there is no cost to the family:

- **Changes to Free School Meals September 2026**

Eligible but haven't had your code? Email **hafinfo@solihull.gov.uk**.

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact: **Family Information Service and HAF Team hafinfo@solihull.gov.uk**



Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

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



Rescheduled Buddies Service



We are pleased to announce that our postponed Buddies Service will now take place on Tuesday 10th November in the School Hall at 2.15 pm. During this 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.

Points of Call

As shared during our Working Together meetings, we kindly ask all parents and carers to follow our agreed points of contact when raising questions, concerns or seeking support. This helps ensure that queries are dealt with promptly by the person best placed to help and allows us to work together effectively in supporting your child. The agreed order of contact is:

Class Teacher
Phase Leader
Deputy Headteacher
Headteacher

In most cases, your child's class teacher will be able to resolve any questions quickly and efficiently. Following this process helps us maintain clear communication, ensures concerns are addressed at the appropriate level, and enables all staff to focus on providing the very best support for every child.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to help every child flourish and succeed.