

Latest School News

Our Catholic Faith

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 25th June 2023 - The Mission of the Apostles (Matthew 10:26-33)

Jesus instructed the twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops. 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. 'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one, who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'



Reflection

This whole chapter of Matthew brings together and sums up what Jesus has to say to his apostles about declaring his teaching in the face of hostility and persecution. Jesus himself was fearless in proclaiming his message. He 'taught with authority', as the gospel constantly tells us. His disciples are sent out to do the same. We do not often meet with real persecution, although it may yet happen. The martyrs of communist Russia or Vietnam lived many years of peaceful Christianity before unexpectedly facing martyrdom. The monk martyrs of Algeria did not reckon on martyrdom when they went to Algeria. The only preparation for martyrdom can be fidelity and prayer. More often we face mockery for holding to Christian principles, and that too can be difficult to bear. We can be accused of narrow mindedness, lack of appreciation of human values, blind obedience, sentimentality, naivety, and a host of other hurtful slurs. Jesus did not promise that the Father would prevent the sparrows falling to the ground! Neither is it always easy to respond to such slurs with the patience and generosity as well as the truthfulness which Jesus would have shown. 'A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar', said St Francis de Sales.

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Weekend Mass Times at Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday 5.30pm

Sunday Mass: 10am with children's

There is a children's Liturgy of the Word at 10am Mass on Sunday.

Year 5 Maths Challenge

Earlier this week, some of our Year 5 pupils participated in the final round of the Year 5 Maths Challenge. Congratulations to St Wilfred's who were the overall winning team followed in second place by Our Lady of Compassion and in third place, St John the Baptist.



Year 4 Camping Trip

Class 4M and 4C have enjoyed a camping trip at Rough Close Outdoor Centre this week. During the evening, children sang songs around the campfire, eating toasted marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate! Throughout the day they engaged in a variety of outdoor activities including: orienteering, cave bus & cave tunnel, traverse wall (a form of low level rock climbing), pedal cars and team problem solving activities.



Confirmation

Please remember in your prayers those young people preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Wednesday 28th June - Class 6O

Tuesday 11th July - Class 6P

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*



Wayside Womble Project

Congratulations to all the children who completed the Wayside Womble Project. The children were presented with their Wayside Womble Awards today.



Staff Changes for 2023-2024

There is often a tinge of sadness at this time of year as we say goodbye to members of staff, and so it is this year. We can confirm the following teachers will be leaving us at the end of term:

Miss Pitman (Year 6 teacher and Upper Phase Leader)

Miss Pitman has been promoted to a new role working in Warwickshire County Council's Special Educational Need Department. Miss Pitman is an amazing teacher who has given 100% to Our Lady of the Wayside School during her time with us. She is full of gifts and talents and will be a real asset to the SEND team in Warwickshire.

Mrs Crawford (Year 4 teacher)

Mrs Crawford has been promoted to a new role working at Solihull Academy. Solihull Academy is an additional alternative provision setting for pupils of secondary age. They educate some of the most vulnerable pupils within Solihull, pupils who are at risk of being out of education. Mrs Crawford will be fantastic working in this environment, bringing the skills and knowledge gained at Our Lady of the Wayside and from her previous teaching experiences. We know she will make a real difference to the lives of the pupils at Solihull Academy.

Mr Vinti (Year 5 teacher)

Mr Vinti arrived at Our Lady of the Wayside in October to support in what was a very difficult period for the school. A teacher had unexpectedly left and Mr Vinti stepped in at short notice to fill the vacancy created. Mr Vinti has many exciting projects planned for next year.

We will always be most grateful for all the dedication, support and love of Miss Pitman, Mrs Crawford and Mr Vinti. There are all truly remarkable individuals and we have been blessed to call them our colleagues and friends. We wish them every joy and success in the future.

Other Staff Changes

Mrs Hayes (Reception teacher): Mrs Hayes will be on maternity leave next year. Exciting times for Mrs Hayes and her family. We look forward to hearing all about baby Hayes!

Mrs Gray (New Assistant Headteacher): Mrs Gray will be joining us in September as our new Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for inclusion (including SEND), pastoral lead and behaviour lead. Mrs Gray will take over SENCo responsibilities from Mrs Ashcroft. We would like to thank Mrs Ashcroft for her tremendous dedication and hard work for SEND at Our Lady of the Wayside for many years.

Class Teacher Arrangements for Academic Year 2023-2024

Below are class teacher arrangements for next academic year. A warm welcome to our new teachers joining us in September: Mrs Goodenough, Miss Atkins, Miss Tracey and Mr Cunningham. May their time at Our Lady of the Wayside be filled with great joy.

Nursery	Mrs Reilly
Reception	Miss Bagladi, Mrs Goodenough and Mrs Sparkes (3 days a week)
Year 1	Ms Yarnold & Mrs Compton
Year 2	Mrs Forsyth, Mrs Sallis & TBC
Year 3	Miss Stanton & Miss Atkins
Year 4	Miss McNamee & Mrs Lewis
Year 5	Miss Ebbutt & Miss Tracey
Year 6	Mrs O'Donnell, Mr Cunningham & Mrs Cunnane
Non-class based	Mrs Ashcroft - Deputy Headteacher Mrs Gray - Assistant Headteacher Mrs Upton (English lead) - 1 day a week

There will be an opportunity for children to meet their new class teachers on Thursday 6th July. There is also an opportunity for parents to meet their child's new class teacher on Wednesday 12th July between 4:00pm and 5:00pm. Please note, we are still confirming these arrangements with the new teachers joining in September 2023.

Gaelic Football Competition

Well done to the Gaelic Football team who came third in a competition against other Catholic schools at Parc Na Heireann on Wednesday. Congratulations to Abby Primary who won the competition.



St Peter's Choir

Yesterday evening, children in Y3, 5 and 6 participated in a Choir Festival at St Peter's Secondary Catholic School. Well done to all the children who sang with such enthusiasm and confidence. Also, a big thank you to Mrs Vinti in preparing the children for this event.



Attendance

It is essential that children regularly attend school, poor attendance has a serious and long lasting impact on your child. To promote and encourage good attendance we publish weekly attendance figures.

Reception	Red Group 96.3%	Blue Group 89.6%
Year 1	Class 1C 95.9%	Class 1Y 96.3%
Year 2	Class 2F 94.0%	Class 2CS 96.6%
Year 3	Class 3M 96.1%	Class 3TS 94.6%
Year 4	Class 4C 98.2%	Class 4L 95.6%
Year 5	Class 5E 96.3%	Class 5V 94.7%
Year 6	Class 6O 96.1%	Class 6P 97.2%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.3%. Well done this week to Class 4C with an attendance figure of 98.2%

New Reception Parents' Meeting

It was lovely to welcome our new Reception parents on Tuesday evening. Our thanks to Jenny and Tara from the School Association who provided teas and coffees and also to Wendy, our school cook, who provided some delicious cakes.



National Gas Visit

The Eco-Council met with Kiera, an Environment, Social and Governance Analyst from National Gas this week. They shared their reasons for joining the council and also about the work they had undertaken. Kiera shared some of the initiatives introduced by National Gas. Mrs Sallis, our Eco-Council Lead, was incredibly proud of the children who were so interested and engaged. Following the meeting, Kiera commented,

'I was honestly blown away – genuinely rendered speechless at times – by how caring, engaged, astute and passionate the students were about all things sustainability! A level of understanding about how deep sustainability challenges go was shown by everyone, even the Year 1s, in a way that was completely unknown to me when I was that age. Every single one of the Eco-Councillors are an absolute asset to your school.'

Well done to the Eco-Council and thank you to Mrs Sallis for leading the group with such passion.

Reception Father's Day Event

It was wonderful to see Reception dads today enjoying lots of activities with their children; Sharing books, scavenger hunting and even making ice-cream cones. Lots of fun and enjoyment was had by everyone.

School Association News

Our Lady of the Wayside Summer Fair - Friday 7th July

Treasure jars - your child has brought home an empty plastic cup this week. Please fill with wrapped sweets. Children can also decorate the cup and a top or covering of some sort is a good idea to stop the sweets falling out. Please return to school on or before **Friday 30th June**.

Raffle tickets - today you will have received 2 books of raffle tickets (per family). Please try to sell these if you can and return the money and stubs to school before **Friday 7th July**.

Bottle collection - we will be collecting bottles for the bottle tombola on **Thursday 6th and Friday 7th July** before school. These can be any sort of bottle - toiletries, non-alcoholic or alcoholic drinks.

Summer fair - we are busy planning and preparing for the summer fair on **Friday 7th July** after school. Please let us know if you can help on the day olowsa@aol.com



Forthcoming Events

Nursery 2023 - New Parents' Meeting

A meeting for children starting in Nursery has been arranged for Tuesday 27th June at 6.30pm.

Mass - Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul

On Thursday 29th June, we will be celebrating Mass with Our Lady of the Wayside Parish at 10:00am; you are all most welcome.

Toy Swap

The Eco- Council are running a Toy Swap event on Tuesday 27th June. If children would like to swap a toy (which is in good condition), please can they bring this into school on Tuesday.

Council Celebration Event

On Wednesday 28th June, representatives from the Eco-Council (Y5&6) are attending an Eco Council Celebration Event at Solihull Council.