

# Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School



**School Newsletter – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well we have certainly had another very busy week! A huge thank you to all who supported the Year 5 family Mass on Saturday night. It was a wonderful celebration with children welcoming parishioners at the door, children reading beautifully and also singing. I felt very privileged to be part of such a strong parish and school partnership.

Our Year 6 pupils were excellent ambassadors for our school this week as they were tasked with showing our new parents around the school. They were so articulate and enthusiastic to share their experiences with the new parents. They showed a real pride in belonging to the school. All of the visitors left very excited and praised the children for their fantastic tour. They all want their children to come to our school!

We had another School Association meeting on Wednesday evening where we discussed the Autumn disco on 12<sup>th</sup> November and the Christmas Fayre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December so save these dates so that you don't miss out. The school submitted bids and I am delighted to say that we successfully secured our bid for new Catholic social teaching signs. The SA also agreed to update photos in the photograph frames that are throughout the school. Sean, who is a long-standing parishioner at the Wayside, has been commissioned to complete this work.

Next week is another exciting week with our dance day on Monday, non-school uniform on Tuesday and the term ends on Thursday as Friday is an INSET day for all schools in the MAC.

God Bless,

Mrs Enstone

## This Sunday's Gospel

**Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (Matthew 22:15-21): Giving God His Due**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

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## Gospel Reflection

They must really have thought they had their victim sewn up! If Jesus said he paid the Roman taxes, he recognised the Emperor, not God, as his Lord. If he said he didn't pay, he was a traitor to Rome. Jesus turns the question back on them. First he makes them admit that they themselves recognise Rome as overlord by carrying a Roman coin, for the coin would carry the Emperor's head. Next he puts them a question: what do they consider is due to Caesar? Finally, he goes beyond their question, to interrogate their ultimate loyalty: in the last analysis, just what is due to God? At a superficial level this seems a little verbal tussle, in which Jesus outwits his opponents. But the story was remembered and passed on in the Christian community not because of Jesus' cleverness, but because at a deeper level it is a question which Jesus puts to each of us: just where do our loyalties and priorities lie? Money? Respect? Fame? A good holiday? Comfort? Power? Jesus is not a dictator who imposes his will. He just asks the question and leaves us to give our own answer. To those who question him he gives no easy response, but always replies with another question.

**What takes priority in my life? Does God get a look-in? In what way?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

## One World Liturgy

Today, we also celebrated our One World Harvest Liturgy, gathering as a school community to thank God for this year's harvest and for our wonderful world. As part of this liturgy, we asked for donations of food in support of a Catholic charity called Brushstrokes (<https://www.brushstrokesandwell.org.uk/>). We had a really positive response. Thank you for your support.



## Y4 Trip to the Botanical Gardens

Year 4 had a wonderful time visiting the Botanical Gardens on Monday as part of their geography and science themes. They explored different plant and animal life, revisited their knowledge on food chains, learnt about food webs and even got to hold some animals!



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## Parish/School Mass

Well done to the Year 5 children and Year 5 staff for leading us so beautifully in our first Parish/School Family Mass on Saturday evening. It was lovely to see so many families in attendance. The next Parish/School Family Mass will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November. This will be an induction Mass for Y3 children making the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion.

## Black History Month

Year 1 celebrated Black History month earlier this week by exploring the artwork of Alma Thomas. The children looked at her painting 'wind dancing with spring flowers' and created their own version.



## Open Days

Well done to some of our Year 6 children who showed prospective parents around school during our two Open Mornings recently. Parents commented on how confident and informative they were and also about how proud they were of their school.



## 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 92.2%	Blue 97.0%
Year 1	Class 1C 95.5%	Class 1Y 97.7%
Year 2	Class 2F 97.0%	Class 2SH 94.4%
Year 3	Class 3A 91.4%	Class 3TS 98.5%
Year 4	Class 4M 97.7%	Class 4L 98.5%
Year 5	Class 5E 98.5%	Class 5T 98.6%
Year 6	Class 6O 98.2%	Class 6C 92.9%

Overall attendance for this week is 96.0%. Well done this week to Class 5T with an attendance figure of 98.6%

## School Association News

The next School Association event is an autumn themed disco. Booking details to follow. **Please note that the venue has changed to The Regency Hotel.**



At this week's SA meeting it was agreed that the SA would fund replacement photos in the photo frames along the corridors and new Catholic Social Teaching panels for around school. Our thanks to the SA for their support.

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## **Year 5 Religious Residential Retreat**

Next Wednesday to Friday children in Year 5 will be on retreat at Alton Castle. This provides them with a wonderful opportunity to grow closer to God through prayer and reflection. We hope they all have a wonderful time.

## **Mass**

On **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 10am**, children in Lower Phase will be celebrating Mass with OLW parish. This will be led by Y2 children. You are all most welcome to join.

## **Non-Uniform**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October** is a non-uniform day. Voluntary donations of £1 will go towards School Association funds.

## **All Souls**

This November, to commemorate All Souls Day, we will be creating special remembrance areas in each classroom. If your child would like to bring photos and objects into school that remind them of deceased members of their families, these can be placed around prayer tables. These areas will be decorated in bright colours and flowers. Children can share stories about family members and pray for them. This would be a positive way of celebrating the lives of those who have died.

We would also like to invite parents and staff to add the names of friends and family members into a Book of Remembrance which we will place in our Prayer Room. The RE council will pray for these people in weekly prayer sessions throughout the month of November. This book will be available in Reception in the first week back after half-term.

## **Online Safety**

### **Screen time guidance for parents and carers**

'Screen time' is the amount of time people spend using devices like tablets, phones, laptops or gaming consoles. The amount of time young people spend using these devices can be a source of worry and conflict for many families.

### **Is there a perfect amount of screen time?**

At Childnet, we often hear parents and carers asking about the 'perfect' amount of screen time for their children. However, there is no simple answer to this question.

In 2019, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) published research on the impacts of screen time, and found that there are no ideal limit on screen time. Instead, the perfect amount of screen time will depend on your family and what works for you.

### **Quality over quantity**

While the RCPCH have advised that there is no perfect amount of screen time, they have said that screen time should not replace exercise, time spent together as a family, or sleep.

When thinking about the right amount of screen time for your children, it is useful to think about the quality of the time being spent on devices, and ask yourself what your child is gaining from their time online.

Children could be spending time socialising with their friends on different apps, scrolling through TikTok, playing videogames, or doing research for homework. Positive use of technology can support young people's wellbeing, as long as they strike a healthy balance between these and offline activities.

While there are many ways that technology can have a positive impact on wellbeing, if children are viewing inappropriate content online, it can have an impact on their behaviour and mental health, no matter how long they spend viewing that content.



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## Y6 Secondary School Applications

### Message from School Admissions Team

The closing date for submitting your child's application for secondary school is 31st October. If you live in Solihull and you have not yet applied, you must submit your application via the parent portal at [www.solihull.gov.uk/pp](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/pp). Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers have been made in March. Applying late is likely to affect the outcome of your application

## Holy Communion Parent Meeting

A parent meeting providing details on Holy Communion preparation and dates has been arranged for **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm** in the School Hall. If you are unable to attend, information will be issued after the meeting.

## Half-Term

A reminder that school is closed on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October for an INSET day**.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November is half-term and school is closed. Children return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. We hope you all have a lovely half-term break.

## Pupil Report Cards and Review Meetings

Thank you for attending this week's Pupil Review Meetings. We hope you found them helpful. This approach is very much based on pupil voice and putting children at the centre of their learning.

The next PRM meetings will take a slightly different format. Your child will attend their Pupil Review Meeting with their class teacher during the school day throughout the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> November. Parents will then have an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with their child's teacher (no pupils present) on either Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 3.50 to 6.20pm. At these face-to-face meetings with parents, (no pupils present) targets will be shared, parents can look at their child's work and see their child's classroom. Booking details will be issued after half-term.

Mrs Enstone, Mrs Ashcroft and Mrs Gray will be available on these evening if you wish to speak with them.

## Reception Parent Meeting - Phonics

On **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October**, there will be an opportunity for parents of children in Reception to attend a meeting about Early Reading. This will take place at 2.45pm in the school hall.

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## Information received this week

### Our Lady of the Wayside Pre-School

A safe and happy environment for your child to grow and learn; preparing them for school.

Our welcoming, highly trained staff ensure that a wide range of activities including arts & crafts, messy play and role-play are undertaken daily. With our fantastic secure outdoor play area, half undercover fresh air and exercise can be enjoyed in all weather. We have a wonderful new natural garden which inspires imaginative play and forest school style activities.

You are very welcome to visit, have a look around our setting and meet our team.

All children between the ages of 2 - 4 years welcome.

Our Pre-School opening hours are 9.15am – 12.15pm.

Spaces currently available for 2023/24.

We are registered to accept 15 & 30 hour funding.

For further details or an application form please contact Pre-School (07474 743744) weekdays 9.00am – 12.30pm or alternatively, visit our website at [www.OLOWpreschool.com](http://www.OLOWpreschool.com) or email us at [ourladyofthewaysidepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofthewaysidepreschool@gmail.com)