

Latest School News

Mr Taylor's End of Term Message

Throughout 2022, we have all become aware of how much prices are rising and the financial pressure this is having on family budgets. I know, at this time of year, there is real pressure to create the 'perfect' Christmas. When I was a class teacher, I used to ask my class about their Christmas and what they enjoyed the most. You may be surprised by what they said:

They would tell me of their excitement and their anticipation at Christmas Mass...

They would tell me how their grandparents would come for Christmas dinner and Grandad fell asleep...

They would tell me how they would go for a family walk and feed the ducks...

They would tell me how they would sit around the table playing cards and how Dad often cheated...

They would tell me how they visited a family or friend's house on New Year's Eve and how they stayed up until midnight....

They would tell me how they would snuggle up in bed and would listen to a bedtime story...

They would tell me how, on some days, they were allowed to stay in their pyjamas and would play board games and watch Christmas movies....

On occasions, they would mention their gifts from Santa, but for them their greatest gift was always you ... your little Christmas traditions and routines, your time together and the love you shared as a family. On behalf of all the staff at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School, I wish you all a happy, restful and holy Christmas, and a Christmas where many new wonderful memories are created.

Sunday's Gospel

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 18th December 2022 -
Emmanuel (Matthew 1:18-24)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel", a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



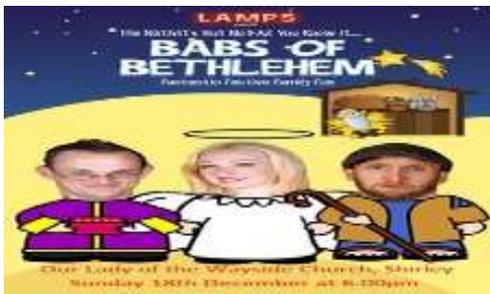
Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter

Friday 9th December 2022

Babs of Bethlehem

Dear Parents, on Sunday 18th December there will be a Nativity production called "Babs of Bethlehem" at 6pm here at OLW Church. The production is family friendly and is free of charge. (A donation bucket will be available if people wish to donate). If you would like some festive family fun come along and experience the "nativity but not as you know it". Please book at bookings.olw.shirley@rcaob.org.uk It would be great to see you,
God bless Fr Andrew.



Advent/Christmas Liturgies

Thank you for your support for our Advent/Christmas liturgies which have taken place over the last few weeks. All the children have been fantastic, working really hard to share the Advent and Christmas story. Our thanks too to the staff for preparing the children and ensuring these were such special and holy occasions.

The St Vincent de Paul Society A helping hand

The St Vincent de Paul Society exists to offer help to those who are in need. We are discreet, professional and caring. In these days of stretched budgets, we offer practical help. Contact us via the parish office or email: svpshirley@gmail.com. As always, any enquiry will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you for your donations of shoeboxes for this year's St Chad's Sanctuary Christmas Shoebox Appeal. A group of our Year 6 Mini Vinnies delivered the shoeboxes on Monday. In January, the Mini Vinnies will lead an assembly explaining the work of St Chad's Sanctuary to the rest of the school.



School Association Christmas Fair

The School Association Committee would welcome feedback following this year's Christmas Fair, this would be really beneficial when planning future events - please click on the MS Forms link: <https://forms.office.com/e/WLFEb2506j> (you may need to copy and paste this link into your browser)

Thank you for your feedback.

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School Choir

Our school choir have had a very busy week singing at Tesco's in Hall Green, Phoenix House residential care home and singing in this year Touchwood Choir Competition. The choir sang beautifully and we had many compliments from the general public. Our thanks too to Mrs Vinti who manages our school choir. Our school choir meets every Wednesday morning at 8:30am and all pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are most welcome to attend.



Advent Penitential Service

There is an Advent penitential service taking place on Tuesday, 20th December, 7pm at St Augustine's Catholic Church. Parking is free of charge in the Dominion car park opposite St Augustine's Church.

Thank you

Thank you for your donations today (non-uniform day) in support of Jack Johnson's family; Jack was one of the children who died at Babbs Mill Lake on Sunday and was a pupil at St Anthony's Catholic School. Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School had pledged £500; we will confirm the total raised in January. Thank you for your kindness and for your prayers for Jack, his family and all the children who died in this tragic event.

Christmas Mass Timings

Christmas Eve 3pm and 5.30pm
(Family/Children orientated)

9pm preceded by Readings and Carols at 8.30pm.

Christmas Day 10am.

Booking is not required this year.

The Blessing of the Crib will take place on Christmas Eve at 10am in St Aidan's Chapel. This will be livestreamed but you are most welcome to come along and join me.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMBooJA AWW4>

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 88.5%	Blue Group 86.6%
Year 1	Class 1C 88.1%	Class 1Y 94.8%
Year 2	Class 2F 92.5%	Class 2CS 95.1%
Year 3	Class 3M 86.3%	Class 3TS 88.8%
Year 4	Class 4C 92.7%	Class 4L 94.2%
Year 5	Class 5E 82.4%	Class 5V 85.4%
Year 6	Class 6O 85.8%	Class 6P 91.6%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.8%. Well done this week to Class 2CS with an attendance figure of 95.1%



Brain Teaser

Last week's brainteaser:

I am four times as old as my daughter. In 20 years time I shall be twice as old as her. How old are we now?

Answer: I am 40 and my daughter is 10!

This week's brainteaser:

Robert and David were preparing to have a water balloon fight. "No Fair" cried Robert, "You have 3 times as many as I do!" David said "Fine!" and gave Robert 10 more balloons. "Still not fair!" argued Robert, "You still have twice as many as I do." How many more balloons must David give Robert for them to have the same number?

Mini Vinnies Tidy a Garden Project

On Tuesday, OLW Mini Vinnies had planned to visit housebound parishioners where they would tidy their gardens by collecting leaves. Unfortunately, it was too cold on Tuesday morning. They were able to visit Fr Andrew's garden later in the day. Great job Mini Vinnies!



Lower Phase Panto Visit

On Tuesday, children in Lower Phase visited the theatre to watch Beauty and The Beast in panto. They thoroughly enjoyed the show - oh yes they did!



Playing on Ice

The news from Babbs Mill Lake in Solihull, has been tragic and we cannot start to imagine the pain and the sense of loss these families must be going through. Here in school we have been praying for the children who lost their lives, their families, their friends and for their school communities. Below is a prayer you may wish to share at home:

*God of compassion,
In your tender love for us,
Comfort and strengthen those who mourn today,
Keep them in your care,
And give them the strength to meet the days to come.
Amen*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let Your perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace.
Amen.*

As we approach the Christmas holiday period, we are mindful that children are more likely to visit parks, walk alongside canals and play in areas surrounded by open water. The Royal Life Saving Society have some helpful tips on staying safe near frozen water:

- Children should not go on the ice under any circumstances
- Stay away from the edge of bodies of water as uneven terrain can make slips and falls more likely
- Whenever possible, stick to well-lit routes away from water
- Keep dogs on a lead when they're near the ice, and don't throw sticks or toys onto the ice
- If a pet falls in, do not go into the ice or water to rescue them, move somewhere where the dog can climb out and call them to you

If you see someone fall through the ice:

- Shout for assistance; get help also by phoning the emergency services
- Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue.
- Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm.
- Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.
- When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice - this spreads your weight more evenly.
- If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats, such as a plastic bottle or football, across the ice for them to hold onto to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

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Christmas Boutique

Thank you for your support for this year's Christmas Boutique. Children were very excited to choose a gift for someone in their family.



Spring 2023 Term

School reopens for pupils on **Tuesday 3rd January**. A note for your calendar... children will celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord on Friday 6th July with Mass at 2:00pm.

Message from 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 available for January 2023.

We are registered to accept 15 & 30 hour 2, 3 and 4 year old 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 or email us at ourladyofthewaysidepreschool@gmail.com