

## Latest School News

### Mr Taylor - End of Term Easter Reflection

Dear Parents,

As the end of the term approaches, and we reflect on the meaning of Lent, we consider the Easter story:

*"Knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled... Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (John 19: 28-30).*

Christians believe that on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose again from the dead. He came back to life, defying expectations. We also believe that in this event good overcame evil, life is stronger than death and that light shines through the darkness. And that's the challenge for us all - life undoubtedly has its challenges for each and every one of us, but with a belief that the darkness can and will be overcome by light then we can tackle those challenges head on and overcome them. For our school community, Jesus is our guiding light, and teaches us the way that we should live out our lives.

This is no more important a message than now. In our world we see inexcusable acts of violence, none more so than the events in Ukraine over the last 12 months. There are, however, so many other conflicts around the globe which do not always receive the same amount of coverage. For those affected by any conflict in our world, we offer up a prayer for peace:

*May God give wisdom and courage to those who work for peace.*

*We pray that their efforts may be blessed, that they may bring an end to violence and solace and stability to suffering peoples.*

*May the gift of peace permeate all troubled souls, convert all who live by violence and comfort all children who live in menacing situations, that the freedom to enjoy life and grow in safety may be theirs. And may each one of us know peace of mind and heart, peace of body and spirit, peace of community and world.*

*Holy Spirit of Peace, grant our prayer.*

*Amen.*

I hope that you and your family have a relaxing and joyful Easter break. I look forward to welcoming our children back ready on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April ready for a busy Summer 2023 Term.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Mr Taylor

## Holy Week Services at Our Lady of the Wayside

### PALM SUNDAY

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm

Mass with Simple Blessing of Palms and Short Passion Reading.

Sunday 10am

Mass with Solemn Procession, Blessing of Palms and Children's Liturgy.

3pm

Anointing of the Sick at St Augustine's, Solihull. (Including the cluster parishes of Our Lady of the Wayside, Shirley, St Augustine's, Solihull and St George and Teresa, Dorridge)

**Tuesday 4th April**

7pm

Joint Penitential Service at St George and Teresa Church, Dorridge (Including the cluster parishes of Our Lady of the Wayside, Shirley, St Augustine's, Solihull and St George and Teresa, Dorridge)

### THE SACRED TRIDUUM

#### HOLY THURSDAY

7.30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Watching at the Altar of Repose until Midnight.

Watching also on livestream Our Lady of the Wayside - Day Chapel - YouTube

#### GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am

Shirley Churches Together Walk of Witness beginning at Our Lady of the Wayside.

12noon

Children's Stations of the Cross in the School Grounds.

3pm

The Passion of the Lord

7pm

Stations of the Cross.

#### HOLY SATURDAY

7.30pm

Easter Vigil (followed by refreshments in St Aidan's Chapel)

#### EASTER SUNDAY

9am

Mass (followed by Easter Egg Hunt.)

11a

Mass (followed by Easter Egg Hunt).

Holy Week Services available on livestream Our Lady of the Wayside - Main Camera - YouTube

## School Communication Update

Thank you for your school communication feedback already submitted. Your comments have been particularly helpful; for example, you shared an issue that when we send out whole school Marvellous Me communication you receive the same notification multiple times, one for each child you have in school. We have contacted Marvellous Me to see if we can create a family list which will stop this occurring.

If you haven't shared your views yet, it is not too late. Our communication survey closes at 5:00pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Following this review, we will be issuing a new Communication Policy; this will outline how we will communicate with you and how we ask for you to communicate with us.

Please share your views via our MS Form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/HjRVzz6BBn>



## School Website

We are currently working on the content of our school website, removing and updating information which is outdated and adding additional information linked to our curriculum. We are expecting this work to be completed by early Summer Term.

## Message from Fr Andrew

Dear Parents,

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe Easter holiday. The details of our Holy Week and Easter Masses are on the school newsletter. Could I just draw your attention to the children orientated services that we have here at Our Lady of the Wayside.

On Palm Sunday there is a children's liturgy at the 10am Mass. Then on Good Friday we have children's Stations of the Cross in the school grounds led by our children. On Easter Day we have two morning masses both followed by an Easter Egg hunt. Please do come and join us as a parish family to celebrate the joy of Easter.

God bless, Fr Andrew.

## Good Shepherd Appeal Fundraising Odd Hair Day

Thank you for supporting yesterday's Odd Hair Day, a fundraising event in support of Father Hudson's Care 2023 Good Shepherd Appeal. We had some very, very odd hair including Mr Taylor's hair which had turned grey overnight!



## Parent Coffee Morning

On Tuesday, we held our termly coffee morning for parents and grandparents. An opportunity to gather and have a chat over a cup of coffee and a biscuit. During this coffee morning, Mrs Lloyd and Mrs Sallis shared photographs and stories of their recent visit to St Mary's Educational Trust in India. Money raised during next week's Lenten Fun Day (Thursday) will be donated to St Mary's to help them buy a computer for each classroom.



## Thank You and Good Luck

Next Friday, we say goodbye to Mr Barr, our Nursery teacher and Early Years Lead. While Mr Barr hasn't been at Our Lady of the Wayside for very long, we do thank him for all his hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of our Nursery and Reception class. We wish Mr Barr every success and happiness in the next stage of his career.

## Year 5 School Debate

On Tuesday, a group of Year 5 children represented Our Lady of the Wayside School in this year's 'Our Lady and All Saints Catholic MAC School Debate'. The debate took place in the Council Chamber, which is located within the Civic Suite. Solihull's Mayor chaired the debate with the children debating whether it was now time to abolish school uniform. The children were excellent, presenting their reasons and arguments with great clarity and with much persuasion! Well done Year 5.





## Easter Story

Earlier today, children in Year 5 visited St James' Church in Shirley where a group of volunteers re-enacted the Easter story. Children heard about the suffering of Jesus, his crucifixion on the cross and his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Those sharing the Easter story were most impressed with the children's knowledge and the questions they asked.



## Brain Teaser

### Last week's brainteaser:

You want to boil a two-minute egg. If you only have a three-minute timer (hourglass), a four-minute timer, and a five-minute timer, how can you boil the egg for only two minutes?

**Answer:** Once the water is boiling, turn the three-minute timer and five-minute timer over. When the three-minute timer runs out, put the egg in the boiling water. When the five-minute timer runs out, two minutes have elapsed and it is time to take the egg out of the water. You don't need the four-minute timer for this riddle.

**This week's brainteaser:** If the day before yesterday is the 23rd, then what is the day after tomorrow?

## Teaching Vacancies

Shortly, we will be advertising a number of class teacher vacancies for September 2023. We would like to reassure you that there are specific reasons for each vacancy and these vacancies are not due to a large group of staff leaving. For example, we will be advertising for a class teacher to cover Mrs Haines' and Mrs Hayes' maternity leave and a class teacher to replace Mr Way who left last October. We welcome applications from newly qualified teachers (ECTs) as well as more experienced teachers. Please contact the school office from Monday if you are interested. Thank you.

## Lenten Liturgies

Thank you for supporting this year's Lenten liturgies and well done to all the children and to staff who work so hard prepare our liturgies.

Our final Lenten liturgy took place earlier today, led by children in Year 1.

Were you unable to join this year's liturgies? Here are the recordings:

Year 4 Lenten Liturgy -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URMKqCPW1gA>

Year 2 Lenten Liturgy -

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

Year 1 Lenten Liturgy -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M35IKWojkss>

We are sorry, but unfortunately the Year 3 liturgy did not record from the livestream feed.

We have our final Mass of the term on Tuesday at 10:00am, you are all most welcome to join us.

## King Charles' Coronation Update

### Wayside Womble Project - Action Required Please

Around 25 families have signed up for our 'Wayside Womble Project'. It is not too late to join. Here are all the details:

Linked to the King's Coronation is the Big Help Out Project. This initiative aims to encourage people to help out/volunteer in their local community. Our Lady of the Wayside School are keen to undertake a 'Big Help Out Project' within our school and parish community. After talking to the children, we have decided upon the 'Wayside Womble Project'. During the weekend of the Coronation, Our Lady of the Wayside families are invited to support their local community by collecting a bag of litter. There will be a special Wayside Womble Award for all children who have taken part. Below are some additional details:

**What is the Wayside Womble Project?** This is a project where Our Lady of the Wayside families collect a bag of litter from within their local community - just like The Wombles of Wimbledon! Here is a link to an episode from The Wombles - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPpNLfJzIOQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPpNLfJzIOQ)

**When are the dates for Wayside Womble Project?** This project takes place during the Coronation weekend - from Saturday 6th May to Monday 8th May.

**Will equipment be provided?** Yes, a litter picker and a litter bag will be provided to each family on Friday 5th May. You will need to register beforehand.

**What will happen to the litter we collect?** Please bring your bag of litter to Our Lady of the Wayside School on Tuesday 9th May. The bags of litter will be collected by Solihull Council.

**Is there a cost?** There is no financial cost, just a bit of time litter picking as a family in your local area.

**Does my child receive a reward for being part of the Wayside Womble Project?** Yes, every child who completes this project will receive a special 'Wayside Womble Award', this will include a special badge which they can wear on their school uniform during the summer term. Please note, children will only have completed the project when they return their bag of litter on Tuesday 9th May.

**How do we register for the Wayside Womble Project?** In order to ensure we have enough litter pickers, we are asking for all families to please register for the Wayside Womble Project by **Friday 31st March**. Please click on the link below (please note, due to ParentPay settings you may need to copy and paste this link into your web browser). <https://forms.office.com/e/vvVBYV37jP>

## Lenten Fun Day

Next Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, is our annual Lenten Fun Day, a day where children from Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 arrange their own stalls in support of a particular charity. This year we have chosen to support St Mary's Educational Trust in India. Our thanks to parents for supporting their children in preparing their stalls. Stalls normally consist of games, challenges and items to buy. If you wish your child to participate in this year's Lenten Fun Day, they will need to bring some money into school on Thursday. We suggest around £3.

Here are some photos from Lenten Fun Day 2022:



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to children in Class 3S who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time last Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March.



Tomorrow, children in Class 3M will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please remember these children, and their families, in your prayers.

## Mini Vinnies - Snap and Chatter Project

Our Mini Vinnies are currently working with Phoenix House residential home, Shirley, on an intergenerational project called Snap and Chatter. The Mini Vinnies chat with the residents while enjoying a game of cards. Mini Vinnies are the primary section of St Vincent de Paul Society, a Catholic charity which aims to support the most vulnerable and needy in our society.





# Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter

Friday 24th March 2023

## 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	Blue Group
	91.6%	97.9%
Year 1	Class 1C 92.0%	Class 1Y 97.0%
Year 2	Class 2F 94.0%	Class 2CS 98.3%
Year 3	Class 3M 90.0%	Class 3TS 93.7%
Year 4	Class 4C 98.4%	Class 4L 97.8%
Year 5	Class 5E 99.0%	Class 5V 95.3%
Year 6	Class 6O 97.5%	Class 6P 96.56%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.0%. Well done this week to Class 5E with an attendance figure of 99.0%

## Guitar Assembly

Well done to our guitar group who led our music assembly earlier today. They shared three of the songs they have been learning since Christmas, including 'We Will Rock You'.



## Term Dates for Next Year

We are now able to confirm term dates for the academic year 2023-2024 and some of the INSET dates:

### Autumn Term 2023

Term Starts: Monday 4th September 2023  
Half Term: Monday 30th October 2023 to Friday 3rd November 2023  
Term Ends: Friday 22nd December 2023

### Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8th January 2024  
Half Term: Monday 12th February 2024 to Friday 16th February 2024  
Term Ends: Friday 22nd March 2024

### Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8th April 2024  
(May Day: Monday 6th May 2024)  
Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024  
Term Ends: Monday 22nd July 2024

### 2023-2024 INSET Days:

Day 1: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Day 2: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Day 3: TBC  
Day 4: TBC  
Day 5: TBC

Some of our events for planned for next week:

Tuesday 10:00am – Whole School Mass

Thursday 9:30-11:00 – Lenten Fun Day

Friday all day – School Association Non-Uniform Day - £1 charge