

Latest School News

Gospel Reflection

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection:

Each year on this second Sunday of Lent we read the account of the Transfiguration. It was the moment when the disciples were shown the divinity of Jesus on the Holy Mountain. The scene is reminiscent of Moses' encounter with God on Sinai, when his face, too, shone like the sun. Moses and Elijah are present because they are the two Old Testament figures who experienced the presence of God on the Holy Mountain. With his usual impetuous generosity Peter attempts to 'freeze' the moment. The public declaration of Jesus as God's Son at the Baptism is repeated, but with the addition that Jesus is the authorized divine teacher; Matthew is alert to the implications for the Church of the presence of Christ as Teacher. The cloud is also a symbol of God's presence, to which the human response can only be to fall to the ground in fear and reverence. The awesome moment of revelation cannot, however, last, and Jesus brings his disciples back to the dire realities before them with the reminder that his death must precede the revelation of his glory at the Resurrection. Until they have experienced the limitless generosity of his death, and the vindication by God of this love, they are not ready to spread the message of Jesus.

Sunday's Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 5th March 2023 - The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said. 'Do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Weekend Mass Times at Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday 5.30pm

Sunday Mass: 10am

Year 2 will be leading in our Parish/Family Mass on Saturday evening at 5:30pm. You are all most welcome to join us and afterwards enjoy a cup tea/coffee in St Aiden's Chapel.

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

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter

Friday 3rd March 2023

Changes to the School Newsletter

For the next few months, we are trialling fortnightly school newsletters rather than the current weekly format. This is in response to changes in how we now communicate, notably in the use of our Twitter account and the introduction of the Marvellous Me App. At the end of this trial period, we will seek your views on whether to remain with fortnightly newsletters or return to weekly newsletters.

Gas Update

Good news, we can confirm a new gas mains pipe was installed during half-term week and heating has been restored in school, church and the parish hall. Our sincere thanks to Our Lady and All Saints Catholic MAC for assisting with the considerable cost of this project. Contractors are returning towards the end of March to grass seed the large lawn and the area at the side of the walkway. If we could please ask for children not to walk or play on these areas until the new grass has established. Thank you.

Basketball Success

Congratulations to our school basketball team who won this year's Catholic Schools Basketball Competition. The team were amazing, winning every match and only conceding two baskets in the whole tournament!



Headteacher Vacancy

Following Mr Taylor's announcement, we can confirm the process to recruit a new Headteacher for Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School has begun. The vacancy has been advertised with a closing date of Monday 27th March. We are hopeful of completing the selection process by early Summer 2023 Term. Further details, including information on how to apply, can be found on Our Lady and All Saints Catholic MAC's website - <https://www.olaas.co.uk/headteacher-our-lady-of-the-wayside/>

India Visit

During February half-term, Mrs Lloyd and Mrs Sallis visited St Mary's Educational Trust in India teaching classes during the day and spending time with the boarding children in the evening. It was an amazing experience for them both. They will be sharing their experiences with Our Lady of the Wayside children in the coming days. For this year's Lenten fundraising, we will be raising money (almsgiving) in support of St Mary's Educational Trust.



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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 98.0%	Blue Group 95.8%
Year 1	Class 1C 96.5%	Class 1Y 96.0%
Year 2	Class 2F 99.0%	Class 2CS 96.0%
Year 3	Class 3M 97.3%	Class 3TS 93.7%
Year 4	Class 4C 96.8%	Class 4L 99.3%
Year 5	Class 5E 99.3%	Class 5V 95.0%
Year 6	Class 6O 95.6%	Class 6P 98.7%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.6%. Well done this week to Class 4L and Class 5E with an attendance figure of 99.3%



Brain Teaser

Last week's brainteaser:

When John was six years old he hammered a nail into his favourite tree to mark his height. Ten years later at age sixteen, John returned to see how much higher the nail was. If the tree grew by five centimetres each year, how much higher would the nail be?

Answer: The nail would be at the same height since trees grow at their tops!

This week's brainteaser:

While on my way to St. Ives, I saw a man with 7 wives. Each wife had 7 sacks. Each sack had 7 cats. Each cat had 7 kittens. Kitten, cats, sacks, wives, How many were going to St. Ives?

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 4th September 2023
Day 2: Tuesday 5th September 2023
Day 3: TBC
Day 4: TBC
Day 5: TBC

Cafod Club

Earlier this week, our Cafod Club met. This group of children includes the Eco Council and RE council. They talked about their shared objectives; to look after God's world and to make our school and world a better place. Following the meeting the children will be encouraging their class to pray in creation and for creation.

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Friday 3rd March 2023

Well done Harry!

Well done Harry in Year 6 who won a competition to be Aston Villa's away mascot at the Everton match last Saturday. He had an amazing day with his family.

Please do share your good news stories with us, we love to hear what children having been doing outside of school.



World Book Day 2023

We had a really exciting day in school yesterday celebrating this year's World Book Day. Our theme this year was 'Bedtime Stories'. Children had the opportunity to come to school in their pyjamas, or as a book character, and to share and discuss their favourite bedtime stories.

We all live such busy and hectic lives that it can be difficult to find time, particularly in the evening. We would urge you, if at all possible, to try to find 5 minutes at bedtime to read a bedtime story to your child. Listening to a story at bedtime makes such a difference to their love of books and language.



Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal

Thank you for your generosity and support for our Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal. We can confirm £812.85 was raised, which has been passed on to CAFOD. Please continue to remember all those affected by this disaster in your prayers.



Wayside Book Swap

This year, we decided not to hold our annual school book fair. We appreciate that books in the book fair are very expensive and parents can feel under enormous pressure to spend a considerable amount of money. On **Thursday 16th March**, we will be holding our second 'Wayside Book Swap'. Children are invited to bring in a book from home, which must be in good condition, and to swap their old book for a new book at no cost!

King Charles' Coronation Update

We are now finalising our arrangements to celebrate King Charles' Coronation on Saturday 6th May 2023. We have a number of really exciting events planned!

Wayside Womble Project

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

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>

King Charles' Coronation Update Continued...

Coronation Celebration

To celebrate the actual Coronation, we are arranging a special Wayside Coronation Party for **Friday 5th May**. This will take place on the school playground and will be in the form of a traditional street party. Further details to follow.

Coronation Gift

Earlier this week, we ordered a special gift for each pupil to commemorate King Charles' Coronation. Gifts will be distributed on Friday 5th May, there is no cost for families.

Finally, we wish to thank the School Association who have kindly agreed to fund our planned Coronation events.

Valentine's Disco

Thank you to everyone for making the School Association Valentine's Disco such a success. The children absolutely loved it and have already asked for the date of the next disco! Not only was a great family event but it also raised over £900 in support of Our Lady of the Wayside School - well done everyone.



Lenten Almsgiving

Almsgiving is the act of donating money or goods to the poor or performing other acts of charity. However, when defining almsgiving, it helps to understand the meaning behind the word itself. The roots of the word "alms" can be found in ancient Latin and Greek words meaning mercy and pity. Similarly, the root of the word "charity" comes from the Latin "caritas," meaning love. Charity, or almsgiving, is an outward sign of Christian love for others. Generally, it involves some type of sacrifice on behalf of the giver in order to provide for the needs of the other. In doing this, bonds of community are formed.

We have a number of almsgiving events planned during this Lenten period:

- **Friday 17th March** - Lenten Fast Day in support of CAFOD
- **Thursday 23rd March** - Odd Hair Day in support of this year's Father Hudson's Care Good Shepherd Appeal.
- **Thursday 30th March** - Lenten Fun Day in support of St Mary's Educational Trust, India.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This month, children in Year 3 will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please remember these children, and their families, in your prayers.

- Saturday 11th March - Class 3M
- Saturday 18th March - Class 3S

Pre-loved Uniform Sale

On Monday 6th March the School Association will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale at the end of the school day outside the school gates.

Lenten Liturgies

During Lent, children will be leading Lenten liturgies in church on a Friday afternoon at 2:45pm. You are all most welcome to join. Thank you to our Year 3 children today who so beautifully and simply reminded us about making a fresh start this Lent.



Forthcoming liturgies:

Friday 10th March - 2:45pm - Lenten liturgy led by Y4

Friday 17th March - 2:45pm - Lenten liturgy led by Y2

Friday 24th March - 2:45pm Lenten liturgy led by Y1