

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School



School Newsletter – Friday 13th October 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week Mr Davis, the CSEL in our MAC, visited OLW school and enjoyed a complete tour of the school. He commented on how smart the children looked in their uniforms and how enthusiastic they were in answering all of his questions. He also remarked on the excellent behaviour of the children and I felt very privileged showing him around our school.

On Monday we joined other schools in the OLAAS MAC to say the rosary linked to the joyful mysteries. It was wonderful to come together as a community to pray.

Our school governors also visited this week to talk to our leaders about the various projects that they have been involved in this half term. I discussed the School Development Plan and RE standards with them, Mrs Sparkes talked about developments in EYFS, Mrs Upton informed them about reading and writing and finally Mrs Gray explained her role and the support for special needs provision at the school. These regular 'Achievement Days' allow governors to not only recognise what the school is achieving but also challenge us to continue to thrive and grow as a school community. It was another successful day and we aim to hold these every term.

It was heart warming to see so many of our staff and children embracing our CAFOD Fast Day at school today. Children and staff did not have their regular toast at break time and instead the money saved has been donated to this worthy cause. Humility and remembering to think of others was the overarching message and I was proud that the children honoured this in a simple way.

This Sunday's Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 15th October 2023 (Matthew 22:1-10)

An Invitation to the Wedding Feast Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'The kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited," he said, "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called but few are chosen.'

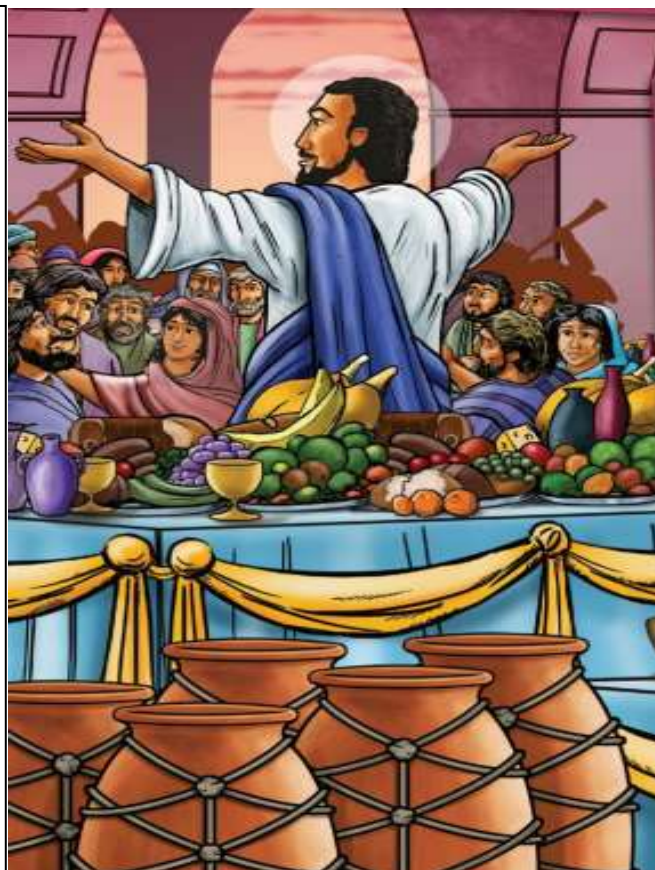
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Gospel Reflection

A wedding is a time of joy and of completion after long preparation, a time of love and of complete satisfaction. In Judaism at the time of Jesus, the coming of the Messiah is often compared to the joy of a wedding-feast. The marriage-feast at Cana must have been some party! At Mary's request Jesus produced 900 litres of wine. The Letter to the Ephesians teaches that the love in a human wedding is only a foretaste of Christ's love for his bride, the Church. In the story of the royal wedding in this Sunday's Gospel, however, two things go drastically wrong. First, the original wedding guests refuse to come. Not only do they refuse, but they brutally maltreat the innocent messengers, and the king (who must represent God) ruthlessly burns down their city. Secondly, the man who has no wedding-garment is thrown out: a wedding-garment is a standard Jewish image for works of generosity expected of every faithful Jew. For us Christians too, the story constitutes a double warning. Are we alert and listening for God's call? Do we rest secure in being called Christians and leave the challenging jobs to others? Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB



Cafod Fast Day

Today we held a CAFOD Fast Day where children went without their normal morning snacks in support of CAFOD, a Catholic charity which works in some of the poorest regions of the world. Thank you for your generosity.

One World Liturgy

This year's One World Liturgy will also take place on Friday 20th October, 2:45pm in OLW Church. As in previous years, we will be collecting tins of food, spaghetti, dried food, etc which we will send to a charity called Brushstrokes for distribution across Solihull and Birmingham. Can we please ask for food donations to be brought into school week commencing 16th October.

Walk to School Week

Next week we are taking part in 'Walk to School' week. The challenge is to travel sustainably by walking, scooting, cycling or for families who live further away, parking at least 5 minutes away from school and walking the remaining journey. The more families that travel to school sustainably the more we reduce the amount of pollution outside school, meaning that the air that all our children breathe will be cleaner and less damaging to young lungs. It will also help to reduce traffic and improve safety outside school.



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Parish/School Mass

This Saturday is the first of our parish/school Masses led by Y5. The children will welcome people to Mass, they will read the Word of God and they will lead the Prayers of the Faithful. Everyone is most welcome to attend. This will be held in OLW church at the 5.30pm Mass.

Christmas Card Winner

Congratulations to Alex G whose Christmas card design has been selected to represent the school as the Our Lady of the Wayside School Christmas Card 2023. Alex's attention to detail is amazing! His card will be sent to various members of the school community this Christmas.



National World Mental Health Day

Tuesday was World Mental Health Day and the theme was 'make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority'. The mental health of our children and our staff, is something which we are very aware of here at OLW. We want all our children to be happy, healthy (physically and mentally) and to be resilient. We use a variety of strategies to promote mental well-being and to support children and families when they feel unwell. If you, or your child, is feeling mentally unwell please do make contact with school. If we are unable to provide the appropriate support, through our own school based programmes, we would signpost support from external agencies.

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 95.5%	Blue 95.9%
Year 1	Class 1C 92.2%	Class 1Y 91.9%
Year 2	Class 2F 98.5%	Class 2SH 91.1%
Year 3	Class 3A 84.2%	Class 3TS 94.2%
Year 4	Class 4M 88.1%	Class 4L 94.9%
Year 5	Class 5E 96.7%	Class 5T 97.2%
Year 6	Class 6O 97.4%	Class 6C 95.9%

Overall attendance for this week is 96.0%. Well done this week to Class 2F with an attendance figure of 98.5%

School Association News

The next School Association event is an autumn themed disco. Booking details to follow.



There will be another School Association meeting on Wednesday 18th October at 7.30pm. Please come and join us as we will be discussing the Christmas Fayre and all the activities that we can arrange to make this an enjoyable event for our children.

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OLAAS Choir

The MAC have introduced an exciting new singing initiative for children in Y4 and Y6. All children in these year groups will attend weekly half an hour sessions in the Studio led by Victor Wong. The aim is to develop MAC choirs who will take part in local concerts and major liturgies.



Twitter

Please take the opportunity to look at our twitter account which can be found on the school website. It shows all the enrichment opportunities that the children are receiving at our school. Thank you to all the teachers and teaching assistants for making the learning opportunities so creative and exciting! The twitter account shows that we are delivering a broad and balanced curriculum and that the children are really enjoying their learning. Take a look and see for yourself.....

Mass

On Tuesday 17th October, children in Middle Phase will be celebrating Mass with OLW parish. This will be led by Y4. You are all most welcome to join.

Online Safety Cyberbullying



Bullying is hurtful and exists online just as it does offline. Online it can take many forms such as sharing embarrassing photos, nasty comments, or dislikes. Because kids spend so much time on their devices, if they are being bullied it is hard to escape it.

Cyberbullying can happen in different ways, but some examples might be:

- Sending unkind messages or comments.
- Sharing images or videos of someone without their permission.
- Excluding someone from a group chat or other online activity like gaming.
- Pressuring another person to say or do something that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Setting up groups or accounts to encourage others to be mean to someone else.

Childline have some valuable information to help your child recognise and deal with cyberbullying. We also have advice for parents and carers to help keep children safe from bullying, wherever it happens.

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Praying the Rosary



As we are in the month of October, earlier this week, the whole school joined with our other schools in the OLAAS MAC to pray the joyful mysteries of the rosary. This was a wonderful time of prayer together.

School Visitor

Father Andrew visited our Nursery and Reception children on Wednesday. The children really enjoyed hearing all about the special clothes Father wears when celebrating Mass and also learning more about their Catholic faith.



Holy Communion Parent Meeting

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

Pupil Report Cards and Review Meetings

Your child's report card is available to view today via their Microsoft Teams account (Years 1-6). Next week we begin our first round of Pupil Review meetings. These are focused on your child and their voice is at the core of these meetings. Working together, your child and your child's class teacher, will discuss what is working well and agree next steps. Their Pupil Report Card will then be updated on MS Teams. I hope that you have signed up to your child's pupil review meeting next week via School Cloud.

Below is a timetable for appointments. School Cloud is now open for parents to book an appointment. Details on how to do this were sent out earlier this week.

Pupil Review 1 – week commencing 16th October

Nursery	Monday 16 th October	Year 3	Monday 16 th October
Reception Blue	Tuesday 17 th October	Year 4	Thursday 19 th October
Reception Red	Wednesday 18 th October	Year 5	Tuesday 17 th October
Year 1	Tuesday 17 th October	Year 6	Wednesday 18 th October
Year 2	Monday 16 th October		

Thank you to the parents who attended the information sessions led by the class teachers. I hope that they were very informative and will help you support your child in their learning journey. If you were unable to attend, a power point with the information can be found on the class pages on the website.

Reception Parent Meeting - Phonics

On Wednesday 25th 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 or email us at ourladyofthewaysidepreschool@gmail.com