

Latest School News



Our Catholic Faith - Advent Reflection

Third Sunday of Advent

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in the second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. This Sunday is marked by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on the Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Sunday's Gospel

Third Sunday of Advent

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 11th December 2022 -
Miracles of the Messiah (Matthew 11:2-11)

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

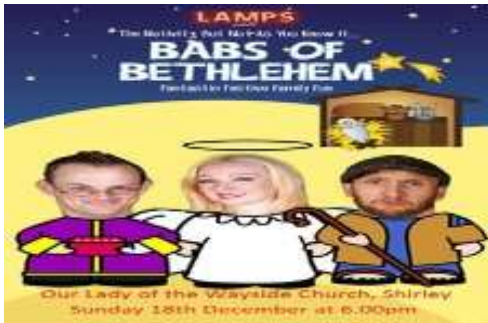
Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

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.



Blessing of the Bambinelli

At all of Our Lady of the Wayside Masses this coming weekend, Fr Andrew will celebrate the Blessing of the Bambinelli. The bambinelli are the figurines of the Baby Jesus that most Christians have in their home nativity sets. The tradition of blessing these figurines comes from Rome, where Roman families have been bringing their bambinelli to be blessed by the Pope on the third Sunday of Advent.

We invite all our families to bring your figurines of the Baby Jesus from your home nativity set to Mass this weekend for this blessing.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

In partnership with St Chad's Sanctuary, we are organising a Christmas shoebox appeal. The gift of a shoebox will be, for many of the Asylum Seekers visiting the Sanctuary, the only present they receive this Christmas. It lets them know that someone, somewhere cares. Last year we had an amazing response from OLW families and the Sanctuary were so grateful. Items that would be very useful this year include:

- woolly hats/scarves/gloves
- age appropriate toiletries
- toys such as small cars, dolls etc.
- pens/pencils/crayons/notebooks

Our Mini-Vinnies are presenting our shoeboxes to St Chad's Sanctuary on **Monday 12th December**. Thank you for your generosity.

Photos from previous shoebox collections:



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.

School Association Christmas Fair

Thank you for coming along and supporting our Christmas Fair last Saturday, it was great to see so many families supporting this event.

Thank you too to all the parents who helped in the planning of the Fair, helped on the day or helped tidy up afterwards. We also wish to thank Father Christmas for giving his time during such a busy period.

The School Association Committee would welcome feedback, 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)

Finally, the School Association would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all at next term's events.



Christmas Jumper Day

We had a great Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday with children making a donation in support of Our Lady of the Wayside's St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Group. Thank you for your generosity.

What is the SVP?

Details can be found on their website -

<https://www.svp.org.uk/about-us>.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need. Founded in Britain in 1844, we foster diverse and inclusive connections, as a Society that is welcoming of people of all faiths and none. We joyfully extend our hand in the care and personal service of individuals and families who need support.



Mrs Butler - Retirement

At the end of this term we say farewell to Mrs Butler who is retiring from teaching. Mrs Butler started as a class teacher at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School in September 1997.

Throughout her long and distinguished career, Mrs Butler has never waived in her dedication and support for Catholic education and in her total love for the children, staff and families of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School. We regularly have passed pupils visiting and the first teacher they also want to see and chat with is Mrs Butler.

We thank Mrs Butler for all she has given, for her generosity, her kindness and for being such a wonderful friend and colleague. We wish Mrs Butler a long and joyful retirement.

God bless you Sue.

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 93.5%	Blue Group 83.7%
Year 1	Class 1C 88.8%	Class 1Y 89.2%
Year 2	Class 2F 89.6%	Class 2CS 91.8%
Year 3	Class 3M 84.0%	Class 3TS 89.2%
Year 4	Class 4C 93.0%	Class 4L 89.2%
Year 5	Class 5E 92.5%	Class 5V 89.5%
Year 6	Class 6O 82.1%	Class 6P 85.7%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.8%. Well done this week to Class Red Group with an attendance figure of 93.5%

Advent Liturgy

This afternoon we gathered for our second Friday Advent liturgy. This was led by our Year 5 children who reminded us of the importance of peace in our lives and those of other.

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.



Brain Teaser

Last week's brainteaser:

A tree doubled in height each year until it reached its maximum height over the course of ten years. How many years did it take for the tree to reach half its maximum height?

Answer: 9 years - in year 9 it was half the height of year 10!

This 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?

Christmas Dinner

Our thanks to the school kitchen staff who served a delicious Christmas dinner on Thursday. The children particularly enjoyed the roast potatoes but were less keen on the sprouts! We must apologise for all the awful Christmas cracker jokes! A particular favourite of the children was, 'What did one snowman say to the other snowman? Can you smell carrot?'



Illness Guidance

Both nationally, and locally, there has been a rise in children feeling unwell. Over the last few days, the media has reported an increase in Group A Streptococcus (Strep A) cases. Group A Strep is the name given to a type of bacteria sometimes found in the throat or on the skin. Most people who come into contact with Group A Strep remain well and symptom free. If you think you, or your child may have scarlet fever/strep A:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the
- antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

The attached leaflets contain further guidance and advice.

We have also received this general illness guidance from the NHS which we thought would be helpful to share with you.

What are the symptoms?

There are two groups of symptoms:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting - usually lasting 1-2 days
- Fever, tiredness and nausea (feeling sick), sore throat - sometimes with a cough, lasting 3-4 days

What should I do if my child is unwell?

- Keep your child at home until they are well - if your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they should not attend school until they have been symptom free for 48 hours
- Ensure they drink plenty of fluids - taking sips rather than gulps, to avoid vomiting
- If they have a fever - give child paracetamol and/or ibuprofen, according to manufacturer's instructions
- Your child can return to school once they no longer have a temperature (without medication) and are well enough to do so
- If your child is unusually sleepy, is unable to take fluids or has other symptoms, such as an unusual rash, headache or neck stiffness - **seek medical advice immediately.**

Infection control advice:

Handwashing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of both of these infections. This applies to the child who is ill and the person caring for them. Hands should be washed using soap and rinsed under running water:

- Before and after caring for the child
- After using the toilet
- Before eating, preparing or handling food
- After cleaning up spills (vomit, diarrhoea or urine)
- Also - keep a separate towel for each family member who has symptoms, and change them regularly
- Dry hands thoroughly

Other control measures:

- Dispose of used tissues immediately
- Wash soiled clothing, bed linen and towels, using the hottest wash setting for the fabric
- Ensure toilet areas, baths and washbasins are kept clean, using hot soapy water
- After initial cleaning, areas may also be infected using a 1 in 10 bleach solution (remember bleach can burn skin and remove colour from fabrics)

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Christmas Cards

Children are now invited to post their Christmas cards using our school Christmas post-box. Rather than sending individual cards, we are asking children to please send a class card; for example:

To all my friends in Class 1Y. Happy Christmas. Love James, Class 3M

Bringing Dogs to School

We have a few pupils who are very anxious and nervous around dogs. We do have a few dogs, both at the beginning at the end of the school day, who are very excitable and enjoy barking. While they pose no risk, they are making these pupils feel very anxious about coming into and leaving school. With this in mind, can we please ask for dogs not be brought onto the School and Parish grounds. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Chocolate Sale

Yummy, yummy..... the School Association are organising a chocolate sale for the end of the school day on Tuesday, 13th December.

Raffle Tickets

Thank you for all your efforts in selling this year's Christmas Fair raffle tickets, we have some great prizes. Some children have taken home additional tickets tonight to sell over the weekend, these need to be brought back to school on the morning of Monday 12th December.

Pupil Review Meetings

We have now completed the second cycle of pupil review meetings. Thank you for joining your child's pupil review meeting. This is still a new initiative for us and we are continuing to adapt and develop this programme.

We will undertake a full review in Summer 2023 Term where we will formally evaluate the programme and consider next steps. Just a reminder that we operate an open door policy and we would encourage parents to contact their child's class teacher if they have any queries or worries. Thank you.

Watch out Sir Alan Sugar!

We have an entrepreneur in the making! Aoife, in Year 3, has created her own little business called 'Sweets and Treats'. Well done Aoife, what a great idea. (Please excuse the pun with Sir Alan Sugar!)

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=BMBooJAAW4>

Christmas Boutique Update

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas boutique on Thursday 15th December. Here is how it works:

- Families donate items which can be used as a Christmas gift for adults family members (no alcohol please).
- On Thursday morning, children visit the Christmas boutique and choose a gift. Gifts are sorted into three areas - £1 gifts, £3 gifts and £5 gifts.
- Once children have chosen their gift, staff wrap their gift in Christmas wrapping paper and children add a Christmas gift label.
- Children take their gift home and place it under their Christmas tree ready for Christmas day.

Action required by parents:

- Please have a look for gifts which can be donated to this year's Christmas boutique. These must be new items and no alcohol please. Please send donations into school by Thursday morning.
- Wish for your child to visit the Christmas boutique? Please ensure they have money to spend on Thursday - maximum of £5 please.

Photos from a previous Christmas boutique:



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

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Forthcoming Events

Calendar Dates - Last Week of Term

Monday 12 th	Deadline for Christmas Shoeboxes (9:00am)
Monday 12 th	Year 3 Nativity of the Lord liturgy (9:45am)
Monday 12 th	Year 4 Nativity of the Lord liturgy (2:00pm)
Tuesday 13 th	Nursery Nativity of the Lord liturgy (9:45am)
Tuesday 13 th	Reception Nativity of the Lord liturgy (2:00pm)
Tuesday 13 th	Whole School Mass (10:00am)
Tuesday 13 th	Lower Phase Panto visit (morning)
Tuesday 13 th	School choir singing in local community
Tuesday 13 th	School Association chocolate sale, after school
Wednesday 14 th	Year 2 Nativity of the Lord liturgy (9:45am)
Wednesday 14 th	Year 1 Nativity of the Lord liturgy (2:00pm)
Wednesday 14 th	Lost property on display, after school
Thursday 15 th	Christmas boutique (morning)
Thursday 15 th	Christmas party (afternoon)
Friday 16 th	Last day of term - School Association non-uniform day (£1)