

Latest School News

Our Catholic Faith May - Month of Our Lady

The Catholic practice of assigning a special devotion to each month goes back to the early 16th century. Since the best known of those devotions is probably the dedication of May as the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, it might come as a surprise that it wasn't until the late 18th century that this devotion arose among Jesuits in Rome. In the early years of the 19th century, it quickly spread throughout the Western Church, and, by the time of Pope Pius IX's declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, it had become universal. It's common for parishes to have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May - a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. **We will be holding our annual May Procession on Friday 12th May.** Children will gather on the playground for prayers before processing around the front and side of church. Our procession will end in front of the statue of Our Lady where children will place flowers. A selection of these flowers will then be presented to the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull. **Parents are most welcome to join us, our procession will start at 9:05am.** Can we please ask for children to bring in some flowers on Friday 12th May. Thank you.

Images from previous May Processions



Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter

Friday 5th May 2023

Term Dates for Next Year

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

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: Friday 27th October 2023
Day 4: Monday 19th February 2024
Day 5: Monday 22nd July 2024

Pupil Absence Sporting Events

As a school, we really value sport as is evident from the range and scale of sporting opportunities we offer. We are receiving an increasing number of requests for children to be absent from school in order to compete in sport tournaments. Participation in external tournaments is something we really encourage; they can be of tremendous value to a child's social and emotional wellbeing as well as improving academic success.

In order to authorise the child's absence, we require written confirmation which must include:

- the child's name
- details of the tournament e.g. *West Midlands Girls U11 Stratford Road Trophy*
- confirmation of the tournament dates
- details of the person requesting school authorise this absent - their name, their contact details and their role within the organisation, e.g. *John Taylor, Chair of the Junior Section of Stratford Road Football Club.*

If you are unsure, please just give school a call.

First Holy Communion

Please remember in your prayers children preparing to make their First Holy Communion in the next few weeks. We are looking for children from Years 4, 5 and 6 who would be able to support with the singing at this year's First Holy Communion Mass.

The final family session took place last night, an opportunity for First Holy Communicants and their families to work and talk together before sharing a chip supper.

Our thanks to all the staff who led a session, supported with the crèche, organised and collected the chip supper or generally helped out.

Year 6 National Tests

Next week Year 6 children across all English primary schools will sit their national tests, commonly referred to as the SATs. We wish our children, and all Year 6 children involved in the SATs, every success.

The timetable next week is:

Tuesday 9th May: English grammar, punctuation and Spelling.
Wednesday 10th May: Reading comprehension.
Thursday 11th May: Mathematics arithmetic and reasoning
Friday 12th May: Mathematics reasoning.

We have been proud with the commitment and the hard work of all our Year 6 children. We could not ask any more of them and they deserve to do well. We would also like to express our thanks to all of the Year 6 staff who have prepared the children in such a supportive and sensitive way. At the start of each test we will say the following prayer:

*Dear Lord,
As I take this test today, I thank you that my value is not based on my performance today, but on your great love for me. Come into my heart so that we can walk through this time together. Help me, not only with this test, but the many tests of life that are sure to come my way. Amen.*

School Association Update

Please hold the date..... this year's School Association Summer Fair will take place on Friday 7th July, 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

Table Tennis Tournament

Well done to our table tennis team who recently competed in this year's Solihull Schools' Table Tennis Tournament. The team played extremely well narrowly missing out (31 points v 32 points) in a place in the final. Well done team for a great performance.



COVID-19 Memorial

We have commissioned an artist (Mr Vinti) to create a piece of glass artwork in memory of family and friends from Our Lady of the Wayside School and Parish who died as a result of COVID-19. We plan to include their names within this piece of art. The finished artwork will be blessed by Fr Andrew before being displayed in Our Lady of the Wayside's Prayer Garden which is located at the rear of Our Lady of the Wayside School. Please click on the link below if you wish for the name of a loved one to be included; the link closes on Friday 19th May.

<https://forms.office.com/e/zMU9aNYHSr>

Coronation Celebrations

The children had a wonderful day today celebrating the King Charles' Coronation. It is hard to put all the excitement into words, photos are so much better! Our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to ensure the day was such a great success.



Wayside Womble Project

Good luck this weekend to all our families taking part in our Wayside Womble Project. Our Wayside Womble Project is a family litter pick in support of King Charles' Big Help Out initiative. We are hoping to make a short video with images of our families collecting litter. If you wish to be included, please send your image to 79office@ol-wayside.solihull.sch.uk by Friday 12th May. This video will be uploaded onto our school website. Please enter 'litter image' in the email subject box. Finally, a reminder that litter bags and litter pickers must be returned to school on Tuesday 9th May. Thank you and good luck everyone.

Coronation Gift

At the end of school this evening, every child in school received a special King Charles' Coronation commemorative mug. Our thanks to the School Association who covered the costs of the mugs and our Coronation celebrations.



Weekend Mass Times at Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday 5.30pm
Sunday Mass: 10am

During 10am Mass there is a children Liturgy of the Word celebration.

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 95.3%	Blue Group 92.6%
Year 1	Class 1C 91.7%	Class 1Y 98.6%
Year 2	Class 2F 91.3%	Class 2CS 99.3%
Year 3	Class 3M 94.6%	Class 3TS 88.6%
Year 4	Class 4C 93.7%	Class 4L 96.3%
Year 5	Class 5E 93.9%	Class 5V 91.2%
Year 6	Class 6O 98.7%	Class 6P 95.0%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.2%. Well done this week to Class 2CS with an attendance figure of 99.3%

Summer Uniform

We have received a request for an addition to our summer school uniform, the inclusion of a summer dress with built in shorts. Sainsbury's refer to these as a school playsuit.



These are smart, practical and would complement our existing summer uniform and we have no objections to children wearing them. If you ever have any suggestions or ideas regarding uniform, please do contact school.

St Mary's Update

Thank you again for supporting our Lenten Fun Day. We can confirm that £1177.23 was raised in support of St Mary's Educational Trust in India. A fantastic total, thank you so much.

