

Latest School News

Sunday's Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 29th January 2023 - The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Gospel Reflection

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection:

In Matthew's Gospel these eight blessings stand at the head of the Sermon on the Mount, pointing out eight ways in which we can welcome God into our lives. They are ways of living out God's blessing. The first and the last knit them all together with the phrase 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. In his Gospel, Luke also begins his Sermon on the Plain with four such blessings - only his blessings focus more on those who are materially poor and in need, whereas Matthew's concentrate on the spiritual attitudes required of the Christian, 'poor in spirit, hunger and thirst for justice'. Jesus came to proclaim the kingship of his Father, and these are ways of living it. For each beatitude, do you know someone who exemplifies the attitude? Which is your own favourite? For most of them there are gospel incidents in which Jesus illustrates how to live out the beatitude, like the entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as the gentle king, or the love he shows in his welcome to sinners, or his bringing peace to those tortured by disease or contempt, or his purity of heart in his single-minded pre-occupation with his Father's will, or finally his acceptance of persecution for what he knew to be right.

Weekend Mass Times at Our Lady of the Wayside Church

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

Did you know.... our mission statement is 'Learning and growing together, rooted in Christ'. This is displayed throughout school and is discussed in classrooms and in school assemblies.

Industrial Action Update

You may be aware from recent media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) have announced the dates of their proposed strike action. The proposed dates on which the strikes will take place are:

1. 1st February
2. 1st March (regional strike affecting the West Midlands)
3. 15th March
4. 16th March

Please note that these dates can change at any point as directed by the Union.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government, and not because of any issues at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School or Our Lady and All Saints Catholic MAC.

I can confirm Our Lady of the Wayside will be open as usual on 1st February 2023. Please send your child in as normal.

Please make a note of the proposed strike dates in March. We will write to you in advance of each date to confirm arrangements for these days.

Medication - Expiry dates

Can we please ask parents to keep a note of the expiry date of medication (e.g. inhalers) used by their child within school. When the medication is close to expiry, it would be most helpful if parents could please provide school with replacement medication before the medication expires. Many thanks.

Teacher Vacancy

Early Years - Nursery

We are looking to recruit an Early Years teacher for Summer 2023 Term, initially this will be a fixed term contract. This is a full time position and the successful candidate will be based in our Nursery. Applications from recently qualified teachers and experienced Early Years practitioners are welcome. Please contact the school office for further details.

Assistant Headteacher Vacancy

Next week, we begin the process of recruiting a new Assistant Headteacher for Our Lady of the Wayside. Our previous Assistant Headteacher, Mr Jim Hill, retired at the end of last academic year. Due to financial reasons at the time, we were unable to recruit a replacement. In December, the Government announced that all schools in England would receive additional school funding. We plan to invest this additional school funding in the recruitment of a new Assistant Headteacher. This role will be full time (we would consider 4 days a week) and will be non-class based. The new Assistant Headteacher will lead on inclusion (including special educational needs), pastoral support and behaviour. The start date will be Summer 2023 Term or Autumn 2023 Term. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Diary Dates

Please note, we have updated the calendar on our school website with diary dates for Spring 2023 Term.

Gas Leak Update

We are now able to provide you with an update regarding the gas leak at Our Lady of the Wayside

Are the children at risk?

No, children, staff and visitors are safe. The gas has been turned off and will not be reinstated until the issue has been resolved.

When will the gas be reinstated?

Unfortunately, the repair work required is significant. The main gas pipe feeding School, Church and the Parish Hall is corroded and will need to be replaced. The gas pipe runs from the Stratford Road to the school boiler room. We are hoping for this work to be undertaken during February half-term.

What heating arrangements are in place?

The classes affected are:

- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 5

Temporary electric heaters have been sourced for these classrooms and they will remain in place until the gas is reinstated.

Has the hot water been affected?

Yes, gas provides the majority of the hot water. A temporary hot water boiler has been installed and this has restored the supply of hot water.

Has the kitchen been affected?

Yes, there is no gas in the school kitchen. The kitchen are still able to provide hot lunches using their electrical appliances. Wendy, our school cook, has reviewed next week's menu and has confirmed there will be no changes.

We hope this answers your questions. Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any additional questions.

Invitation to Classroom Prayers

Prior to COVID-19, there were regular opportunities for parents/grandparents to join their children for prayers within the classroom; due to COVID-19 restriction this opportunity was suspended. We feel the right time is now right to restart this opportunity. We are trialling this programme with an initial two dates for children classes Year 1 to Year 6. This is an opportunity for you to pray with you child in class collective worship. These are not class liturgies.

The dates are:

Year 1: Friday 3rd February at 9:10am and Friday 10th February at 9:10am

Year 2: Monday 30th January at 3:10pm and Thursday 16th February at 9:10am

Year 3: Monday 6th February at 3:10pm and Monday 13th March at 3:10pm

Year 4: Monday 6th February at 3:10pm and Monday 13th March at 3:10pm

Year 5: Thursday 2nd February at 3:10pm and Thursday 16th February at 3:10pm

Year 6: Thursday 2nd February at 3:10pm and Thursday 16th February at 3:10pm

School Association Valentine's Family Disco

It has been many years since we held a school disco. We are delighted to announce that the School Association has arranged a St Valentine's Family Disco for Sunday 12th February. Attached to this week's newsletter is a poster with additional information. Here are the headlines:

Date: Sunday 12th February 4.30-7.30pm
Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Social Club, Yardley Wood
Cost: £5 per ticket, family of 5 £20.
Spaces available: Tickets limited to 180 and sold as first come, first served.
Booking link: <https://forms.office.com/r/JZkNfRU5TP>

(please note, you may need to copy and paste the link into your web browser)

Please note, this is a family disco and parents are required to supervise their children.

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 94.8%	Blue Group 90.7%
Year 1	Class 1C 94.8%	Class 1Y 96.6%
Year 2	Class 2F 95.9%	Class 2CS 92.5%
Year 3	Class 3M 95.5%	Class 3TS 91.1%
Year 4	Class 4C 94.4%	Class 4L 100%
Year 5	Class 5E 94.2%	Class 5V 94.4%
Year 6	Class 6O 92.3%	Class 6P 94.4%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.4%. Well done this week to Class 4L with an excellent attendance figure of 100%

Forest School

Year 1 are loving this term's Forest School. Forest School is undertaken in the grounds of Our Lady of the Wayside and in Bills Wood.



Brain Teaser

This week's brainteaser:

A farmer in California owns a beautiful pear tree. He supplies the fruit to a nearby grocery store. The store owner has called the farmer to see how much fruit is available for him to purchase. The farmer knows that the main trunk has 24 branches. Each branch has exactly 12 boughs and each bough has exactly 6 twigs. Since each twig bears one piece of fruit, how many plums will the farmer be able to deliver?

OLW Eco Council

Yesterday, Lower Phase heard all about the Eco Council's trip to the Botanical Gardens. They shared their learning about protecting plants and our environment. We sung the continents song and reminded ourselves and others to, 'switch it off!'

