

# Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Latest School News

### Our Catholic Faith - Advent Reflection

Dear Parents, this weekend we enter the beautiful season of Advent. We begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the great celebration of Christmas. Advent is a joyful season and we are invited to ponder the first coming of Christ and also to look forward to his second. We don't often talk about the second coming of Christ but it is a central focus of our Christian faith. Whenever we pray the Creed we express our belief in the second coming "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ who will come again in glory to judge the living and dead and his kingdom will have no end". During this season of Advent one of the ways in which we can prepare our families for Christmas is by making an extra effort to attend Sunday Mass here in the Parish. We now have an excellent children's liturgy and tea and coffee is served after our 10am Mass. I encourage all of us as a family to celebrate Advent together so as to be truly prepared to celebrate Christmas in a few weeks time.

God bless, Fr Andrew

### Sunday's Gospel

#### First Sunday of Advent

*The Gospel for Sunday 27th November 2022 - Like a Thief in the Night (Matthew 24:37-44)*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the house-holder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'



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## Challenging Times

The last few years have been incredibly challenging. As we began to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic we faced a cost of living crisis with prices rising rapidly. We know families are under real financial pressure.

We are here to support you in every way we can. We know it can be embarrassing to ask for support with the cost of uniform, food or just paying the bills. We are here for you and the support we offer will always be done in a confidential and sensitive manner. There are different ways to reach out:

- Phone Mrs Lloyd, our Family Support Manager (0121 744 6852)
- Email Mrs Lloyd ([s79slloyd@ol-wayside.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:s79slloyd@ol-wayside.solihull.sch.uk))
- Complete an MS Form and we will contact you.

<https://forms.office.com/r/vsbB5Ew038>

School will never judge you. We think you are amazing parents all trying your best in the most challenging of times.

## Parking

We appreciate how busy everyone is and how tempting it is to park at the front of Church in the morning and afternoon to save a few precious minutes. Can we please, please ask for all parents to use the agreed parking facilities at Solihull Retail Park or Sainsburys. The efficient and effective running of Our Lady of the Wayside School does rely on all parents supporting our processes and arrangements. Thank you.

Below is a note received from Fr Andrew:

*Dear Parents/Guardians.*

*I am sorry to have to raise this issue with you but the car parking situation outside the Church and the Presbytery has now become a major concern particularly in the mornings. More and more parents are using this as a "drop off" facility and this is not permitted. Some cars have been parked across the entrance area just off the Stratford Road which has the potential to cause a serious accident. Cars have also been driven over the grassed area which reflects lack of care and concern for the Church property. I ask you kindly to not use the front area and leave it for parishioners attending morning Mass. Thank you for your understanding.*

*God bless, Fr Andrew*

## Classroom Visits

This week, there was an opportunity for you to drop into classrooms to see your child's learning environment and some of your child's learning activities. Next Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, your child's pupil report card will be updated; these will be available for you to view via their MS Teams account. Week commencing Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, teachers will be holding their second round of pupil review meetings - bookings will open next Tuesday. These meetings are an opportunity for: your child to discuss their learning with their teacher, to review their targets agreed in pupil review one, and to agree their next steps. This child centred approach is fundamental to our new arrangements as we try to empower children to have greater ownership of their learning and their achievements.

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## School Attendance Reminder

**Our Lady of the Wayside has set an overall pupil attendance target of 97%.**

If your child is not in school, they are not in their lessons and they are not being taught the knowledge and the skills they need to achieve well. Where a pupil's attendance figure drops below 90%, the Department for Education classifies them as being a 'persistent absence (PA)'. If your child is a PA, we will contact you to discuss their attendance and the support we can offer. Where appropriate, Our Lady of the Wayside School will seek the support of external educational welfare services. If you are struggling to send your child to school, we would urge you to contact school (Mrs Lloyd) who will talk through the issues and how we can assist. If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school office as soon as possible and no later than 9:30am please. If we haven't heard from you by 9:30am, we will contact you directly. If we are unable to make contact, we will undertake home visits.

### Every Day Counts

The impact of pupil absence on teaching and learning when measured over a school year:

100% attendance	0 days off school	0 lessons missed
99% attendance	2 days off school	10 lessons missed
97% attendance	5 days off school	25 lessons missed
95% attendance	10 days off school	50 lessons missed
90% attendance	20 days off school	100 lessons missed
85% attendance	30 days off school	150 lessons missed

It is important your child also arrives on time. School gates open at 8:30am. Your child is expected to be in their classroom by 8:55am, at the latest. Being regularly late has a real impact on their learning:

5 minutes late each day	3 days of lost learning
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days of lost learning
15 minutes late each day	10 days of lost learning
20 minutes late each day	13 days of lost learning
30 minutes late each day	19 days of lost learning

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## Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day

On Monday, to mark the end of our anti-bullying week, we celebrated being an individual by the wearing of odd socks.

If you ever have a bullying concern, please talk to school. Concerns will always be thoroughly investigated and outcomes fed back to you. We have an escalation pathway in place and we would urge you to please follow this if you feel the concern has not been thoroughly investigated, or appropriately resolved. The pathway is:

- Stage 1: Your child's class teacher
- Stage 2: Your child's Phase Leader
- Stage 3: Mrs Ashcroft - Deputy Headteacher
- Stage 4: Mr Taylor - Headteacher



**Mass Times at OLW Church**  
Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday  
5.30pm Evening Mass  
Sunday Mass  
10:00am with Children's Liturgy

## Congratulations

Our congratulations to Dot, our school patrol crossing officer, who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday yesterday. The children sang happy birthday and presented Dot with a special birthday cake, flowers and a birthday card. We hope you enjoyed your special birthday Dot.



## Brain Teaser

**Last week's brainteaser:**

While I was 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?

**Answer:** Just one... while I was on my way to St Ives

**This week's brainteaser:**

Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?

## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

**We are now collecting shoeboxes for this year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal - the deadline for bringing a shoebox into school is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.**

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 gift they receive this Christmas. It lets them know that someone, somewhere, cares. Last year, as in previous years, we had an amazing response from OLW families with over 100 Christmas Shoeboxes delivered. Thank you for your generosity, the Sanctuary were so grateful.

If you wish to take part in our 2022 Christmas Shoebox Appeal, please read the following notes.

1. Please ensure shoeboxes are not too large (children's shoe sizes would be best if possible as the Sanctuary have to store them).
2. Shoeboxes wrapped in Christmas paper.
3. Lids wrapped separately from the main box (so that the Sanctuary can easily check the contents).
4. Lids labelled with gender and approximate age.

Items that would be very useful are:

- woolly hats/scarves/gloves
- age appropriate toiletries
- toys such as small cars, dolls etc. **but no toy guns please**
- pens/pencils/crayons/notebooks

Further information regarding the work of St Chad's Sanctuary can be found at:

<http://www.stchadssanctuary.com/>

## Christmas Fair - Collections

Thank you so much for all the donated chocolate and Christmas jumpers for this year's Christmas Fair. Our congratulations to Class 1C who were this week's winning class - amazing Class 1C!

**Next Friday's collection is treasure jars.**

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## Collections

Just a reminder that we are now collecting for the following:

**Class Christmas Hampers** - Each year group has been allocated a Christmas hamper colour. Can we please ask for donations to be brought into school by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The hamper colours are:

Nursery: Purple

Reception: Yellow

Year 1: Silver & gold

Year 2: Blue

Year 3: Green

Year 4: Orange

Year 5: Red

Year 6: Black & white

**Christmas Boutique** - We are now collecting items for this year's Christmas Boutique, this is taking place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Donations by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December please.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

## Year 5 Maths Challenge

Well done to our Year 5 Maths Challenge team who competed in the first round of this year's competition. There were schools represented from across Our Lady and All Saints Multi-Academy Company. Following this first round, we are currently in second place. Our thanks to St Peter's Maths Department for organising the Maths Challenge



## 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 92.7%	Blue Group 88.8%
Year 1	Class 1C 92.2%	Class 1Y 97.0%
Year 2	Class 2F 92.2%	Class 2CS 92.5%
Year 3	Class 3M 91.1%	Class 3TS 95.5%
Year 4	Class 4C 94.4%	Class 4L 94.6%
Year 5	Class 5E 93.6%	Class 5V 90.9%
Year 6	Class 6O 87.5%	Class 6P 96.8%

Overall attendance for this week is 95.8%. Well done this week to Class 1Y with an attendance figure of 97.0%

## Babs of Bethlehem

Dear Parents, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bookings.olw.shirley@rcaob.org.uk) It would be great to see you, God bless Fr Andrew.



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## School Association - Christmas Reminders!

**CHRISTMAS FAIR - Not long to go!!!** The Christmas fair will be held on Saturday 3rd December 12:30pm - 3.00pm in the school hall.

There is so much planned this year... Santa's grotto, chocolate, bottle and toy tombolas, turkey baps, games and even a chocolate fountain! See you there!

### Raffle tickets

Today you will receive 2 books of raffle tickets for each family (check bags!) Please try to sell as many as you can and return the money in the envelope to the office. Additional raffle tickets available from reception and at the Christmas Fair. As well as the coloured hampers, the prizes are amazing this year...we have never had so many!

- £100 all4One gift card
- 2 x £50 Sports Direct gift cards
- £25 Nando's voucher
- £25 Tap & Tandoor voucher
- £20 Costa voucher
- Case of wine
- Hair by Twins voucher
- Make up by Kerri voucher
- 6 personalised cup cakes
- 4 week baby massage course
- Gelous Nails voucher
- 12 chocolate brownies
- Cabello Hair voucher
- £15 cupcake voucher
- Bouquet of flowers
- Pure Gym voucher
- Yoga workshop voucher
- Personalised hoodie from LoveGraceclothing
- Voucher for advent calendar from cardsfromDenise
- Tropic Dream Team set

Raffle will be drawn on Monday 12th December. Good Luck!

### Treasure Jars

Each child will bring a plastic cup home on Monday. Please fill these with **wrapped** sweets and chocolates and return on Friday 2nd November ready for the School Fair. **No nuts please.** You can put foil/paper/cloth over the top to keep the sweets in and secure with an elastic band/ribbon/string. Children can decorate the cups if they wish. Thank you!

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## OLW Eco Council

We have a very active Eco Council which is led by Mrs Sallis. On Wednesday, the Eco Council travelled to Birmingham's Botanical Gardens to learn about habitats. They are hoping to complete the final phase of our new nature area this school year.



## Social Media

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School understands the benefits of using social media and appreciates the simplicity and ease of instant messaging online. However if misused, the school community can be negatively and seriously affected. A significant amount of resources and time can be consumed trying to resolve inappropriate social media content. Next week, we will issue a revised Home School Partnership Agreement which will include a section on expectations for social media conduct. As a rule of thumb, if you have a concern relating to Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School (including pupils or staff) please do not comment on social media, including Whats App groups. Please contact the school directly so we can talk through your concern and take the appropriate action together. Thank you.

## Forthcoming Events

### Badminton Club

We have added an additional Friday for Badminton Club. The final badminton session for Group 2 will be next Friday. The school bus will leave school at 7:50am.

### Mass

Children in Middle Phase will be celebrating Mass with Our Lady of the Wayside Parish on Tuesday at 10:00am. You are most welcome to join us.

### Advent Liturgy

You are welcome to join us on Friday (2:45pm in Church) for our first Advent liturgy. This will be led by Year 6.

### Nursery 2023 Applications

A reminder that Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December is the deadline for applications for Our Lady of the Wayside Nursery for next academic year.

### Year 1 Journey to the Stable

On Tuesday, children in Year 1 will be visiting St James' Church for this year's 'Journey to the Stable'.

### Shakespeare Theatre Group

On Thursday, children in Year 6 will be working with the Young Shakespeare Theatre Company where they will study Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.