

## Latest School News

### Sunday's Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 22nd January 2023

- The Call of the first Disciples (Matthew 4:12-23)

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned." From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

### Gospel Reflection

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection:

This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Matthew first introduces us to Galilee, characteristically quoting the scriptures to show that they are being fulfilled and in what way. Galilee is called 'Galilee of the gentiles' only in this passage, and the presence of gentiles was not a particularly notable feature of Galilee. Archaeology shows that Jewish observance was strong in the region. Contemporary literature indicates that there was a lively tradition of prayerful charismatic rabbis with a warm devotion to the Lord. Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming the imminence of the Kingdom of God, and this will be the subject of all his activity. Then he begins to form the new Israel by calling his team together. The Christian imagination tends to combine this scene with the scene of the Baptist in the Jordan Valley in the Gospel of John, which suggests that at least Peter and Andrew among the disciples had already some knowledge of Jesus. But today's narrative must be heard on its own, and the staggering factor is that this is the first time at any rate the sons of Zebedee have set eyes on Jesus. As he passes by, Jesus calls them, and such is the electrifying power of his charismatic personality that they simply drop everything and follow this total stranger - immediately, as the evangelist stresses each time

### 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

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January, the National Education Union (NEU) announced that their membership had voted in favour of industrial action. There will be seven days of strikes in total. The impact of this industrial action will vary across the country and within individual schools. I can confirm that Our Lady of the Wayside will be unaffected by this action and all children are required to attend school as normal.

## Sacrament of Confirmation

On Saturday afternoon, we welcomed the team from Alton Castle to Our Lady of the Wayside. The Alton Castle team worked with our Year 6 Confirmation candidates through song, drama and stories to understand, and to reflect upon, the Sacrament of Confirmation. During Saturday evening Mass, the Year 6 candidates formally enrolled onto this year's programme of preparation.



## 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.

## Chess at Our Lady of the Wayside

We have a really active Chess Club here at Our Lady of the Wayside; we have approximately thirty Upper Phase children gathering every Monday morning to play. Chess is enjoyed throughout the world and is a game we hope the children will continue to enjoy and play when they have left Our Lady of the Wayside.

The children are keen to play some matches against other schools - please contact the school office if you know of other primary schools who would enjoy playing a chess match.





# Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

## Young Voices Choir Concert

Our Year 5 children thoroughly enjoyed their Young Voices concert at Resorts World Arena on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January. They joined with over 6000 other children from across the country to form the UK's largest school choir. Our thanks to Mrs Vinti for preparing the children so well and all the staff who accompanied the children to this wonderful event.



## Administration of Medication

Please note, Our Lady of the Wayside School will only administer medication which has been prescribed by a medical practitioner. Medication must have the child's name on the bottle/packaging and include details of the required dosage and administration timings. In order to administer medication, parents must complete an 'Administration of Medication Consent Form'; these are available from the school office.

## Girls Football

The girls football team were in action last week and enjoyed great success. They won their first match 6-1 and their second match 5-0. They are currently top of the league with one game left to play. Well done girls!



## Badminton Club -Can you help?

Our Year 6 children are loving their badminton! OLW Badminton Club is held on a Friday morning at St Peter's Catholic School; our sincere thanks to St Peter's for allowing us to use their facilities. The Year 6 children are really keen to play badminton matches against another school, we just need to find another school! Please contact the school office if you can assist.



# Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

## 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 95.6%	Blue Group 93.3%
Year 1	Class 1C 95.6%	Class 1Y 95.6%
Year 2	Class 2F 96.6%	Class 2CS 97%
Year 3	Class 3M 94.0%	Class 3TS 92.6%
Year 4	Class 4C 97.8%	Class 4L 99.0%
Year 5	Class 5E 97.5%	Class 5V 96.8%
Year 6	Class 6O 95.9%	Class 6P 99.0%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.4%. Well done this week to Class 4L and Class 6P with an attendance figure of 99.0%



## Brain Teaser

**Last newsletter brainteaser:**

If seven people meet each other and each shakes hands only once with each of the others, how many handshakes will there have been?

**Answer:** Twenty one. Most people would think there were 42 handshakes. The first person shakes the hand of **6** others, the second person shakes the hand of **5** remaining people, the third person shakes the hand of **4** remaining people, the fourth person shakes the hand of **3** remaining people, the 5th person shakes the hand of **2** remaining people and the sixth person shakes the hand of **1** remaining person.  $6+5+4+3+2+1=21$

## Attendance Policy

We have now revised and updated our Attendance Policy - a copy is attached to this week's newsletter and a copy is available on our school website. Attendance is a key factor in affecting a child's progress and in ensuring they achieve their full potential - if they are not in school we cannot teach them. Poor attendance also impacts on your child's wellbeing; we know that children with poor attendance can struggle to make and sustain friendships within school. If your child's attendance is of concern (attendance 90% or below), we will contact you and your child's attendance will be closely monitored. We know that there can be a variety of factors which affect attendance and we are keen to work in partnership with you. If you are struggling with your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Lloyd, our School Attendance Champion, who will be able to support you. Thank you.

## Diary Dates

We have updated the calendar on our school website with diary dates for Spring 2023 Term. Please note, this Thursday at 3:00pm there is a Q&A meeting for Year 5 parents regarding the forthcoming residential field trip to Mid Wales.

## Support Services - Contact Details

Solihull Parenting Team has produced a really helpful leaflet with details of support services available across Solihull. A copy is attached to this week's newsletter.