

Latest School News

Our Catholic Faith - Advent Reflection

Second Sunday of Advent

Each year it seems to get more and more difficult to celebrate Advent. This is a pity as we will never properly understand, appreciate, or enjoy Christmas if we are not prepared to give the Advent message a hearing. Before we can feast we have to fast so that our hearts can be open to our Saviour and his good news. And one of the often overlooked but essential parts of that good news is that Jesus will return. The first few weeks of Advent speak of that Second Coming without which our celebration of the first coming would have no meaning. The birth of the baby Jesus is only significant if the triumphant Christ will come again in glory. Over the next few weeks we are urged to take some time to listen to the message of the liturgy. Our children will be bombarded by the commercial Christmas hype what they will not hear from any other quarter is the message of the gospel: that this tiny child is the Son of God and that one day he will return in power and glory to establish God's Kingdom for ever.

Sunday's Gospel

Second Sunday of Advent

The Gospel for Sunday 4th December 2022 - John the Baptist's Call to Repentance (Matthew 3:1-12)



In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: "A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight." This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter

Friday 2nd December 2022

Christmas Boutique

Have you remembered to send in a donation for this year's Christmas boutique? Don't worry if you haven't, there is still time! We will continue to accept donations until Thursday 15th December. Items need to be new and suitable to be given as a Christmas gift.

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.



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.

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.

New Bike and Scooter Shelter

Earlier this week, our new bike and scooter shelter was installed at the entrance to school playground. This was funded from a Tesco Bags for Help Grant and fundraising by Our Lady of the Wayside School Association.



Christmas Fair - This Saturday 12:30pm - 3:00pm



Yes, our Christmas Fair has finally arrived and will be our first Christmas Fair since 2019. There are many craft activities on offer, including the chance to design and make your own badge and to have your face painted. As we write today's newsletter, the turkeys are being cooked and the stuffing is being prepared. Father Christmas has agreed to make a special appearance along with some very helpful elves! We have all our traditional favourites such as our bottle and chocolate raffle and our treasure jars. We also have the Christmas raffle with many fantastic prizes.

Please do try to come. It will be great to see as many families as possible. All the money raised will be used to support the ongoing improvements to the school environment.

The school playground will be open for parking; please take extra care when entering and leaving.

Finally, well done to the children in Class 1C and Class 1Y who won this week's collection of treasure jars.



Brain Teaser

Last week's brainteaser:

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

Answer: six sons + one sister + two parents = 9

This 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?

Advent Liturgy

This afternoon we gathered for our first Friday Advent liturgy. This was led by our Year 6 children who reminded us of the importance of using this season of Advent to prepare ourselves for the second coming. Our next Friday Advent liturgy takes place on Friday 9th December at 2:45pm. This is being led by our Y5 children, you are most welcome to join us.



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Well done Ava!

All the children of Our Lady of the Wayside are blessed with the most amazing God given gifts and talents. Each week the children are excited to share what they have been up to in their evenings and their weekends. We would like to share Ava's news. Following a lengthy audition process, Ava was selected to play young Jennifer in Birmingham Rep's version of Nativity: The Musical. Well done Ava, we are all really proud of you.



Please see the link below for ticket details.
<https://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/nativity-the-musical/>

Journey to the Stable

On Tuesday, Year 1 children enjoyed a wonderful morning at St James' Church listening to the story of the Nativity.



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 85.1%
Year 1	Class 1C 90.7%	Class 1Y 89.6%
Year 2	Class 2F 96.3%	Class 2CS 99.6%
Year 3	Class 3M 93.3%	Class 3TS 94.4%
Year 4	Class 4C 90.6%	Class 4L 98.3%
Year 5	Class 5E 91.2%	Class 5V 91.3%
Year 6	Class 6O 91.5%	Class 6P 92.3%

Overall attendance for this week is 95.4%. Well done this week to Class 2CS with an attendance figure of 99.6%

Studying Shakespeare Theatre Visit

Yesterday, the Young Shakespeare Theatre Company visited Our Lady of the Wayside School to work with our Year 6 children. The children studied Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. The Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and are keen to learn more about Shakespeare and his writing.



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Christmas Cards

Can we please ask for children to hold back with their Christmas cards until week beginning **Monday 12th December**. From Monday 12th, children can use our school Christmas post-box to send Christmas cards to their friends. 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

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Next Thursday, 8th December, is Christmas dinner. On this day children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper and give £1 for charity. This year we are supporting Our Lady of the Wayside's SVP group. The money raised will be used to support local people in need.



Mass Times at OLW Church

Saturday evening Vigil Mass for

Sunday: 5.30pm Evening Mass

Sunday Mass: 10:00am with Children's Liturgy

Christmas Mass details:

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=BMBooJAAWW4>

Instrumental Update

Our children have an amazing instrumental offer with children learning to play a new instrument each academic year. Our brass lessons have now commenced for our Year 4 children.



From January 2023, instrumental lessons will begin for children in Years 2,3,4,5 and 6:

Year 1 and Year 2:	Glockenspiel
Year 3:	African Djembe Drum
Year 4:	Brass Instruments
Year 5:	Ukuleles
Year 6:	Steel Pans (TBC)

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Forthcoming Events

Calendar Dates

Saturday 3 rd	School Association Christmas Fair (12:30pm to 3:00pm)
Thursday 8 th	Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (£1 charge)
Friday 9 th	Advent liturgy (2:45pm)
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
Wednesday 14 th	Year 2 Nativity of the Lord liturgy (9:45am)
Wednesday 14 th	Year 1 Nativity of the Lord liturgy (2:00pm)
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)

School Mass

There is no school Mass on Tuesday 6th December. Our final school Mass is on Tuesday 13th December. You are most welcome to join us.

Pupil Review Meetings

Next week we have pupil review meetings cycle two. Pupil report cards are available from tonight; please talk to your child about their pupil report card.

Family Mass

Year 5 families will be celebrating their family Mass this Saturday (3rd December) at 5:30pm.

Please note, the date has changed for Year 6 family Mass, this will now take place on Saturday 21st January. During this Mass children will formally enrol onto this year's Confirmation programme of preparation.