

# Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School



School Newsletter –Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July

## Goodbye Message from Mr Taylor

The final day of this academic year has now arrived, a day filled with excitement as children (and staff) look forward to their summer holiday. This day is also filled with a tinge of sadness for today we say goodbye to our Year 6 children, as well as some of our staff: Mrs Crawford, Miss Pitman, Mrs Duffy, Mr Vinti and Mrs Giblin.

Today, after 18 years, is also my final day as Headteacher. I wish to take this opportunity to say a few words about Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School. Our Lady of the Wayside really is a special school community where we do things the Our Lady of the Wayside way. This is not Our Lady of the Wayside thinking it is better, or needs to be different from everyone else. No, the 'Wayside Way' is based on our belief that God made each one of us, each one of us made in his image and likeness and each one of us - children and adults alike - unique with his or her own God given gifts and talents. This seemingly simple belief underpins everything we are and everything we do, every decision we take and every relationship we grow and nurture. When I meet new parents for the first time, I make three promises:

1. Their child (and them) will be truly loved and valued for being the person God has created them to be.
2. Our Lady of the Wayside will help their child to grow in their relationship with God.
3. The school will provide a rich range of opportunities to assist each child in discovering their gifts and talents, and in using their gifts and talents to become the people God is calling them to be. A quick look at our Twitter account will show this in action. You will see children playing the steel pans, exploring nature in Forest School, sleeping in a tent, exploring the impact of climate change on a beach in Mid Wales, learning how to rock climb, hill walking on the Malvern Hills - the list goes on and on.

I hope, during my 18 years at Our Lady of the Wayside, I, supported by all the staff and Governors, have fulfilled these promises made to you.

I promised myself I would keep this message to one side of A4. I would like to finish by asking for your continued support, kindness and generosity as Our Lady of the Wayside begins a new chapter. There will be changes ahead and there will be new ways of working - things may be different. Whatever the changes are, the values which underpin the 'Wayside Way' will remain steadfast. The best interests of the children will continue to be first and foremost in every decision made and your child will continue to be loved and nurtured to be the person God is calling them to be. It has been an incredible journey and one I have been immensely proud to have been part of. I will miss you and I will continue to remember you all in my prayers.

Thank you and God bless you. Mr Ben Taylor

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## End of Term Message from Fr Andrew

Dear Parents,

As the school year comes to a close I just wanted to take the opportunity to wish you a happy and restful summer holiday. I also want to say a big THANK YOU for all the support you have given to me and the parish family over the last year. Our celebrations of first reconciliation, communion and confirmation have been very moving and I am sure have touched your lives as families in a special way. The celebrations of our year group Masses on Saturday evenings have also been very well attended and have been much appreciated by our parishioners. I also want express my appreciation to Mr Taylor as he moves on from OLW this summer. Mr Taylor has been an inspirational headteacher and has always put the children at the heart of his life and mission. We will miss his cheery presence around the school and his truly awful jokes which are worse than mine!! In September we welcome Mrs Debbie Enstone as our new headteacher and over the last weeks it has been great to see Mr Taylor, Mrs Ashcroft and Mrs Enstone working together to ensure a smooth transition into September 2023. When change happens I am often reminded of the words of Cardinal Newman "to live is to change and to be perfect is to change often".

Finally the last word must go to the children. Whenever I visit our school the children always make me feel so welcome, especially if Man Utd have been beaten!! Your children are truly a credit to you and make OLW school the special place it is. As Mr Taylor often reminds me "the children are at the heart of all we do". With every blessing for the summer, Fr Andrew

## Forest School Provision

The children have had an amazing year of Forest School. Last week, they enjoyed cooking marshmallows on a camp fire. Our thanks to Mr Stevenson and all the staff who plan and manage our Forest School provision.



## Year 6 Chess Tournament

We had a record number of Year 5 and Year 6 children in Chess Club this year. It has been a joy to see so many children enjoying this wonderful game. Last week, twenty-eight Year 6 children competed in the 'Y6 Wayside Chess Tournament'. This was eventually won by Harry with Matty a close second.



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## 2022-2023 Reporting Arrangements

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to share your feedback and views on this year's reporting arrangements. As well as your feedback, we also gathered views from the children and the staff. All the feedback is now being evaluated and this will be considered when deciding upon reporting arrangements for 2023-2024.

### Parent Survey Outcome Summary

Below is the feedback from the parent survey, this is based on 78 responses and is shown as a number rather than a percentage.

I support the school's aim of providing parents will regular pupil achievement information; information updated approximately every six weeks.

Strongly agree	26
Agree	35
Disagree	14
Stongly disagree	3

I have found the Pupil Report Card format to be easy to understand and informative.

Strongly agree	20
Agree	28
Disagree	18
Stongly disagree	12

I support the school's aim of providing pupils and parents with regular opportunities (after the publication of each Pupil Report Card) to meet with their class teacher to discuss their Pupil Report Card, to celebrate achievements and to think about next steps.

Strongly agree	26
Agree	39
Disagree	9
Stongly disagree	4

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## 2022-2023 Reporting Arrangements... continued

I have found the Pupil Review Meeting format (online via School Cloud) to be an efficient way for pupil, teacher and parent to meet and talk together.

Strongly agree	23
Agree	10
Disagree	27
Stongly disagree	18

I support termly visits to the classroom where pupils can share and talk to their parents about their learning.

Strongly agree	30
Agree	36
Disagree	8
Stongly disagree	4

Overall, Pupil Report Cards and Pupil Review Meetings have been beneficial.

Strongly agree	19
Agree	31
Disagree	18
Stongly disagree	9

Thank you too for all your many comments, both positive and aspects for school to consider. In summary, there was consensus amongst the parents who responded that there is still a role for a 'traditional' parents' evening where parents can talk to their child's teacher face to face.

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## 2022-2023 Reporting Arrangements... continued

### Pupil Survey Outcome Summary

Below is the feedback from the children. Every child was asked to share their views. Below is the school summary recorded as a percentage.

I enjoyed talking to my teacher about myself and my learning in my PRMs (pupil review meeting)

Strongly agree	91%
Agree	6%
Disagree	1%
Stongly disagree	1%

My PRM helped me to know/understand what what I was doing well and for this to be recognised and celebrated.

Strongly agree	86%
Agree	9%
Disagree	2%
Stongly disagree	3%

My PRM helped me to know/understand what what I could do even better (my targets to improve).

Strongly agree	81%
Agree	10%
Disagree	5%
Stongly disagree	4%

I think (overall) that PRMs are a good idea and should continue next year.

Strongly agree	92%
Agree	4%
Disagree	3%
Stongly disagree	1%

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## Our Lady of the Wayside - 2023 National School Performance Outcomes

### Early Years Foundation Stage Assessment Results (end of Reception)

A *Good Level of Development* note - children at the end of Reception are defined as having reached a good level of development if they have achieved at least the expected levels in:

- the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language) and,
- the early learning goals in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

	Our Lady of the Wayside Results	National Results	Solihull Results
Good Level of Development	75%	67%	70%

### Year 1 Phonics Screening Assessment Results

	Our Lady of the Wayside Results	National Results	Solihull Results
% Meeting Standard	90%	79%	82%

### KS1 Results 2023 (Year 2)

Attainment Information	Percentage of Pupils <u>Working at National Standard or above</u>		
	Our Lady of the Wayside Results	National results	Solihull results
Reading	85%	68%	72%
Maths	82%	71%	72%
Writing	73%	60%	61%

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## KS1 Results 2023 (Year 2)

Attainment Information	Percentage of Pupils <u>Working at greater depth/high standard</u>		
	Our Lady of the Wayside Results	National results	Solihull results
Reading	27%	19%	22%
Maths	32%	16%	20%
Writing	23%	8%	11%

## KS2 Results 2023 (Year 6)

Attainment Information	Percentage of Pupils at <u>National Standard or above</u>		
	Our Lady of the Wayside Results	National results	Solihull results
Reading	89%	73%	75%
Grammar, punctuation and spelling**	92%	72%	Awaiting data
Maths	88%	73%	74%
Writing Teacher assessed, no test	78%	71%	70%
Reading, Writing and Maths	72%	59%	56%

Attainment Information	Percentage of Pupils at <u>Working at greater depth/high standard</u>		
	Our Lady of the Wayside Results	National results	Solihull results
Reading	38%	29%	Awaiting data
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	48%	30%	Awaiting data
Maths	41%	24%	Awaiting data
Writing - Greater Depth Teacher assessed, no test	14%	13%	Awaiting data

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## School Association - Thank You

On behalf of the school community, we wish to say a massive thank you to the School Association for all their hard work and dedication this academic year. This time last year, the future of the School Association was in real doubt; there were simply not enough parents volunteering to assist with the planning and managing of fundraising events. Following a plea for additional volunteers, a number of parents came forward.

This year, the School Association organised and managed a number of really successful events including: a Christmas Fair, a Valentine's Disco and a Summer Fair. The total raised at this year's Summer Fair was over £4500, a record for an Our Lady of the Wayside Summer Fair. The funds raised has enabled school to create a new teaching and meeting room and to purchase and install a scooter and bike shelter.

There are two members of the School Association who are stepping down today, Mrs Jenny Shires and Mrs Louise Brown. Jenny has been the Chair of the School Association for the last two years and Louise the School Association Treasurer for many years. They have both done an incredible job and we do wish to sincerely thank them for their hard work, generosity and dedication to the School Association and Our Lady of the Wayside School. Thank you Jenny and Louise.

The School Association are always looking for more volunteers to assist with the planning and running of events. So, if you can spare a little time, please do consider volunteering next academic year.

## Our Lady and All Saints Summer 2023 Newsletter

Below are the links for Our Lady and All Saints Catholic MAC Summer 2023 Newsletter.

You can open their newsletter by:

- scanning the QR code

- using this link: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/bf37bd02ff.html>



## School Association 200 Club

Thank you to those who entered this year's 200 Club. It costs £30 a year to enter with a £100 prize fund awarded each half-term. All profits raised from the 200 Club are invested back into School. In September we will invite you to join the 200 Club for 2023-2024

Earlier today our 200 Club draw took place for the Summer Term. Congratulations to: Mr Taylor (number 29) who won this half term's 200 Club and the £100 prize money.



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## School Uniform Reminder

We have noticed an increasing number of children not wearing the correct school uniform. We appreciate that parents do not wish to replace school uniform, including school shoes, at the end of an academic year. However, we must stress that all pupils are expected to wear Our Lady of the Wayside school uniform in September. Our school uniform policy can be found at:

<https://www.ol-wayside.solihull.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

Thank you.

Thank you too for all your donations to the School Association's Pre-Loved Uniform Stall. They now have a good range of stock.

## Staffing Update

At the end of last week, we received news that Mrs Giblin will be leaving today to take on a new role working with children with significant special educational needs. In addition, Mrs Giblin will be drawing upon her mental health experiences and knowledge to work with, and support, dementia patients within the community. We wish to thank Mrs Giblin for her commitment and dedication to Our Lady of the Wayside School and for the love and care she has always shown to the children, particularly those in Upper Phase. Mrs Giblin will be a big loss to our school. We wish her all the very best and we thank her for all she has given.

## Calendar Dates 2023-2024

### Autumn Term 2023

Term Starts: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
INSET Day: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
INSET Day: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September  
Pupils Return: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September  
INSET Day: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October  
Half Term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
Term Ends: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

### Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
Half Term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
INSET Day: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
Term Ends: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

### Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
Half Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May  
INSET Day: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Term Ends: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Please note: last school day for pupils is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

## Attendance

We have a number of children with amazing school attendance this year:

- 17 children with 100% attendance
- 29 children with attendance above 99% and below 100%

Well done children.

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## Year 6 Hill Walking

Last Thursday and Friday, children in Year 6 experienced the joy of hill walking. They climbed four hills which form part of the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire. There was a sense of real wonder and awe as they looked across the Severn Valley and then across to Wales. They were amazed at how small the buildings looked far below them in the town of Malvern. The children also had the opportunity to use their navigational knowledge to read an ordnance survey map and practise their compass skills.



## 2023 Sports Days

Oh dear, we really struggled with our sports days this year as the rain showers coincided perfectly with the start of each event! Thank you so much for your patience and understanding. Every phase managed to have some form of sports day with some events moving into the school hall.



## Nursery Graduation

On Friday, our Nursery children had a very special Nursery graduation. This was an opportunity to congratulate our Nursery children on all they have achieved and to wish them all the very best as they move onto their primary schools - many of the children will be starting at Our Lady of the Wayside School in September. Our thanks to all the Nursery staff who work with such dedication and love for the children and their families.



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## Educational Visits

Educational visits are an important part of our school offer. They offer the opportunity for children to learn outside their normal classroom environment, to have experiences we wouldn't be able to offer here in school.

Last week, Year 1 visited Think Tank in Birmingham as part of their science curriculum. They particularly enjoyed their workshop learning about the human body.



Year 2 children enjoyed learning about habitats during their visit to Twycross Zoo.



## Summer 2023 Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency, is delivered in partnership with public libraries and funded by Arts Council England. The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure over the summer holidays, providing lots of fun as well as helping to prevent the summer reading 'dip'.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme - Ready, Set, Read! - has been created in partnership with Youth Sport Trust and illustrated by the brilliant children's writer and illustrator Loretta Schauer. This year's sport and play themed initiative aims to keep children's minds and bodies active over the summer break, empowering young people to forge new connections with others. The Challenge and the accompanying book collection shows that imagination and play can unlock endless possibilities, and that the library is where this starts. There are two ways you can take part: at your library OR online:

You can join the Challenge at your local library and take part in person. The library will give you a special collector folder, stickers, and other special incentives, and help you find books to read for your Challenge. You can also join online. Please use this link for further information:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/about-the-challenge>