

Latest School News

Message from Mr Taylor

Dear Parents,

I write to you today with the news that I will be leaving Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School this academic year. I have accepted a new role as a 'School Improvement Strategic Lead' in a Birmingham Catholic Multi-Academy Company. After eighteen years at Our Lady of the Wayside, with nine of those years as Headteacher, the time now feels right to begin a new chapter in my life. The decision to leave has been incredibly difficult for me, for the community of Our Lady of the Wayside is such a large part of my life. I have always seen you, the staff and, most importantly, the children as my second family. I will always treasure my time here and will always be grateful for your kindness and for your support. You, the staff and the children are simply amazing!

Looking forward, there are a few practical arrangements to share. In true Mr Taylor fashion, I have put together some questions and answers!

When will be Mr Taylor be leaving?

I was due to commence my new role in April 2023. It has been agreed that I will continue at Our Lady of the Wayside until the end of this academic year. During the Summer 2023 Term, I will work three days a week at Our Lady of the Wayside and two days a week in my new role.

Who will be Headteacher in Summer 2023 Term when Mr Taylor is not working at Our Lady of the Wayside?

During the days when I am absent, Mrs Ashcroft, Deputy Headteacher, will be Acting Headteacher.

What are the plans for September 2023?

The recruitment of a new Headteacher for Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School will commence after half-term. The MAC and Governors are hoping to have appointed a new Headteacher by early Summer 2023 Term. An early appointment will ensure there is time for a smooth transition.

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.

Gospel Reflection

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection:

Matthew here takes two piquant images from the words of Jesus which he found in Mark's Gospel and builds on them. This text follows immediately after the Beatitudes, with which he began the Sermon on the Mount; now he shows that these Christian attitudes are not just for our own benefit but are to change the world. The first teaching is a warning, the second a promise. Christians are to be salt for the whole world. Imagine a perpetual diet of food without any tang or taste, soggy and insipid! This would be the world if Christians did not spread the good news of Christ, did not impart to the world the flavour brought by Christ's message. What would the world be without that message and without the challenge of the generosity and salvation of Christ which we profess? Yes, of course much of the same message may come to the world through other great world-faiths, but the full challenge and the full promise is in Christ. The same is true for the second image, that of light. Imagine a world of darkness, where we had to feel our way and are never quite sure of shapes and purposes! And then what a difference occurs when the sun rises over the horizon or the light is switched on. Such is the difference which Christianity - and our Christianity - must make to the world

Holocaust Memorial Day

Earlier this week, children in Year 6 marked Holocaust Memorial Day. Holocaust Memorial Day is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people who died in the Holocaust and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. The theme this year was around 'Ordinary People'. Ordinary people were the victims, perpetrators and saviours. We pray that humanity will learn the lessons from history.

Sunday's Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 5th February 2023 - Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School

School Newsletter

Friday 3rd February 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 95.1%	Blue Group 96.3%
Year 1	Class 1C 95.5%	Class 1Y 98.1%
Year 2	Class 2F 93.7%	Class 2CS 99.2%
Year 3	Class 3M 94.8%	Class 3TS 92.5%
Year 4	Class 4C 98.9%	Class 4L 98.9%
Year 5	Class 5E 97.9%	Class 5V 94.1%
Year 6	Class 6O 85.7%	Class 6P 96.5%

Overall attendance for this week is 94.5%. Well done this week to Class 2CS with an attendance figure of 99.2%



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?

Answer - none, it is a pear tree not a plum tree!

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. Further information is available on the school website or from the school office.

Assistant Headteacher Vacancy

We have now begun 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. Further information can be found on the school website or office.

KS1 Individual Needs Support Worker

We are also looking to recruit for the above position. This is a temporary post for the summer term. The position is for two days per week (11 hours in total) - THURSDAY and FRIDAY working pattern. Further information is available on the school website or via the school office.

Fr Gerardo

We received news this week that Fr Gerardo's Mum has died. Please remember Fr Gerardo and his Mum in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace. Amen.

Invitation to Classroom Prayers



This week we restarted our family prayer sessions; an opportunity for parents/grandparents to join their children for prayers within the classroom. It was wonderful that so many parents and grandparents were able to join. If you were not able to join this week, please do not worry, we have additional sessions planned:

The dates are:

Year 1: Friday 10th February at 9:10am

Year 2: 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 16th February at 3:10pm

Year 6: Thursday 16th February at 3:10pm

Gas Update

We have now received quotes to replace the main gas pipe that feeds school. As you can imagine, it is a very expensive repair. We are hopeful that this work can be completed during February half-term. In the meantime, school does have hot water and there is temporary electric heating in classrooms.

Pupil Report Cards - Review 3

Next Friday, you will receive the third edition of your child's report card. We have arranged pupil review meetings for week commencing Monday 13th February. Bookings will open on Monday.

Curriculum Focus - Science at Our Lady of the Wayside

Science is an important part of our school curriculum. We thought we would share some of Upper Phase Science learning from earlier this week.

Year 6 have been experimenting with different style of 'beaks' after learning about Charles Darwin's work on the Galápagos Islands. They then used their knowledge to consider what adaptations birds would need to survive dependent on the food source available.



Year 5 have been testing materials to find the best thermal insulator!

