

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School



School Newsletter – Friday 27th October 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the first half term and have already had eight weeks at school, I can't believe how quickly it has flown by. Many thanks to all the children, staff, parents, governors and parishioners who have made me feel so welcome and happy. I thoroughly enjoy being part of the school community and parish and I hope the year continues to bring more joy and happiness!

This week the Year 5 children had a wonderful experience on their residential trip to Alton Castle. Father Andrew and I joined the group on Thursday and took part in trekking and biking. The Alton Castle staff reported that the behaviour of our children was exceptional. They have been a real credit to yourselves as parents as well as making us proud as a school.

The weather is really starting to get colder now so please ensure that your children are wearing coats for school and I am sure we will need gloves, hats and scarves for next half term too. Do not forget to label them all.

The art display gallery in school needs an update so I am setting an art competition for over the half term. Every child will be asked to complete a piece of artwork in either A3 (Year 5/6) or A4 for the rest of the school. They can use any medium and create any image. The more creative the better! Ensure that the artwork is labelled with your name and class on the back of the piece. Winning entries will be framed and placed in the art gallery in the corridor next half term for everyone to see. I will let you know who the winners are after the holiday.

I hope you all have a restful holiday with your families and I look forward to seeing you all next half term.
God Bless

This Sunday's Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 29th October 2023 (Matthew 22:34-40): The Greatest Commandment

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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Gospel Reflection

Familiarity with Jesus' answer to the question about the greatest commandment blunts our awareness of its startling directness. Many answers could be given, perhaps singling out any one of the ten commandments as the greatest, the most important basis of society. A frequent answer to the question was and is the Golden Rule which exists in many cultures: 'Do not do to another what you would not have done to you'. This is basically a selfish answer, protecting one's own interests. By contrast, Jesus' answer hits home, turning us away from self to God. 'Love' (not 'obey' or 'adore' or 'fear' or 'reverence') is the command. Love is not simply the warmth of companionship, but is the willing generosity of mother to helpless young child or daughter to helpless old parent, of wife to a sick husband or husband to a paralysed wife, seeking no reward but the happiness of the receiver. Paul gives a useful check-list about love in chapter 13 of his first letter to the Corinthians. John's first letter provides a useful summary: 'No one who fails to love the brother or sister whom he can see, can love God whom he has not seen'. **How do we put into practice this commandment to love?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

School Association

The next School Association meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm. The main focus of this meeting is to discuss the preparations for the Christmas Fayre which will take place on Saturday 2nd December 12-3pm. Please come and join us. You don't need to come to every meeting or event but extra help is welcomed and the money raised goes directly to our children.



Please can you send bottles into school on Friday 10th November for the tombola stall.

Handwriting

Thank you for supporting your child with developing their handwriting using the cursive style. I have seen a huge improvement this half term already with general presentation. Once children have developed beautifully joined up handwriting they are awarded a pen licence and many children have felt very proud achieving this. Please continue to practise handwriting over the holiday and next half term to develop your child's handwriting skills. This key skill is vital to master at primary age.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be visiting school on Friday 10th November to take photos. The school photographer will be available between 8:15am and 9:00am for those parents who would like to have photographs with siblings who are not in school.

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Uniform

From Monday 6th November, all children will be expected to wear winter uniform please. Ties are compulsory and not optional so please purchase these over half term if required. Some children are wearing trainers instead of school shoes. Please refer to the school uniform policy.

I believe that wearing your full school uniform not only sets high standards across the school but also instils a real sense of pride and belonging to a strong school community. We appreciate your support.

Hair

Just a reminder about tying hair back please as unfortunately, this is the season for head lice again. If hair is tied back then the chances of getting head lice is greatly reduced, thank you.

November

During the month of November, we will focus on remembering those who are no longer with us and those who gave their today for our tomorrow.

“We will remember”



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 94.2%	Blue 97.1%
Year 1	Class 1C 98.1%	Class 1Y 98.5%
Year 2	Class 2F 95.2%	Class 2SH 97.1%
Year 3	Class 3A 96.7%	Class 3TS 96.7%
Year 4	Class 4M 93.8%	Class 4L 96.3%
Year 5	Class 5E 99.0%	Class 5T 93.7%
Year 6	Class 6O 90.3%	Class 6C 90.9%

Overall attendance for this week is 95.9%. Well done this week to Class 5E with an attendance figure of 99.0%

Year 3 Family Mass

On Saturday 11th November, we have the Year 3 Induction Mass. This is the start of the journey of faith as this year group prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

It would be lovely to see as many families across all year groups joining us for this special Mass.

Mass

On **Tuesday 7th November at 10am**, children in Upper Phase will be celebrating Mass with OLW parish. This will be led by Y5 children. You are all most welcome to join.

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All Souls

This November, to commemorate All Souls Day, we will be creating special remembrance areas in each classroom. If your child would like to bring photos and objects into school that remind them of deceased members of their families, these can be placed around prayer tables. These areas will be decorated in bright colours and flowers. Children can share stories about family members and pray for them. This would be a positive way of celebrating the lives of those who have died.

We would also like to invite parents and staff to add the names of friends and family members into a Book of Remembrance which we will place in our Prayer Room. The RE council will pray for these people in weekly prayer sessions throughout the month of November. This book will be available in Reception in the first week back after half-term.

Year 5 Religious Residential Retreat

Our Year 5 children had a wonderful time on retreat at Alton Castle this week. This was a great opportunity for them to grow closer to God through prayer and reflection whilst also engaging in many outdoor pursuits. Our thanks to the staff who accompanied the children and to Mrs Enstone and Father Andrew who joined in with the events on Thursday.



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Y6 Secondary School Applications

Message from School Admissions Team

The closing date for submitting your child's application for secondary school is 31st October. If you live in Solihull and you have not yet applied, you must submit your application via the parent portal at www.solihull.gov.uk/pp. Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers have been made in March. Applying late is likely to affect the outcome of your application

Half-Term

A reminder that Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November is half-term and school is closed.

Children return **Monday 6th November**. We hope you all have a lovely half-term break.

Reception Parent Meeting - Phonics

It was great to see parents on Wednesday for the Early Reading meeting. We hope that you found it helpful. Early reading is so important and working together is crucial to ensure that this important skill is embedded in Foundation Stage.

Pupil Report Cards and Review Meetings

Thank you for attending this week's Pupil Review Meetings. We hope you found them helpful. This approach is very much based on pupil voice and putting children at the centre of their learning.

The next PRM meetings will take a slightly different format. Your child will attend their Pupil Review Meeting with their class teacher during the school day throughout the week beginning 27th November. Parents will then have an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with their child's teacher (no pupils present) on either Tuesday 5th or Wednesday 6th December from 3.50 to 6.20pm. At these face-to-face meetings with parents, (no pupils present) targets will be shared, parents can look at their child's work and see their child's classroom. Booking details will be issued after half-term.

Mrs Enstone, Mrs Ashcroft and Mrs Gray will be available on these evenings if you wish to speak with them.

First Holy Communion Update

Family Session - Our first family session takes place on **Thursday 9th November** for Year 3 parents. Staying for a chip supper? Please return your chip-supper food choices by **Tuesday 7th November**.

Enrolment Mass – Our Enrolment Mass takes place on **Saturday 11th November at 5:30pm**. During this Mass children formally enrol onto this year's First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Programme

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Parent Workshop

Wendy Fitzmaurice from the SISS Autism team will be leading a 'Making Sense of Autism' workshop on Thursday 30th November at OLW school, 9am-12 noon for parents of children who have a diagnosis of ASD. Parents of children who do not have a diagnosis of ASD are also most welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please fill in a form using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/CTwbmRX7vD>

Vacancies in school

We currently advertising for two lunchtime supervisor roles in school. One 10 hour position and the other a 6 hour position. If you are interested or know someone who would like to apply, applications will be available after half-term on the website or by contacting the school office.

School Association

School Association News

We are ready to host our first Autumn Pumpkin Party!

Please support your school in fundraising at this event, it will be a fabulous!

Tickets will be on sale from 27th October 2023.

You need to click the link or scan the QR code; complete the booking form; choose which disco time you would like; transfer to purchase and enjoy the party!

THANKYOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

<https://form.jotform.com/232906470384055>

Scan QR code OR Ctrl & click link

Our Lady of the Wayside SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Invites you to the **AUTUMN PUMPKIN PARTY**

Sunday 12th November

Afternoon disco 1 - 2pm - 4pm
OR Evening disco 2 - 5pm - 7pm

The Regency Hotel, Shirley

TICKETS ON SALE 26TH OCTOBER

£20 PER FAMILY - SIBLINGS ONLY
OR £5 INDIVIDUAL TICKET

TUCK SHOP (CASH) D3 MUSIC GLOW STICKS GAMES

SCAN TO BOOK

<https://form.jotform.com/232906470384055>

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Information received this week

West Midlands Police

As Halloween and Bonfire Night approaches, West Midlands Police would like to encourage you to talk to your child about staying safe and sensible during this time.

Remember...

- Stay visible at night by wearing fluorescent clothing or head torches
- Supervise children with sparklers and at firework displays
- Warn your children about stranger danger and only trick or treating in well-lit, known areas
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess a firework, flare or smoke bomb.

You can download our free parents' guide of safety tips here: <https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/campaigns/darker-nights/asb>

If you want to report something suspicious call 101 or **999 in an emergency**. For more information about how West Midlands Police are helping keep you safe this Halloween, search '*WMP Darker Nights*'.

Our Lady of the Wayside Pre-School

A safe and happy environment for your child to grow and learn; preparing them for school.

Our welcoming, highly trained staff ensure that a wide range of activities including arts & crafts, messy play and role-play are undertaken daily. With our fantastic secure outdoor play area, half undercover fresh air and exercise can be enjoyed in all weather. We have a wonderful new natural garden which inspires imaginative play and forest school style activities.

You are very welcome to visit, have a look around our setting and meet our team.

All children between the ages of 2 - 4 years welcome.

Our Pre-School opening hours are 9.15am – 12.15pm.

Spaces currently available for 2023/24.

We are registered to accept 15 & 30 hour funding.

For further details or an application form please contact Pre-School (07474 743744) weekdays 9.00am – 12.30pm or alternatively, visit our website at www.OLOWpreschool.com or email us at ourladyofthewaysidepreschool@gmail.com