

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School



School Newsletter – Friday 15th September 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you have been enjoying the beautiful late summer sunshine that we have been blessed with since the start of the term. It has been a real joy seeing the children making the most of our beautiful grounds and running around the open playing field and utilising the outdoor space for curriculum work.

It has been wonderful to see all of our new nursery and reception children walk through the gates for the first time this week. They have all looked so smart and grown up and have been very eager! They have settled into their routines very quickly and they have been busy making lots of new friends and enjoying all their new learning opportunities. We look forward to getting to know all our new families.

We celebrated our first whole school Mass this week with all of our children in the church and it was lovely to see so many parents and family members. Well done to the children who led the Mass so beautifully. I also enjoyed hearing the children sing my newly discovered favourite hymn... 'Our Lady of the Wayside' which was written especially for the school and parish by a parishioner.

We are looking forward to a busy term, full of exciting learning opportunities and creating special memories. I hope you all have a restful weekend and are able to enjoy some of the wonderful September weather.

God bless

Mrs Enstone

This Sunday's Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 17th September 2023 - The Unforgiving Debtor (Matthew 18:21-35)

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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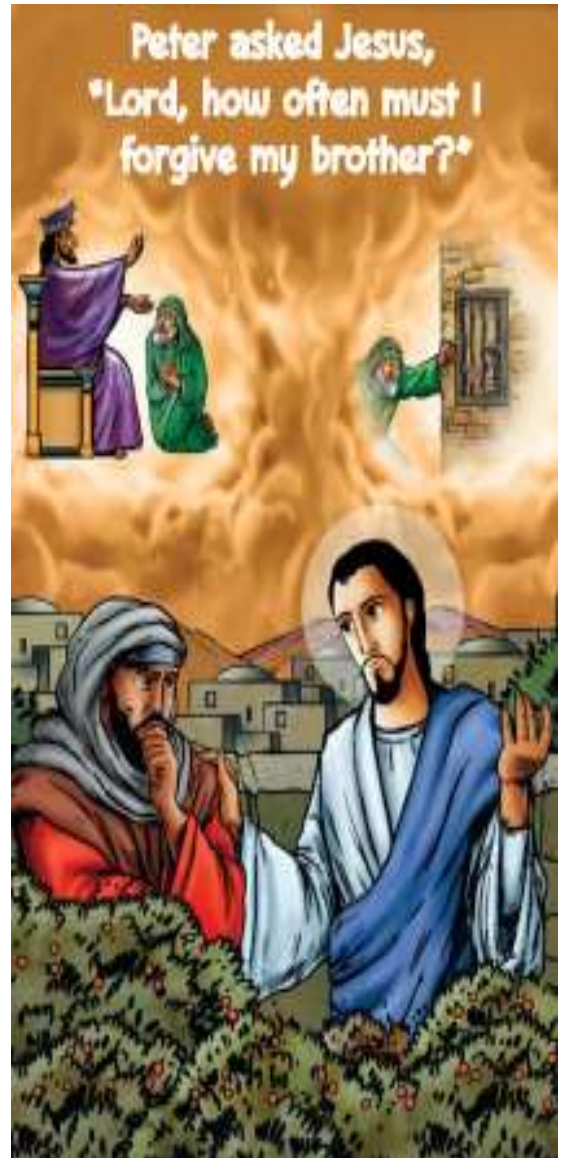


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Gospel Reflection

This is a favourite theme of Matthew, continuing and concluding Jesus' teaching that forgiveness is the life's-blood of any Christian community. We cannot live together without upsetting one another, unwittingly, or even deliberately. So forgiveness is the vital step. So important is this matter of forgiveness that two consecutive Sunday gospels are devoted to it. It expands and stresses our petition in the Lord's Prayer, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.' The importance of this petition was already underlined by Matthew; it is the only petition of the Lord's Prayer to which he adds at the end a confirmatory saying of Jesus. Like so many of Matthew's parables, this one about a king and his servants revolves round contrasting characters, the 'goodie' and the 'baddie' (wedding-guests and guest without a wedding-garment; the two who use their talents and the one who hides it; the girls with and without oil for their lamps; the sheep and the goats; and here, the generous king and the ungenerous servant). There is also a contrast between the two sums of money which is deliberately fantastic: the first slave owes the equivalent of millions of dollars, a sum no private person could ever repay, let alone a slave; it is more than a year's tax for a whole province. The second owes the couple of months' wages of a casual labourer. Is there anyone you cannot forgive? Do you start the forgiveness-process, or wait for the other party? What is the best way to show forgiveness?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB



Communication of Changes

It is really important that any changes in family circumstances are communicated with school so that we can best support you and your child. For example, please let us know if there has been any bereavement in the family, any personal family changes or if you have moved to a new address.

Scoters/Bikes

Please can we ask that scooters and bikes are dismounted at the entrance to the pedestrian pathway. This is in the interests of health and safety especially as the pathway can become very busy. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Coffee Morning

Want to meet some other parents and make some new friends? We have arranged a coffee morning for parents on 29th September between 9:00am and 10:00am in the Scout Centre. You are all most welcome



Birthdays

Don't forget to wear your own clothes on your birthday. It has been really super this week seeing the children in their normal clothes so that they can be easily identified and everyone can be part of their birthday celebrations!



Parent Information Meetings

In order to clearly communicate our school expectations around homework, attendance, behaviour, etc, we will be holding Parent Information Meetings in the school hall at 2:45-3:20pm during the beginning of October. For any parent unable to attend, we will put the information on the school website. Meetings will be held on the following days:

Rec	Took place in the summer term 2022/2023
Y1	Took place in the summer term 2022/2023
Year 2	Monday 2 nd October
Year 3	Monday 9 th October
Year 4	Thursday 5 th October
Year 5	Tuesday 3 rd October
Year 6	Wednesday 4 th October

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 95.8%	Blue 99.1%
Year 1	Class 1C 96.3%	Class 1Y 98.4%
Year 2	Class 2F 98.8%	Class 2SH 94.0%
Year 3	Class 3A 93.9%	Class 3TS 99.6%
Year 4	Class 4M 95.9%	Class 4L 99.2%
Year 5	Class 5E 96.0%	Class 5T 98.2%
Year 6	Class 6O 100%	Class 6C 95.6%

Overall attendance for this week is 96.8%. Well done this week to Class 6O with an excellent attendance figure of 100%

Tesco Community Token Scheme

We have been nominated by Tesco Dickens Heath and Tesco Monkspath for the Tesco community token scheme. When you visit these two stores, you will receive a token at the checkout. Please can you put it in the OLW project box. If OLW has received the most tokens at the end of the voting period, we will receive some funding. Don't forget to vote with each visit!

Parking

Please do not drive into the school car park for 'drop off' or 'pick up' unless you have a blue badge. This is to ensure that all our children and families are safe whilst on the school site.

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Physical Education

Below is timetable for Physical Education across school. Grey highlighted boxes indicate days on which your child will be doing PE. Children can wear school PE kit into school on the day of PE. In cold weather, shorts can be worn under plain black tracksuit bottoms. (no logos please).

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1					
Year 2					
Year 3					
Year 4					
Year 5					
Year 6					

Values and Virtues

For this half term our virtues are **Grateful** and **Generous**. Grateful for their own gifts, for the gifts of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with their gifts to help others. In assembly this week we talked about how we can be grateful for the things God has given to us and we discussed how we can use our gifts to help others at school and at home. Many children suggested helping their teachers, supporting their friends in class and even helping with washing up at home and tidying their bedrooms so hopefully they are actioning all these suggestions!



Reception Classroom

Our thanks to the School Association for contributing to the new resources in our Reception Classroom. The environment looks absolutely wonderful. This would not have been possible without parents supporting the School Association fundraising events. Thank you to the whole school community.



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Attendance

This is an important update about school attendance for the 2023/24 academic year. OLOW School is working in partnership with Our Lady and All Saints Catholic MAC, our Education Welfare Officer, the Local Authority Inclusion Team, and our parents/carers to improve school attendance and punctuality.

A big thank you to the majority of parents who make sure their children attend school regularly, and punctually. Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your child will have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. It will also enable your child to:

- access the lessons needed to achieve their expected grades
- maintain friendships and develop new ones
- have access to social and sporting events offered by the school
- develop habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive for their development.

How does your child compare?

Over the academic year:

95% 9 days 2 weeks 50 lessons missed.

90% 19 days 4 weeks 100 lessons missed.

85% 29 days 6 weeks 150 lessons missed.

If you are worried about your child/children's attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with health and council teams.

It may be tempting to book a family holiday in term time to save on costs. However, now is not the time for children to miss even more school.

Family holidays in term time are not allowed in law and are very unlikely to be authorised. Taking children on leave without applying for authorisation may mean the school has to report your child as 'missing' to the local authority.

Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Notifying the school of leave due to a family emergency does not mean it will be authorised.

This year, we are having a drive ensure that all children are in school punctually and ready to learn. Regular lateness to school, even by a few minutes, is disruptive to the class and possibly upsetting for your child.

Children should be in school before 8.55am. Lateness after 9.05am will be recorded as unauthorised.

Where attendance/punctuality is an issue our school attendance team which includes Mrs Lloyd, Mrs Gray and Mrs Ashcroft, will invite parents/carers into school for short meetings, and to draw up attendance support plans.

Please note that where parents/carers fail to ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually, legal action, including penalty notices, may be considered. This is a last resort; however, all MAC schools must comply with current Government guidance as it relates to attendance. Please see the link below to Solihull MBC's code of conduct regarding its legal intervention.

https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi6-MT9uqWBaxVCVEEAHbUaCagQFnoECBcQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.solihull.gov.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fmigrated%2FStrategiesPlansPolicies_Education-Enforcement-Code-of-Conduct.pdf&usq=AOvVaw0uqP1GVQrCeayrmd5c3SsU&cshid=1694535124832157&opi=89978449

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St Peter's Catholic Secondary School – Open Evening

St Peter's Catholic School are holding an open evening on **Thursday 21st September between 5:30pm to 8:00pm** for families applying for a secondary school place for September 2024. There is also an opportunity for parents to arrange a visit to see the school in operation by appointment on Monday 25th September and Tuesday 26th September.

A warm welcome awaits you

Guided tours

St Peter's Catholic School
Faith is our Foundation

VISIT OUR SCHOOL
meet our staff and pupils

Open Evening
Thursday 21st September 5.30pm - 8pm

Open Mornings
Monday 25th September • Tuesday 26th September

Click [this link](#) OR call **0121 705 3988** to book

We look forward to meeting you

Sensory Workshop

There is an opportunity for parents to attend a sensory workshop on Friday 29th September. The aim of the workshop is to support parents with the understanding of sensory processing difficulties in the home. You will be provided with practical strategies on how to support your child. If you are interested in attending please can you complete a form by 22nd September.

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

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Dates for the Autumn Term

Date	Time	Event
14.09.23	2.50-3.10	Year 5 parent drop in meeting for Alton Castle
18.09.23	9.30	St Peter's assembly with Year 5/6
29.09.23	9-10	Coffee Morning in the Scout Centre
WB 02.10.23/09.09.23	2:45-3:20	Parent Information Meetings Y2-Y6
10.10.2023	10:00-11:00	Upper Phase Mass
13.10.2023	9:30-10:30	Open Morning for parents looking for a Reception/Nursery place 2024
14.10.2023	5.30-6.30	Year 5 School/Parish Mass (Saturday)
16.10.23-20.10.23		Pupil Review Meetings
17.10.23	10:00-11:00	Middle Phase Mass
19.10.23	9:30-10:30	Open Morning for parents looking for a Reception/Nursery place 2024
20.10.23	2.45	One World Liturgy CAFOD Harvest
20.10.23		Flu Vaccinations
25.10.23	TBC	Reception Parent Meeting - Reading
24.10.2023	10:00-11:00	Lower Phase Mass
25.10.23		Alton Castle residential retreat Y5
Half term		
27.10.23		INSET Day
7.11.23	10:00-11:00	Upper Phase Mass
9.11.23	5:00-6:00	First Holy Communion Family Session 1 (Further details to follow)
11.11.23	5.30-6.30	Year 3 First Holy Communion Induction Mass (Further details to follow)
10.11.23		Photographs
14.11.23	10:00-11:00	Middle Phase Mass
21.11.2023	10:00-11:00	Lower Phase Mass
30.11.2023	1:00	Journey to the Stable
1.12.23	2.45	Advent Liturgy Y5
4.12.23- 9.12.23		Pupil Review Meetings
5.12.23	10:00-11:00	Upper Phase Mass
8.12.23	2.45	Advent Liturgy Y6
11.12.23	9.45	Christmas Nativity Year 3 in Church
11.12.23	2:00	Christmas Nativity Year 4 in Church
12.12.23	9:45	Christmas Nativity Nursery
12.12.23	2:00	Christmas Nativity Reception
14.12.23	9:45	Christmas Nativity Year 1
14.12.23	2:00	Christmas Nativity Year 2

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19.12.23		Christmas dinner/jumper day
21.12.23	am	Christmas boutique
21.12.23	pm	Christmas parties
22.12.23	10:00-11:00	Whole School Mass
		End of term