

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School



School Newsletter – Friday 8th September 2023

Headteacher's Message

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to welcome you to the beginning of another school year at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary school. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break. We extend a warm welcome to the new families joining us for the start of the year and also our new staff; Mrs Goodenough (Reception), Mrs Higley (Year 2), Miss Atkins (Year 3), Miss Tracey (Year 5) and Mr Cunningham (Year 6) and Mrs Gray (Assistant Headteacher/SENCO). The children have made a fantastic start, happily skipping into school and settling into lessons swiftly. We ask for God's blessing on our school as we prepare for all the exciting learning opportunities that lie ahead of us this year.

It has been a real joy this week meeting all the families at the gate every day and I look forward to forging a strong partnership in order to support your children in the best way we can. Thank you for making me feel so welcome already - I know that I will be very happy indeed at the school.

On Friday we celebrated the feast day of the Nativity of Mary by learning more about her in lessons, praying in assembly and also taking time to think about how Our Lady of the Wayside school is part of the Multi-Academy Company of Our Lady and All Saints MAC which comprises 13 schools. We ended our first week by having an ice-cream which was paid for by the parish, thank you Fr Andrew.

I would also like to thank all the staff, families, children, Father Andrew and our trainee priest, Jonathan for supporting me in my first week at the school – I couldn't have done it without you all.

This Sunday's Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 10th September 2023 - Reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-20)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'



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Gospel Reflection

The Church has had to be selective as we work through the Gospel of Matthew for this year's readings. In this eighteenth chapter of Matthew on relationships within the community it is striking that the Church has chosen this passage to put before us. The first part is all about sorting out disputes and about forgiveness. Despite the presence of Christ in the Christian community there are going to be disagreements and misunderstandings in every church and every family. The vital thing is to sort them out and not to let them fester. So here we are given a safe process to do this. Just after today's passage, Jesus underlines his teaching here when he says that we have to forgive not just seven times (the perfect number) but seventy-seven times. That means again and again and again, without limit. Christ also reminds us that he is present always in his community. The same promise is given at the beginning (the name Emmanuel means 'God with us') and at the end of the gospel ('I am with you to the end of time'). Therefore the decisions of the community will be considered binding in the sight of God. It is especially striking that the same pledge (of binding and loosing) is made with the Church here as had earlier been made with Peter himself; Peter on his own exercises the authority of the Church. How may we best put this process of reconciliation described by Jesus into practice? Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Start of Term Mass

Our first school Mass of the new academic year has been arranged for **Tuesday 12th September at 2.15pm**. During this Mass class candles are blessed, candles which will be used throughout the year in class worship and assemblies. You are most welcome to join us in church or using the livestreaming facility.

Birthdays

Due to a number of our children who have allergies we ask that no sweets or cakes are taken onto the school site to celebrate birthdays. Instead children are allowed to wear non-uniform clothes on their birthday so that everyone can recognise and mark this special occasion. If their birthday falls in the holiday or at a weekend they can wear their non-uniform on the nearest day to it.

School Uniform

Last academic year, we had a huge amount of lost property again at the end of the school year. Please can we remind all parents to label items of uniform. There are clothing containers on the playground/field so that children have a designated space in which to place jumpers/cardigans, etc. Children will be reminded at the end of breaktimes to collect their uniform.

Please note, jewellery is not to be worn to school with the exception of a **plain gold or silver stud** earring due to health and safety restrictions. Watches are allowed but not smart watches. Thank you for your support with this.

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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		
Year 1	Class 1C 96.6%	Class 1Y 99.4%
Year 2	Class 2F 96.6%	Class 2SH 98.3%
Year 3	Class 3A 94.0%	Class 3TS 100%
Year 4	Class 4M 88.8%	Class 4L 97.8%
Year 5	Class 5E 91.9%	Class 5T 100%
Year 6	Class 6O 95.7%	Class 6C 94.4%

Overall attendance for this week is 96.1%. Well done this week to Class 3TS and Class 5T with an excellent attendance figure of 100%

Thank you

On behalf of all the staff we would like to say a huge thank you for all your gifts, cards and kind words at the end of last academic year. The staff were most touched by your generosity and kindness.

Parent Meeting

Children in Year 5 will have an opportunity to attend a residential retreat at Alton Castle, 25th to 27th October. There will be a parent meeting in the Studio Hall on 14th October.

Morning Snack

As a healthy school we are committed to encouraging children to make healthy food choices. Please could parents of pupils in Years 3-6 encourage their children to bring a healthy snack of their choice to eat at morning break – children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free piece of fruit each morning. We would prefer children not to bring in crisps, chocolate or sugary foods. Alternatively, for children in Years 3-6, toast (25p) and fruit (35p) can be purchased at the tuck shop and paid for via Parent Pay. It is also important that children **bring water** only in their water bottle, juice is not permitted.

Homework Review

Last academic year, we undertook a homework review. This involved:

- collecting and collating existing practice
- discussions with pupils (pupil voice)
- Suggestions from teaching staff
- Reviewing local and national practice

We have now formulated a homework policy which outlines the purpose of homework and what sort of homework children will receive. The policy ensures that there is a consistent approach throughout the school and that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding the expectations of homework. The policy is attached for you to read.

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School Association

The School Association are looking to recruit some new volunteers that can help with fundraising as well as sharing ideas. If you have some time to spare and would like to support the school please contact the school office.

The school rely on the 'good will' of parents offering their time to support us. This extra stream of money is incredibly valuable and is used directly to support resources that your children need. Already this term the School Association funds have supported the purchase of much needed resources for the Early Years environment.

They have also paid for liturgical cloths and candles for the class prayer areas and surrounding areas. The statues throughout the school have also had a freshen up. We have also bought an adjustable lectern for the hall so that children from all classes can use it when leading prayers in assemblies. All of these resources have been funded by the School Association so many thanks to all who have been included in raising these funds as it has made such a difference to the school environment already.



Generous Donation

We would like to extend our gratitude to Mr Bates who kindly donated £300 to a fund provided by the parish community. This fund ensures that children have the essential clothing and equipment to support them in their learning and do not miss out on enrichment opportunities due to financial difficulties. Such generosity is much appreciated.

Start of School Year Treat

To celebrate the start of the new school year and the Nativity of Mary (8th September), children enjoyed an ice-lolly or ice-cream this afternoon from a surprise visit of an ice-cream van. A very special thank you to Father Andrew and the parish for kindly paying for this special treat and the School Association for organising it.



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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) There are current shortages with our new PE top, so please speak to a member of staff if you have any queries.

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

Sharing and Resolving Concerns

A reminder that we have clear pathways to ensure a concern you may have is quickly and effectively resolved. The pathway is:

Stage 1: Discuss your concern with your child's class teacher. They will work with you to discuss and resolve your concern. Please allow sufficient time for this process to be completed.

Stage 2: Please escalate your concern to your child's Phase Leader who will consider your concern and review the response given by your child's class teacher. The Phase Leaders for academic year 2022-2023 are:

Early Phase (Nursery and Reception) Mrs Sparkes

Lower Phase (Year 1 and Year 2) Mrs Sallis

Middle Phase (Year 3 and Year 4) Miss McNamee

Upper Phase (Year 5 and Year 6) Mrs Ashcroft (interim Phase Leader)

Stage 3: Please escalate your concern to Mrs Gray (Assistant Headteacher) if your child is in Early and Lower Phase and Mrs Ashcroft, Deputy Headteacher if your child is in Middle and Upper Phase. Mrs Gray/Mrs Ashcroft will consider your concern and review the responses given by your child's class teacher and your child's Phase Leader. Please complete a parent escalation form at this stage available from the class teacher.

Stage 4: Make a formal complaint following the School's Complaint Policy (available on our website). Mrs Enstone will consider your complaint and review the responses given by Mrs Gray/Mrs Ashcroft, your child's Phase Leader and their class teacher.

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Message from Father Andrew

An exciting new chapter in the life of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Community is about to begin. We are going to begin our Parish Youth Group **for Year 6 children and upwards** on Friday 15th September at 6.30pm until 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.

The group will combine faith, friendship and recreational activities in a supportive and nurturing environment. The emphasis will be put on building community, fostering friendships and deepening the faith of our young people. It is also hoped that such a group will keep young people in touch with the community at OLW when they move on to secondary school.

There will be activities such as pool, table tennis, quizzes and tuck shop. There will also be the opportunity to have periodical discussion on faith, morality and social issues. This discussion will be guided by myself and other trained leaders from the parish. As parents you may also wish to help run the group. The more help we have the easier it is! Each session will finish with a short time of prayer.

We have been guided by the Diocesan Kenelm Youth Trust and we have developed the practical side of the group such as insurance, health forms, parental consent and a code of conduct. I hope you will see this forming of a youth group as an opportunity for your children to continue to be an integral part of the OLW community both now and in the years to come so please do support this initiative.

At the beginning of this new school year, I send every blessing and good wishes to all the children, their families and all the staff at Our Lady of the Wayside School. Fr Andrew.

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Achievement Information

Following positive feedback received from children, parents and staff about achievement information last year, we will be continuing with this format for this academic year.

The arrangements which will continue are as follows:

Pupils will receive a report card five times a year. This means you will receive achievement information about your child approximately every 6-7 weeks, excluding holiday periods.

The information included on the pupil report card will be as follows:

Section A	Attendance information
Section B	National assessments predictions (for Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6)
Section C	School life and learning characteristics
Section D	Curriculum achievement
Section E	Next steps (child's targets)
Section F	Parent and pupil voice

You will be offered five pupil review meetings. These meetings will take place with your child present. Your child is at the heart of this process and it is very important to us that your child has ownership of their learning. Section E and Section F of their pupil report will be completed during the pupil review meetings.

We will continue to offer termly drop in sessions where you can visit your child's classroom and see a wide selection of their work.

Thank you for supporting this initiative where overwhelmingly children have said that enjoy talking to their teacher in PRMs, that it has helped them to understand what they are doing well in and that they understand what they can do better.

We will provide dates of Pupil Review Meetings in the next few weeks.