

# Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School



School Newsletter – Friday 29th September 2023

## Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

I hope like me many of you watched some of the Rugby world cup last weekend – especially Ireland's epic 13-8 victory over current world champions South Africa. The tense, ferocious encounter lived up to its billing and was definitely the best match of the competition so far. Many have commented that the intensity of the battle made it worthy of being a world cup final. Besides being an entertaining sporting spectacle to watch, rugby embodies many values that are important for our children to develop within themselves; integrity, solidarity, discipline and respect. These are all central to the sport and applicable in our daily lives as Christians.

We were invited to a very special Mass at Olton Friary on Thursday. It was the annual thanksgiving MAC Mass and it was a real delight seeing all the children and staff from across the schools. All of the children read so clearly and the choir from St Peter's led us all with beautiful singing. It was also lovely to see those members of staff who received their long service award. I felt very privileged to be part of such an exciting Multi Academy Company. Many thanks to all the staff who organised it.

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our coffee morning. It was a good way for new parents to meet other families and feel more involved in our community.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

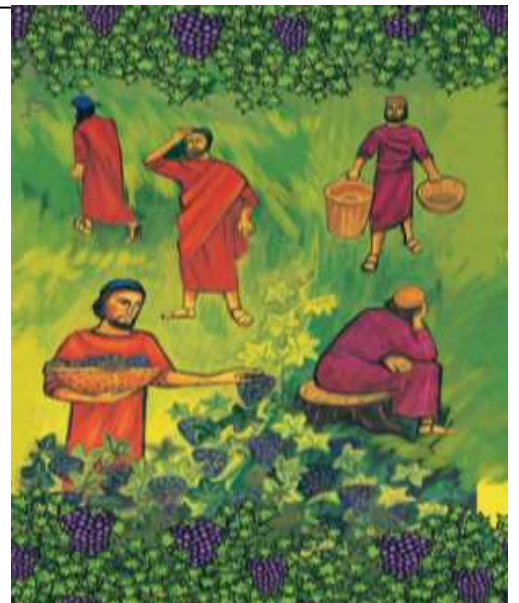
God Bless

Mrs Enstone

## This Sunday's Gospel

**Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 1st October 2023** - Doing the Will of the Father (Matthew 21:28-32)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



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## Gospel Reflection

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection. Matthew loves to tell parables of Jesus which contrast 'goodies' and 'baddies' like these two contrasting sons. Matthew's parables put everything in black-and-white terms with no shades of grey (wise and foolish wedding-attendants, sheep and goats, etc.). Luke uses a different kind of parable, in which the characters - just like ourselves - often do the right thing for the wrong reason. The sayings of Jesus were handed down by word of mouth for some years before being written down. Did the straightforward contrast in Matthew (it is odd that both change their minds without a reason) develop into Luke's parable of the Prodigal Son? Both times the 'goodie' son ends up bad, and the 'baddie' son ends up good, but in Luke's version both changes of mind are motivated, and there is great emphasis on the son's repentance and the father's overwhelming joy at getting him back. The lesson in Matthew's story is given also by Jesus' word in the Sermon on the Mount, 'It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven'. It is no use simply saying that Christ is our 'Lord'; we have to express it in our behaviour. What meaning do you find in this parable for yourself and the relationship you have with the Father?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

## Coffee Morning



It was great to see parents and toddlers at our first parent coffee morning of the new school year. This was an opportunity for parents to get together for a chat and also a chance for our new parents to get to know the school community.



## Thanksgiving Mass

On Thursday some staff and children from Year 5 and Year 6 joined other schools in the OLAAS MAC for a thanksgiving Mass. We were so proud of the children who behaved so reverently.



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## 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 starting next week. 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 <sup>nd</sup> October
Year 3	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 4	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 5	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October
Year 6	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 97.3%	Blue 95.1%
Year 1	Class 1C 98.1%	Class 1Y 96.9%
Year 2	Class 2F 98.5%	Class 2SH 98.1%
Year 3	Class 3A 96.4%	Class 3TS 96.0%
Year 4	Class 4M 88.8%	Class 4L 97.4%
Year 5	Class 5E 99.2%	Class 5T 96.1%
Year 6	Class 6O 97.8%	Class 6C 96.3%

Overall attendance for this week is 96.6%. Well done this week to Class 5E with an attendance figure of 99.2%

## Sensory Workshop

This morning we held a sensory workshop led by Nicola from Solihull Occupational Therapy. The aim of the session was to support parents with the understanding of sensory difficulties in the home. We had many positive comments from parents about how helpful it was.



## School Association News

We had our first Annual General Meeting of the School Association this week. We are so lucky to have such a committed group of parents who work tirelessly to ensure not only do we come together as a community for events but also that we raise valuable funds for the schools that feeds directly back into our children. We look forward to working with you and joining in all the family events.

Newly elected members of the School Association are:

Chair: Tara Moriarty  
Vice chair: Katherine Taylor  
Treasurer: Kerry Casey  
Assistant Treasurer: Helen Jordan  
Secretary nominations: Dani Porter

Good luck and many thanks to everyone taking on these roles.

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## Jigsaws

Some parents have mentioned that they have jigsaws that they would like to donate. We would be very grateful to receive these as our younger children always love completing them.



## Mass Times at OLW Church

### Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday

5.30pm Evening Mass

### Sunday Mass

10:00am

Children's Liturgy runs every Sunday at 10am Mass during term time.

## Online Safety

Understanding online games



Online games can be a great way for children and young people to keep busy and stay in touch with friends and family, but it's important that they play safely.

Things to consider if your child games online:

- age ratings of games they play
- messaging and contact functions on the games
- in-game purchases
- trolling, griefing and scams
- how to report problems
- where they can get further support.

Also, if you have more than one child in your home, be aware that games suitable for one child to play or watch, may not be suitable for another.

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## **Open Day**

Parents seeking a Nursery or Reception school place for September 2024 are invited to visit Our Lady of the Wayside School on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October or Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. There will be two guided tours by Year 6 children on these dates: 9:30am or 10:00 am. Please call the office to book an appointment.

## **Holy Communion Parent Meeting**

We can now confirm that a parent meeting providing details on Holy Communion preparation and dates has been arranged for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm in the School Hall. If you are unable to attend, information will be issued after the meeting.