



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher - Mrs B Wood
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Longton
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St Oswald's Catholic Community:
With Christ at the centre of our
community, our mission is to live,
love and learn as Jesus taught us.

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The Newsletter
Autumn term no. 1– 7th September 2023
Follow us on twitter @StOswaldsCPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year, lovely to see all the children looking smart and so keen to learn. A very warm and special welcome to all our new Reception children and their families.

Newsletter:

You will receive the newsletter every Thursday by email; please read it as it does contain all the information you need regarding dates, updates etc.

If you do not already receive the newsletter electronically, please contact the school office to update your email address. The newsletter is uploaded to the website every Friday and you can follow us on twitter @StOswaldsCPS

Uniform:

The children have returned to school looking very smart, thank you for ensuring your child is in full school uniform. Please ensure that your child does not come to school wearing any jewellery or nail varnish (page 7 School Prospectus). If your child has had their ears pierced over the holidays and they have not yet fully healed, please ensure that plasters are worn over the earrings until the earrings can be removed for school. Trainers are not an acceptable form of footwear; black school shoes only. The children in the Infants are expected to bring their St Oswald's green school bag to school as they fit in the space provided.

Please label all items of uniform as we already have a couple of new jumpers left in school with no name!

Safeguarding – End of Day Arrangements:

Please find attached the 'End of School Day' arrangements form. A paper copy was sent home with your child earlier this week. Could you please return this form by **MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER** so the staff are very clear about where your child is going at the end of the school day and who with! Please do not be offended if staff do not recognise the person picking up your child and ask for clarification. In Reception, until we get to know the 'faces' of who picks up, please make yourself known to the Reception staff. Could we also ask if you have a query or question for the class staff, that you please wait until every child is dismissed so that staff are not distracted from their 'End of Day' duties which is to make sure every child has been safely handed over to their parent/carer. Thank you.

Mobile Phones:

We understand that, in Year 6, as you let your child become more independent by cycling or walking home alone, you may allow them to carry a phone for emergencies. The policy is that they hand their phone in at the office on arrival at school **before** going through the gate. Phones are kept safe in the office until home time when your child can collect their phone from the school office on exiting the school premises. There is no need for a mobile phone to be brought to school for any other reason. Thank you.

Attendance:

Thank you for your understanding about attendance and recognising that authorised absences will only be given in EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES and must be applied for on the official 'Application for Absence' form available on the school website or from the school office. Being at school every day and on time ensures that your child makes good progress across the curriculum. The 2023-2024 Holiday List is on the website and attached to this newsletter.

Marvellous Mondays and Friday Favourites- School Lunches Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Pupils:

Please note that Marvellous Mondays and Friday Favourites School Lunches will continue as normal; if your child is already enrolled on the respective days, they will continue to do so until we are informed otherwise! However, if your child is normally on packed lunches and you would like your child to have a school meal on a Monday or Friday, please contact the school office. Payment should be made through ParentPay. If you no longer wish your child to receive a meal on a Monday or Friday, please ensure that one week's notice is given to the school office. Failure to do so will mean that you will still be charged. Children already on school meals are automatically enrolled for the Monday and Friday.

School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme: R, Y1 and Y2

The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme recommenced at the beginning of term for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. There is no need for children in the Infants to bring a snack in for playtime as they are provided with a piece of fruit every day. Children in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 may bring a piece of fruit for break time. Please note that the snack can only be fruit, NO sweets or biscuits etc. We are a NUT-FREE School and therefore please do not send your child in with a snack containing nuts. Every child needs their own water bottle in school every day as we do encourage regular drinking of water. Water only in the water bottle please! Thank you.

ParentPay Activation Letters for Reception Parents:

ParentPay is a web-based service for schools which enables parents to make secure on-line payments by credit and debit card or by cash at local stores through the PayPoint network. The service is used for payments such as Early Birds' Breakfast Club, school trips and also for school meals (for Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 pupils). Activation letters will be sent home today to children in Reception and we would be grateful if you could activate your account as soon as possible. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Pupil Premium:

Free school meals are currently provided for all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as part of the Government initiative. It is still possible for those pupils who have a STATUTORY entitlement to free school meals (those pupils whose parents are in receipt of benefits, such as Income Support, etc.) to still register for Pupil Premium. School can benefit from additional funding through the Pupil Premium, which is worth over £1300 per pupil for the school once registration has been completed, so please check if you are entitled as school benefits greatly! A comprehensive list of the benefit entitlements are available on the application form, which is available from the trays by the school office.

Alternatively, one phone call can confirm if you are entitled, it's worth doing, so please call 01772 531809 and have your NI number handy!

Qualifying benefits:

If you or your partner receive any of the following benefits you can apply for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Administration - Letters

Should you need to send a message or a letter into school please send them in with your child as they will be collected in the 'Class Box' each morning and delivered to the school office, Class Teacher or Headteacher as appropriate. It is therefore not necessary to deliver envelopes yourself to the school office unless you feel it is absolutely necessary. This will encourage pupils to be responsible for letters to and from home. All letters that are sent home are added to the school website for your information.

Medical Needs:

Please ensure that we have up-to-date information on the 'Medical Condition/Allergy' form if your child has any medical needs or allergies which have been confirmed by a Health Professional.

Any child with asthma needs a 'School Asthma Card' completed and returned to school ASAP with a named inhaler. Forms available from the website or the school office. Let us know asap if you amend your child's medical details. It is a parent's responsibility to make sure we have up-to-date medication in school for any child with long term medical needs.

Nut Allergies:

St Oswald's is a Nut-Free School. Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy, it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts eg Nutella, can trigger an anaphylactic shock which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties.

As a school we have a responsibility to keep all pupils, staff and visitors safe reducing any risk of harm so pupils, staff and visitors should not bring products containing nuts into school either in their lunch boxes or as snacks.

To be clear, the following items must not be brought into school:

- Packets of nuts
- Peanut butter/Nutella sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely.

No items containing nuts are prepared in the school kitchen.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Sun Safe:

During the hot weather, please apply a high factor sun cream to your child before they come to school as staff are not permitted to apply it for them and sun cream should not be brought to school. Please also provide them with a simple sun hat or school cap to protect their heads during lunchtime as there is very little shade.

Swimming:

Swimming for **Year 3** starts on Wednesday 13th September at Penwortham Leisure Centre. The children will leave after lunch and will return for 3.00 pm. Girls must have a one-piece swimming costume and boys will need swimming trunks (not shorts) and all pupils need a swimming hat and towel (letter will be issued to Y3 today).

PE Days:

At St Oswald's PE is considered just as important as Maths and English. Every child is expected to wear a PE kit and the kit stays in school for the entire half term.

For your information PE DAYS:

Reception: Thursday

Y1: Wednesday

Y2: Friday

Y3: Tuesday

Y4: Monday

Y5: Thursday

Y6: Wednesday

Primary Admissions 2024:

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2024 then you MUST apply on-line at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools The CLOSING DATE FOR PRIMARY APPLICATIONS IS 15th JANUARY 2024.

Please ensure that you also complete the ST OSWALD'S SUPPLEMENTARY FAITH FORM which is available on the school website or from school. The Supplementary Faith Form must then be forwarded to SCHOOL together with a copy of your child's BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE! Please note: If your child was baptised at St Oswald's and you do not have a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, please complete a 'Baptismal Certificate request slip', available from school and post this through the St Oswald's presbytery postbox for Fr Michael.

Secondary Admissions 2024:

If your child is due to transfer to High School in September 2024, then please apply on-line at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools. The CLOSING DATE FOR SECONDARY APPLICATIONS IS 31st OCTOBER 2023.

Key Dates so far this HALF TERM:

Tuesday 12th September 6.30-7.15 pm Y6 Meet the Teacher in the school hall

Wednesday 13th September – School photographer in to take individual photographs of the pupils or if they have a sibling in school their photograph will be taken together

Wednesday 13th September 6.30-7.15pm Y5 Meet the Teacher in the school hall

Thursday 14th September 6.30-7.15pm Y4 Meet the Teacher

Monday 18th September 6.30-7.15pm Y3 Meet the Teacher

Tuesday 19th September 6.30-7.15pm Y2 Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 20th September 6.30-7.15pm Y1 Meet the Teacher

Thursday 21st September Fr Michael has invited the Reception children and parents/grandparents to a special 'Starting School' Blessing in church at 2.30 pm.

Thursday 21st September 6.30-7.30pm Curriculum Evening for parents in Reception. At this meeting we explain how we teach phonics, reading, writing and number so please try to come along as it will be very useful.

Monday 25th September 6.30-7.30pm Mrs Cooper and Mr McMullen, Head teacher and Deputy from All Hallows will be here at St Oswald's to talk to Y5 and Y6 parents about All Hallows including Admission arrangements etc.. Please return the slip below so we have an indication of numbers for the meeting.

Tuesday 26th September 6.30-7.30pm PTFA AGM Everyone welcome to come along and join in with the fundraising planning for the year.

Thursday 28th September - All Hallows Open Evening 6.00 pm

St Oswald's Extra Curricular Clubs:

Players in Education Drama Club (privately run), will begin on Friday 8th September 3.15-4.30pm and will be open to all pupils. The course will run for 6 weeks with the last session on Friday 13th October. If you wish to apply for a place, please click on the link below:

<https://www.playersdramaschool.co.uk/players-in-education/>

Further details are available from Miss Rebecca on 07368 342092.

Guitar Club (privately run) Miss Galea will be returning with Guitar Club for Y3-Y5 in the Green Room starting on Monday 11th September.

Miss Galea is in the process of contacting everyone who has applied for a place stating their allocated time. Any queries regarding guitar lessons, please contact Miss Galea on 079200 56721.

Netball Club: Y5 and Y6 are invited to join the Netball Club run by Mrs Cookson and Miss Gravili on Mondays, starting Monday 11th September 3.15-4.15pm. The Club will run every week this half term with the final session being Monday 16th October. The Club will then re-open in the Spring Term. Please return the slip below if you wish for your child to join.

Football Club: Y5 and Y6 boys and girls are invited to join the Football Club which starts Wednesday 13th September 3.15-4.15pm. The Club will run every week with the last session on Wednesday 18th October; reopening in the Spring Term. Mr Campbell and Mr Mears will be running the club with Miss Fisher taking the Girls Football. Please return the slip below if you wish for your child to join.

School Choir: Choir will start on Tuesday 12th September 8.15am – 8.45am in the Green Room. Any new members (Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6) who wish to join, please return the slip below asap. Mrs Winter and Mr Campbell run the Choir.

Drums with Adam Darwen (privately run) will start w/c Monday 11th September for Y3Y4 Y5Y6. Lessons take place every Monday and Thursday at lunchtime. This club is now fully booked.

Boxercise with Emily (privately run) will start Friday 15th September for Y4 Y5 and Y6 8.15-8.45am for 4 weeks with the last session on Friday 6th October. Letters will be sent home with details of how to join tomorrow.

Annual Nasal Flu Vaccinations:

The Intrahealth Team will be in school on Tuesday 26th September to deliver the Annual Nasal Flu programme. Your child will come home with a consent form today for you to complete. Please read and complete either the YES form or NO form in full (one per child) and return to school by Friday 15th September.

Pre-loved Uniforms:

We have received many donations of good quality items of school uniform which are available from school. Just pop in to the School Office and take whatever you would like at any time.

School Meal Promotion: open to anyone who does not normally have a school lunch!

'Step into September' School Meal Promotion on Thursday 14th September. The menu is Pork or Vegetarian Sausage Roll served with Pommes Noisettes, Garden Peas & Sweetcorn or Baked Beans or Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake, served with Homemade Crusty Bread & Salad followed by Chocolate Ice-Cream & Sponge Roll.

Please complete the attached slip and return to school no later than Wednesday 13th September. Payment of £2.50 should be made in advance through ParentPay, our on-line payment system. Thank you.

Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in schools:

St Oswald's has not been contacted by any agency regarding RAAC.

The following is a statement from Lancashire County Council regarding investigations into the possible presence of RAAC in Lancashire schools.

A spokesman for Lancashire County Council said:

"We are not aware of any schools in Lancashire that have been told to close by the Department for Education (DfE) due to the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) and have no safety concerns at present.

The DfE is leading on the national investigation and is liaising directly with schools where a Diocese or Multi Academy Trust is the responsible body.

Of the 303 maintained schools that the county council is responsible for, visual surveys have been undertaken where a possible presence was identified, and no safety concerns were found.

As a precautionary measure, we are now carrying out detailed surveys on a small number of schools due to their age.

We would ask parents not to contact their school about this issue as they will be contacted by the school if it is affected."

And finally...

Over the summer the Forest School firepit area was completed and it looks fantastic! This was only possible due to the fundraising efforts by the PTFA who made a significant contribution to the cost as well as being able to use part of our Sport Premium money. Thank you to everyone who supported any of the PTFA events in any way last year. This year we are hoping to develop the pond area and meadow so watch this space!

Here's to a great term ahead for your child filled with super learning, opportunities for friendships to flourish and being happy growing together!

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with school if you have any queries. We will always do our best to help.

Yours sincerely

B Wood
Headteacher

YEAR 5/YEAR 6 NETBALL CLUB – MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER- MONDAY 16th OCTOBER 2023 3.15 pm – 4.15 pm

I would like my child to join the Netball Club.

(1) I will collect my child at 4.15 pm.

(2) Other hometime arrangements, i.e. After School Club, walking home with permission, etc.:

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Name of child: Signed:

Emergency contact nos.:

YEAR 5/YEAR 6 FOOTBALL CLUB – WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER- WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2023 3.15 pm– 4.15 pm

I would like my child to join the Football Club.

(3) I will collect my child at 4.15 pm.

(4) Other hometime arrangements, i.e. After School Club, walking home with permission, etc.:

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Name of child: Signed:

Emergency contact nos.:

YEAR 3/ YEAR 4/ YEAR 5/YEAR 6 CHOIR – TUESDAYS STARTING 12th SEPTEMBER 8.15 am – 8.45 am IN THE GREEN ROOM

I would like my child to join the Choir.

Name of child: Signed:

Emergency contact nos.:

SCHOOL MEAL PROMOTION –STEP INTO SEPTEMBER – THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

I would like my child to have a school meal on Thursday 15th September. I will ensure payment of £2.50 is made in advance through ParentPay (children Y3-Y6).

Name of child: Year group:

Signature of parent/carer:

ALL HALLOWS MEETING FOR Y5/Y6 PARENTS – MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 6.30PM – 7.30PM

I/We will be attending the All Hallows Parents Meeting at St Oswalds.

Name of child: Year Group

Number of adults attending
