



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School  
Headteacher - Mrs B Wood  
Chapel Lane  
Longton  
Preston PR4 5EB

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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Tel: 01772 613402

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## The Newsletter

### Autumn term no. 1– 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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.

#### **School Spider Communication:**

We have now officially moved ALL communication to School Spider from today. If you have not yet downloaded the app, please do so ASAP to avoid missing any communications. You can download the app via the Apple Store or Google Play Store by searching School Spider Parents. Please select St Oswald's Catholic Primary School and "Create account" using the email associated with the school. You can find a more detailed user guide attached.

We will still continue to send communication by emails until all parents have registered.

The newsletter is issued every Thursday; please read it as it does contain all the information you need regarding dates, updates etc. Newsletters are also posted to the website and paper copies are available in the front entrance.

#### **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. 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 spaces provided.

Please label all items of uniform as we already have a couple of brand 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 on Wednesday. Could you please return this form by FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> September so 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.

#### **Attendance:**

**Important National Changes to Absence Penalty Notices. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ABOUT THE UPDATED NATIONAL CHANGE TO PENALTY NOTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE. THIS APPLIES FROM AUGUST 2024.**

#### **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.

### **Swimming:**

Swimming for **Year 3** starts on Wednesday 11th September at Penwortham Leisure Centre. The children will leave at 9.15am prompt and return at 11am. Girls must have a one-piece swimming costume and boys will need swimming trunks (not long shorts) All pupils need a swimming hat and towel (letter issued to Y3 on Wednesday).

### **PE Days:**

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

#### **PE DAYS:**

Reception: Thursday am

Y1: Friday

Y2: Wednesday am

Y3: Tuesday

Y4: Monday

Y5: Wednesday

Y6: Thursday

### **Forest School Times: Children will need a pair of wellies (named please)**

Reception: Tuesday

Y1: Wednesday

Y2: Thursday

Y3: Monday

### **Home Reading Books:**

Reading books for Y1-Y6 will be sent home from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September onwards.

### **Class Blogs:**

Class Blogs will start Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Every Friday your child's Class Teacher will publish a blog on the Class Page of the website which will summarise the learning from the week and give guidance for what needs to be practised to help embed key skills. Please take some time to read the blog so you know what your child is learning every week over the year.

### **Meet the Teacher Meetings:**

Each Class Teacher will present their curriculum, routines and things you need to know for the year ahead. The presentations will be added to the Class Pages on the website if you are unable to attend.

Year 1 3.30-4pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Year 2 3.30-4pm Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Year 3 6-6.30pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Year 4 6-6.30pm Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Year 5 6-6.30pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Year 6 6-6.45pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Curriculum Evening for parents in Reception will be 6.30-7.30pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September. 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.

## **Key Dates for September :**

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September Y3/4/5/6 Mass in church at 2pm 'Together Again'**

Fr Michael has invited all Key Stage 2 to celebrate the return to school. Parents/Grandparents are more than welcome to come along.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September** 6-7pm Mrs Cooper, 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. It is understood that children do not attend this meeting.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September** - All Hallows Open Evening 5-7.30pm (see flyer attached).

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September** Fr Michael has invited the Reception children and parents/grandparents to a special 'Starting School' Blessing in church at 2.30 pm.

## **St Oswald's Wider Opportunities Clubs:**

**Players in Education Drama Club** (privately run), will begin on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 3.15-4.30pm and is open to all pupils. The course will run for 6 weeks with the last session on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. If you wish to apply for a place, please click on the link below (see flyer attached):

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

**Guitar Club** (privately run) Miss Galea will be returning with Guitar / Ukuleles Club for Y3-Y6 in the Green Room starting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> September 3.15-4.15pm. The Club will run every week this half term with the final session being Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> September 3.15-4.15pm. The Club will run every week with the last session on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October; reopening in the Spring Term. Mr Campbell and his team of willing volunteers 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 Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 8.15am – 8.45am in the Green Room. If your child wishes to join (Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6), please complete the slip attached asap. Mr Campbell and Mrs Whitworth will be running the Choir sessions.

**Drums with Adam Darwen** (privately run) will start w/c Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September for Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6. Lessons take place every Monday and Thursday at lunchtime. This club is now fully booked.

**Rock, Steady Band with Arthur:** If you have booked a place for your child, Arthur will be running the bands starting Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September in the Green Room.

## **Annual Nasal Flu Vaccinations:**

The Intrahealth Team will be in school on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 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 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Community News:**

New Longton Rovers are looking for new children in Year 1 to join their team, every Tuesday starting 17<sup>th</sup> September 5.45pm – 6.45pm at Hutton Grammar School. Please contact nick by email: nick.langdale@icloud.com.

And finally...

We welcome new staff members to Team Oswald. Mrs Whitworth joins us teaching Y5. Miss Orme, Assistant Head and teaching Y6 and Miss Campbell teaching music throughout the school on a Thursday (for clarity, Miss Campbell is no relation to Mr Campbell)

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 try to do our best to help.

Yours sincerely

B Wood  
Headteacher

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**YEAR 5/YEAR 6 NETBALL CLUB – MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER- MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2024 3.15pm – 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.: .....

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**YEAR 5/YEAR 6 FOOTBALL CLUB – WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER- WEDNESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2024 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.: .....

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**YEAR 3/ YEAR 4/ YEAR 5/YEAR 6 CHOIR - WEDNESDAY 11th 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.: .....

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**ALL HALLOWS MEETING FOR Y5/Y6 PARENTS – MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 6-7pm**

I/We will be attending the All Hallows Parents Meeting at St Oswald’s.

Name of child: ..... Year Group .....

Number of adults attending .....