



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher - Mrs B Wood
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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

Spring term no.2 –14 January 2021

Keeping in Touch every week

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for being patient with us as we get into our stride with the new routines. We are conscious that at the moment it is very overwhelming for parents that are working from home and having to access Home Learning. Our message to you is that the most important thing is that you do what you can; do not feel guilty if you cannot manage to cover everything that is set. The Government has set the expectation that EYFS, Y1 and Y2 will do 3 hours per day and Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 will do 4 hours. This is assuming you have nothing else to do or cope with! Every family is unique and coping with this pandemic in their own way so we have huge respect for every family, knowing you are doing your best!

The most important thing that is going to make the difference to your child is that they **read every day, whatever year group they are in!**

Reading will be most difficult thing for us to catch up on when the children return if they have not done daily reading at home this will impact on your child's ability to catch up with the rest of the curriculum. Reading books can be changed as often as you need to, just let the office know.

As we have been making phone calls, we have asked what can we do to help.

Your responses have largely been:

- There is too much set every day so my answer is... only do what you can. Whatever we provide won't be seen as perfect by everybody but we too are doing our best.
- Can the teacher give feedback to my child?... yes if you upload to the Seesaw App. The feedback won't be guaranteed to be immediate but will be within 48 hours and between the hours of 8.30am - 5.00pm. The feedback is for your child. Please just use the app for learning. Any other queries need to be e-mailed to the school office or just give us a ring. If you have not received the e-mail to activate the account, let us know asap.
- Will there be live lessons? ... no, live lessons are not going to feature as part of the current provision at this time but it will be kept under review. There will be access to recorded lesson introductions by Class teachers from next week. This will not be every lesson every day. We do already use other pre-recorded videos for maths and Oak Academy videos are also used by some year groups. Pre-recorded has the advantage that you can choose when and how you want to watch and you can pause and rewind at any time. Teachers will also be uploading a weekly recorded message to the children from next week.
- When will the children be back? ... Like you, we will only find out when it is announced on the news! Pace yourselves as this could be a marathon, not a sprint.
- My child is just not responding to me! ... Let them make their own timetable for each day so they feel empowered. Do a little and often, build in reward breaks, use Seesaw so that it motivates your child to show

off their work and be proud. Use the language of choice... we can do this now or shall we do it after lunch (either way it's going to be done!) use a jar to collect tokens for making the effort and then it can be a walk to the shop on a Friday for a treat! Once you feel a battle coming on, stop and remember you are the adult and it's your response that will make the difference – be calm and compassionate. Your children are coping with so much change and disruption to their little lives.

- I don't want my child to be behind in their learning... my response to this is we are in a global pandemic and every child has lost learning time but working together as a school community we can catch up the learning and, most importantly, ensure that our children are happy, healthy and safe.

Free School Meals Vouchers:

A food pack is available for parents of children who are eligible for free school meals i.e.: in receipt of benefits (not Universal Free School Meals for Reception – Year 2 children). If you have not yet collected the food pack, please call in to school and collect from the school entrance.

From Monday 18th January, we will continue to provide vouchers for those eligible pupils who will not be attending school during lockdown. The food vouchers of £15.00 per child, per week will be distributed via Edenred. For those eligible, an e-voucher will be sent for 4 weeks to February half term (Friday 12th February).

Just a reminder that if you are in any doubt whether you may now be entitled to free school meals for your child, please contact Pupil Access Team at Lancashire County Council on 01772 531809 with your Name, Date of Birth and National Insurance Number. You may be able to receive a weekly free school meal voucher for £15.00 (£60.00 per month per child/ £120.00 per month for 2 children and £180.00 per month for 3 children). The vouchers are to be spent at your chosen supermarket. It is definitely worth trying to see if you are eligible

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)

Online Safety;

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at St Oswald's. It is very important that parents speak to their child about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. Children will be spending more time at home than usual and maybe more time on devices. Attached is January's 2021 Online Safety Newsletter which gives some top tips to help you protect and support your child with their online lives. This month the focus is how to keep your child safe when using online gaming devices.

Ambulance Service Leaflet about Coronavirus Symptoms and Treatment

The ambulance service have produced a useful leaflet, which is for people with suspected coronavirus who have not been admitted to hospital and will be isolating at home. We have been asked to share this leaflet with our community to remind people of coronavirus symptoms, of when to isolate, how to aid recovery and when to seek medical support.

PTFA:

I cannot thank everybody enough for your generosity last term. We raised the following:

Christmas Quiz- £46.30

Wear what you like Day - £319.89

Christmas Shop- £930.80

Santa Dash- £1970.40

We are wanting to purchase more I-pads so this is going to make a huge difference!

We also had a very generous donation to school of £3000 which we are incredibly grateful for so looks like we can order the I-pads now!

Thank you so much for your support. It means so much.

Final Reminder!

Primary School Admissions 2021:

The closing date is tomorrow, **Friday 15th January 2021** for your application for a Primary School place for September 2021. Please remember to return the Supplementary Faith Form with a copy of your child's baptism certificate. Don't forget!

And finally...

Team Oswald is here for you, just get in touch if you need anything.

Please take great care of yourselves during this time.

Yours sincerely

B Wood
Headteacher