



## *'Learning and Growing Together'*

### September 2023 Newsletter

Welcome back to St Oswald's- and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all families joining us and welcome back to everyone already familiar with St Oswald's. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and feel relaxed and refreshed as well as managing to have lots of fun.

As usual we look forward to a very exciting term ahead with lots of interesting events and lessons. St Oswald's is a very special place to be and it is a privilege to be part of the dedicated team of adults, children, parents and Governors. Our ethos is such that we are like the tiny seeds growing over the year into the mighty tree as Jesus describes in the kingdom of heaven.



The Summer Holidays have seen lots of building work again to improve the classroom environment. We have had new door entry systems on each door in each the main building and annex. We have also improved the classroom in the annex by reducing noise and making sure this is now a proper classroom without a corridor going through it. We are currently improving the drain systems in the annex and work will be continuing on this as we move into the beginning of the autumn term.

Staff have been in school during the holidays preparing for the forthcoming term and year. Classes have their own dedicated page on the school website which will be updated with information and the termly overview. There is an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm. At this meeting they will be able to share the expectations for the year group and you will have the opportunity to ask any information. As always my door is open if you require any information or support.

### **The School Day**

**Doors will open at 8.45 am** Children will be able to come into school at 8.45am.

Children in classes in the annex (Year 4, 5 and 6) will come to school via the 'Kissing Gate' near the new play area where a member of staff will greet them and they will be able to walk to their class independently.

Children in year 3 will enter school via the Blue door on the playground which leads into the main school building. We are encouraging the children to come onto the playground and wait by themselves before going into the school building allowing them to develop their independence.

Infant children will go in via their classroom doors and parents can still bring their children onto the playground and collect at the end of the day.

**All doors and Playground gates will close at 8.55am.** Registers will be taken between 8.55 and 9am. If your child comes in after 8.55 am they need to be taken to Miss Simons in the school Office. Learning will begin at 9am. The end of the day is 3.15pm

We would advise that due to congestion on the playground and the sheer number of pupils we have that you remain considerate and patient around the school gates. If you have a child in Key Stage 2 you may continue with the arrangement of meeting near the church as this also gives your child independence when leaving school. Children in year 5 and 6 are able to walk home on their own (or walk to where however if this is going to happen we will need confirmation and an MS Teams form will be sent out at the beginning of the academic year in relation to this

We would suggest that when picking up your child you pick up your youngest child first.

Staff will not be able to answer the doors after this time due to the fact they will be taking the register. We have an Open Door Policy, if you have any queries or would like to speak to your child's class teacher then there is more time at the end of the day; alternatively you are able to make an appointment with your child's class teacher, or Mrs Wood, to discuss anything confidentially.



## Notices

Please keep an eye on the school notice boards which are on the playground, outside each classroom and by the main entrance. They will have any new messages regarding specific events, or things happening during the year. Letters will be sent via email, so if you have changed your email address please provide Miss Simons with a new updated one.

### **Staff at our School**

The staffing arrangements for the year are detailed on our school website. Each class teacher will provide and do a short power point introducing themselves and sharing the expectations for the year group.

We would like to welcome new staff to the school; Mrs Bunting who will join Year 4, Miss Birt who joins the Year 5 team. We have also had a number of new Teaching Assistants who have joined the team- Dr Collinge, Mrs Williams, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Bond. I am sure you will join me in welcoming the new staff to the team.

**Vacancies;** We have a vacancy for a teaching assistant. The job advert is live on the Derbyshire County Council Website. If you are interested in the position please pop along and see Mrs Wood. There are a wide range of opportunities for training and you will have the opportunity to work in a supportive school.

**Contacting Staff;** Staff will respond to emails between 8am and 5pm. Please allow 24 hours for an email response. If you wish to contact a member of staff or arrange an appointment please contact the school office who will arrange with the class teacher for a convenient time to meet.

### **Uniform;**

Uniform is available to purchase in school. Please ensure you label everything!!!! Our expectation is that you wear the full school uniform- no black skirts, shorts or trousers. Boots are not to be worn to school.

PE Kits- Our expectation is that the school PE Kit is worn to school- No colourful leggings, football shorts or other sports gear. If pupils do not come in the correct kit we will provide spares and ask them to change.

We do have a range of pre-loved clothes which we can provide for families if you require.

Please do not allow your child to wear jewellery to school. They will be asked to remove jewellery and place it in an envelope for safe keeping. If a child has

their ears pierced and they are in KS2 studs can be worn, if they are in KS1 or EYFS no piercings are permitted.

### **Safeguarding**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at St Oswald's is Mrs Wood; Mrs Mansfield is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. If you have any concerns that a child is suffering or at risk then please call Starting Point on 01629 533190/01629 535353

### **Online Safety**

Please click on this link for information on how to set up parental controls on your broadband at home.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/networks-wifi/>

Remember parental controls (although important) are not the only solution as they only prevent access to certain types of web-sites. Conversations at home about responsible online behaviour are the best forms of safety.



**Mobile Phones:** Governors have requested that the school Playground becomes a Mobile free zone. Whilst you are on the school playground please refrain from using your Mobile phone.

Staying safe online is a Safeguarding Responsibility of us all. If we become aware that your child is playing on games which are not age appropriate or if they have apps on their phones which are not age appropriate, then we will be in contact with you to discuss the reasons the games have an age limitation.

We are using 'My Voice' which helps all of us as a community to keep our children safe. If you have any concerns or worries and would like to report anything then you can do so by using this quirky code.



Our safeguarding governors are Mrs S Revie and Mr P Lamb.

### **Travelling to school**



The beginning and end of the school days are extremely busy on Mayfield Road outside school. Please think very carefully where you park. It is safer to arrive 5 minutes early and park away from the school gates and walk the last 5 minutes to



school. You will have noticed that there are signs outside school restricting parking and this will be monitored by the Traffic Warden. Our motto is '**Park Away Stride Today!**' Where possible please walk, scoot or cycle to school. During September you are able to park in the car parks in Ashbourne for free after 2pm with your Derbyshire dales parking disc displayed.

### Attendance

The register is taken between 8.55-9am. If your child comes to school after this time they will be marked as late.

Attendance at school is crucial- every day your child misses equates to lost learning. If your child is unwell then please contact the school office on the first day of absence. The phones will be manned from 8am. Please email the school office if your child is unwell not the class teacher; [info@st-oswalds.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-oswalds.derbyshire.sch.uk)

If Miss Simons or Mrs Waring have not heard from you regarding your child's absence by 9.30am then they will call you. The Attendance policy is on the school website. Holidays are not permitted during term time. Attendance is rewarded with certificates on a monthly basis.

### Parent Pay:

Please check your child's Parent Pay account and ensure any outstanding bills are paid. Miss Simons and Mrs Faulkner are looking at what outstanding payments are on parent pay and will be in contact over the next few weeks.

### Fruit in school



Fruit in school is free for Key Stage 1 children. We ask that children try the fruit and have a single piece if they are not keen. In Key Stage 2 the children can bring in a healthy snack to school- fresh fruit/vegetables, etc. (No nuts due to allergies and no pepperoni sticks, no items wrapped in wrappers, etc.) We are a health promoting school and we have pupils who have allergies therefore we need to be mindful of what we bring into school

### Keeping Healthy

We have updated our Medicine Policy. This can be found under Policies on the school Website. We are now able to administer certain medicines within school however if your child is unwell and has a high temperature or sickness and diarrhoea we will not be administering medicines. If your child needs medicine administering please go to the office where you will be asked to complete a form and you can hand the medicine to Miss Simons or Mrs Waring.

*'The school will accept non-prescription medications Non-prescription medicines must be supplied by parents/carers in their original containers labelled with the pupil's name. They must be in date for the duration that they are required for and must be accompanied by the fully completed parental consent form. Parents must also on a daily basis inform school of what dose has been given to the pupil that day to avoid accidental overdosing. Schools who give non-prescription medicines in line with these guidelines should inform parents/guardian of any dose given in writing. The school will not keep a stock of non-prescription medication to give pupils. The school will not administer any medications containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor. The school will not administer Calpol if the child has a high temperature (links to COVID)'*

### Governors

Our Board of Governors support our school to strive to be the best it can be. They act as a critical friend to the head teacher and the senior leadership team. More information about the role of the Governors can be found on the school website. We say farewell to Mrs Smythe who has supported the school as Governor for the past 3 years and we would like to say thank you for her support. This means we now have a Parent Governor Vacancy. This will be advertised in due course- if you would like further information about this role please come and see either myself or the other parent governors within the school- Phil Lamb, Mike Clayton, Pete Blundell.

### Reading and Homework

We ask that you read with your child daily- 10 minutes a day is crucial in developing your child's love of reading and stamina. Reading books are changed twice a week and your child will be heard read up to three times a week individually and during Guided Group reading sessions.

Homework will be sent out weekly. The amount of homework increases as your child moves through the school. All homework will be linked to the learning your child will be doing in class. Our Homework policy is on our website if you would like to find out more.



## Helping in school

If you would be interested in helping in school; listening to children read helping in lessons and supporting the school in any way then please drop us an email or pop and see Mrs Wood or one of the class teachers. If you are interested in helping or you have a relative that is interested in helping then we would love to have you be part of the team.



**Spare Clothes**- If like me you have had a bit of a sort out during the holidays we would really love to have any spare girls or boys pants or socks that your child has grown out of- please pass on any spares to your child's class teacher. Many thanks!

## Our Golden Rules and Classroom Values

We have extremely high expectations of behaviour within the school. We expect every child to follow the Golden Rules and our classroom values;

### Classroom Values

We treat each other with dignity.

- We listen and respect each other's points of view and opinions.
- We treat each other as we wish to be treated with compassion.
- We work together to make decisions.
- We celebrate our uniqueness.
- We persevere in all we do listening to instructions.
- We stand up for what is right.

## Values Corner

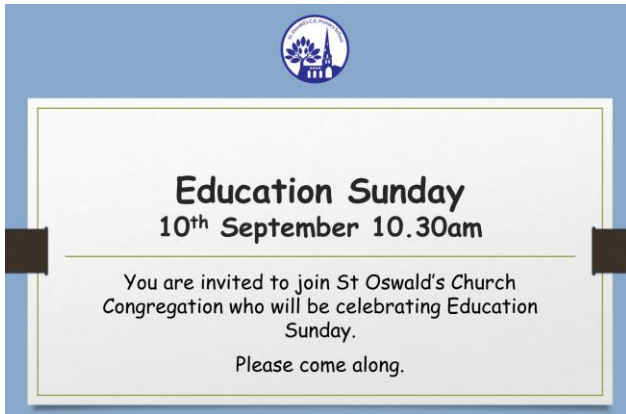
This term we will be revisiting our school's core values and then thinking about *Generosity*- what that means as we approach harvest- how can we be generous. We will be raising money for Christian Aid as well as collecting food for our harvest service which can support our School Food Bank and be donated to the Ashbourne Food Bank.

## Dates for the term ahead:

**Autumn term 2023**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept

INSET DAY Scholl closed to pupils

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Children return to school  EYFS children on a staggered start (See prior information)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	3.30pm Meet the Teacher
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Education Sunday- All families welcome to attend the church service on Education Sunday.   <p>The image shows an invitation card for Education Sunday. At the top is a circular logo of St Oswald's Church. Below it, the text reads: 'Education Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am'. A line of text follows: 'You are invited to join St Oswald's Church Congregation who will be celebrating Education Sunday.' The card concludes with 'Please come along.'</p>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	1pm- Collective worship in Church celebrating Education
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	9am Friends of the School Coffee Morning  Full Governing Board meeting
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	9am Reading Meeting for all parents of Year 2 families upwards (year 2-year 6)  6pm Reading Meeting for all parents of Year 2 families upwards (year 2-year 6)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Year 2 educational Visit to Warwick Castle
25 <sup>th</sup> September	2.30-4.30pm Year 3&4 football tournament QEG's
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	EYFS visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	9am; Phonics meeting for EYFS and Year 1 parents  6pm Phonics meeting for EYFS and Year 1 parents
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	2.30pm-4.30pm Year 5&6 football tournament at QEG's



Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Harvest festival in church- All welcome 9.15am
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	School Open day- 10am-12noon
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	EYFS visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum  World Mental Health day- Wear something yellow
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Sarah Dines MP visiting school - Meeting The School Council developing our learning about Democracy
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Autin Dance Theatre group visiting school to work with Year 5 pupils for a Dance workshop focused on conservation and the environment (This group were at the Ashbourne Arts Festival)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 3, 4, 5,6 Cross Country
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum  Parents Evenings KS1 & KS2
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evenings KS1 & KS2
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 3 Educational Visit to Cadburys World  Parents Evenings KS1 & KS2  Last Day at School
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day- School closed to Pupils
Half term	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service in Church  EYFS Parents Evening
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS Parents Evening
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS Parents Evenings
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November- Anti Bullying Week	Anti Bullying week- wear Odd Socks  2.30pm TAG Rugby event QEG's Year 5&6

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Educational Visit to London- Winston Churchill War rooms and Parliament
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	2.30pm TAG Rugby event QEG's Year 3 &4
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 2 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum  6pm Full Governing Board Meeting
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	2.30pm Year 5 & 6 Hockey Tournament QEG's
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper day- Bring in a gift for the Tombola
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5& 6 Basket ball tournament QEG's
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum  EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair- 3.30pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Carols in Church 9.15am  Christmas party and Christmas Lunch
Last Day of the school Term	
Christmas Holiday Period	
<b>Return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	

Local Sporting Events you may wish for your child to join or try out for- This one relates to Girls/Women's Rugby- Please have a look and maybe pop down for a trial.

## Ashbourne Girls' Rugby



All girls welcome!  
school years 6 – 13  
come and join us  
No experience  
needed

Learn  
something  
new, great  
for fitness

Social  
and fun  
group



**When:** Friday 3:30 – 5:00 arrive when you can  
Sunday afternoons – at home and away

**Where:** Meet at QEGS pitch in front of the new  
Boothby building (near the Astroturf)

*What three words ??? (noises, skies, bullets)*

More details contact Nick Flux at  
[nkflux@gmail.com](mailto:nkflux@gmail.com) 07764 988479  
<https://ashbournerrfu.rfu.club/about>