



Hope, Honesty, Respect, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Friendship

February 2024

Newsletter

It has been a busy start to the year. The children in KS1 and KS2 have participated in the NSPCC 'Speak out Stay Safe Assembly' This was really good and enabled the children to share different ways in which we can stay safe in school and at home and who we can talk to and who we can share our worries with.



The History van will join us this term. Bringing to life our history topics and supporting the children's learning. We also have lots of enrichment activities which enables our children to put their learning in context. This term Year 5 will be visiting Jorvik, linking their learning to the Vikings. Year 4 will be doing Forest Schools and Year 3 are visiting the Ashbourne Museum.

How do you know what your child is learning?



Sometimes you may ask you child what they have been doing/learning at school and you may be met with a shrug or a 'I can't remember.' I remember getting this feedback a lot from my own children. This can be often because they are tired at the end of a day and want to switch off.

We are working hard to increase your child's knowledge and help ensure that their knowledge sticks so we can build on this knowledge each day, week, term and year.

If you would like to find out more about what your child is learning, then please look at the individual class pages which will highlight the work for the half term. You will be able to find out about the text/book that your child will be reading that half term. The class page will also support you if you want to further support your child at home. The best way to do this is by reading with your child everyday- this can be your child's reading book, a library book, books from home, magazines, instructions, etc. If you want to support your child with maths, TT Rock stars, Number bond work are all really helpful.

Attendance:

Attendance at school is compulsory. Holidays should not be booked or taken during term time. Schools cannot authorise any holidays taken during term time. The school attendance Policy can be found on the attendance section of our school website. We know that there are a lot of illnesses at the moment from coughs, temperatures and sickness.

Uniform:

Please label every item of your child's uniform. If they lose an item of uniform and it is not found in the classroom or cloakroom, we have a lost property box near the office. Children can come and look in the box at playtime or lunch time, or parents can look before or after school.

Staying Safe is paramount and we have a duty of care to ensure that all our children stay safe both inside school and outside school. As we know Safeguarding is everybody's business.

A reminder that gates will remain closed on the playground until 8.30am.

We ensure that there is a culture of safeguarding throughout the school. We would love to hear your feedback.

Support for safeguarding at home; The NSPCC has a free 10 minute training video for parents, carers, and teachers. It can be found here. It is really useful and supports us when thinking about how we can support our vulnerable people in the community.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/listen-up-speak-up/>



Each month I will provide links to useful websites to support keeping your child safe online.

We would strongly urge you to ensure that you review your settings so that you know who your children are chatting to online as well as ensuring the suitability of the games they are playing.

For Parents - Assessing Smartphone Readiness

"Is my child old enough to have a phone?" It's a common, understandable question that I get from many parents, but it's also one that is very difficult to answer as there are so many factors involved. For younger children it's often peer pressure, with older children social isolation is very common. Often, advice has to be given particular to that child/family, rather than a one size fits all."

The Institute for Digital Media and Child Development have put together some tip sheets for parents which I think are really useful. There are 3 parts:

- Assessing readiness.

- Preparing for healthy use.
- What now?

There is a useful link here [Smartphones: Assessing Readiness - Children and Screens](#)

This year, the NSPCC launches its first Game Safe Festival. We're bringing together key players to make sure children have positive gaming experiences. And we're helping the adults in their lives have the knowledge, confidence and tools they need to help keep children safe when they game.

The free workshop will take place on Zoom on **Wednesday 7 February 2024, 7-8pm**. nspcc.org.uk/gamesafe/tickets



Mental Health and Wellbeing.

As you are aware being healthy isn't just about eating healthily it is all about staying mentally well too. Being in tune with our emotions is a really good way of staying mentally well. Our website shares many different ways in which you can be supported with your mental health and wellbeing and your child's mental health and wellbeing. [St Oswald's C of E Primary - Mental Health and Wellbeing \(juniperwebsites.co.uk\)](#)

Mrs Wood is the designated Mental health and Wellbeing lead. If you are worried or concerned about anything, please arrange an appointment with Mrs Wood.

https://youtu.be/DVP62MUevXY?si=8RuNW4C57h_Oid5M

This video is a really useful video for adults and this video is a great one to support your child understanding their emotions and mental health

https://youtu.be/cmawEPUQYYU?si=MGAovnV_D5pfGaHR

As part of our PSHE and SRE curriculum we teach children about understanding their emotions. Further information about our PSHE curriculum can be found on the school Website.

Personnel:

It is with a heavy heart that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Higton at the end of this academic year. Mrs Higton has been a teacher at St Oswald's for 12 years. She is moving onto a new role in education working for the New Ways Learning Centre in Ashbourne. Whilst we are very sad to see Mrs Higton leave we are delighted that she will still be working within

education. Mrs Higon will remain a Governor at the school and will support at many events. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her well.

Governors:

Our Governing Board have been working alongside the leadership team of the school to ensure that we as a school provide a Good Quality of Education for our pupils. Further information about our Governing Board can be found on the school website.

There are two vacancies for Foundation Governors at the school, if you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Governor at St Oswald's please come and see Mrs Wood. Being a Governor is a really interesting role. It enables you to help shape the strategic direction of the school.

Early Help How our locality is helping people stay warm this winter- please see flier. You can also find further information on the school website.



Contacting Staff:

If you wish to contact a member of staff please do so by contacting the School office and they will pass your email or phone message to your child's respective teacher.

Future dates:

All our dates and events can be found on the website. We have added onto the website the term dates for the rest of this academic year and for 2023-2024. [download.asp](https://stoswaldschool.co.uk/download.asp) (stoswaldschool.co.uk)

30 th January	Speak Out Stay Safe Workshops for Year 5 and 6
2 nd February	Year 5 visit the Jorvik Museum
2 nd February	Tim and Simon the painters of the Shrovetide Ball to visit school and show the balls.
5 th February	History Van Years 1 and 2
6 th February	History Van Year 3 and 5
6 th February	Safer Internet Day 'Inspiring Change; Making a difference and managing influence, navigating change online'

9 th February	Annual Shrovetide Lunch (Children to come to school in their Shrovetide clothes)
	Last day of school
Half term holiday 12 th to 16 th February	
19 th February	Return to school
20 th , 21 st , 22 nd February Parents evenings	
26 th February	Forest Schools Club starts for EYFS and Year 1 children
	Year 5&6 Hi Five Netball
7 th March	World Book day- Children to come to school wearing their Pyjamas- Curling up with a Book at Bedtime is the theme.
8 th March	Mothers Day service in Church 9.15am
19 th March	1.30pm Year 4 Pupils Music Concert to parents
21 st March	World Poetry Day
27 th March	Easter Service 9.15am
	Last day at School for the children.
28 th March	INSET Day
Easter Holiday	
15 th April	Return to school