



'Learning and Growing Together'

September 2024 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 tidying to improve both the indoor and outdoor environments with lots of trips to the tip and skips required!



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 Thursday 5th 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 questions. 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. This will be either Mr Armstrong our caretaker or myself

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 should 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 or Mrs Waring 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 can walk home on their own (or walk to a chosen meeting place) 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.

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 can 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 Kyruta has joined us as a MDS support for a child at lunchtimes, I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to the team.

Vacancies: Currently we have no Vacancies

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 websites. 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 Mr P Lamb and Ms Monro

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. Residents can park in the car parks in Ashbourne for free after 3pm with your Derbyshire dales parking disc displayed.

Attendance

The register is taken between 8.55-9am. If your child comes to school after the gates close at 8.55am they will be marked as late. If your child arrives after 9am they will be given a 'U' mark which goes against their attendance.

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

If Miss Simons or Mrs Waring have not heard from you regarding your child's absence by 9.00am 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 monthly; these rewards are detailed on the school website.

Any leave of absence (this could be a pre-arranged appointment) needs to be requested. A leave of absence form can be requested at the school office. The DfE have provided updates on school attendance which can be found here; [DfE external document template \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk) Our attendance policy reflects the changes.

Parent Pay:

Please check your child's Parent Pay account and ensure any outstanding bills are paid. Miss Simons and Mrs Waring 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.

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.



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;

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.

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.

Dates for the term ahead;

Autumn term 2024

Wednesday 4 th Sept	INSET DAY School closed to pupils
Thursday 5 th September	Children return to school EYFS children on a staggered start (See prior information)
Thursday 5 th September	3.30pm Meet the Teacher
Wednesday 18 th September	Whitemoor Lakes Residential; Year 5
Thursday 19 th September	Whitemoor Lakes residential- Year 5 return Year 2 visit Warwick Castle
Monday 23 rd September	Full Governing Board meeting
Tuesday 24 th September	Year 1 St Oswald's Church visit
Thursday 26 th September	Phonics Meeting 9am and 6pm for EYFS and Year 1 Parents
Friday 27 th September	Harvest Festival 9am
Monday 30 th September	Year 1 visit Wollaton Hall
Tuesday 1 st October	Year 1 St Oswald's Church Visit Years 5 & 6 football QEG's
Tuesday 8 th October	Cross Country Years 3, 4, 5, 6
Saturday 12 th October	School Open day- 10am-12noon
Wednesday 16 th October	EYFS visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Monday 21 st October	Parents Evenings to be held this week
Tuesday 22 nd October	Fire safety Talk and visits from the Fire department for Year 2 and Year 6. Year 3 and 4 QEG's football tournament
Wednesday 23 rd October	EYFS visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Friday 25 th October	INSET Day- School closed to Pupils

Half term	
Tuesday 5 th November	Flu Vaccinations
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Parade
Monday 11 th November	Remembrance Service in Church
Tuesday 12 th November	Anti Bullying Week Odd Socks Day TAG Rugby event
Friday 15 th November	Imperial war Museum Year 6 Visit
Tuesday 19 th November	Year 2 Visit St Oswald's Church TAG Rugby
Tuesday 26 th November	Year 2 Visit St Oswald's Church Year 5& 6 Hockey QEG's
Monday 2 nd December	Advent Service at St Oswald's
Tuesday 3 rd December	Year 3 visit St Oswald's
Friday 6 th December	Christmas Jumper day- Bring in a gift for the Tombola
Tuesday 10 th December	Year 3 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum Year 5& 6 Basketball tournament QEG's
Tuesday 17 th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Wednesday 18 th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Thursday 19 th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Friday 20 th December	Carols in Church 9.15am Christmas party and Christmas Lunch
Last Day of the school Term	
Christmas Holiday Period	
Return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025	

