



'Learning and Growing Together'

October 2024 Newsletter



It has been another busy month, we have appointed our School Council Representatives and followed a democratic process for all of our appointments.

We have celebrated Reading with pupils taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge and receiving certificates and medals- well done to them.



We held our annual Harvest Festival on Friday. Thank you to everyone who came and supported we are very grateful for all your donations to the foodbank. We have harvested lots of fruits from our school garden.- Apples, Pears and Plums. The children were very keen to help harvest.

The children have thrown themselves into lots of learning in the three weeks since they have been at school. It has been great to see them shining with their artistic talents and musical talents.

The Year 5 pupils have had a super 2 days on their Residential to Whitemoor lakes and they challenged themselves raft building, kayaking, Abseiling and on The Gladiator. Year 1 children have visited St Oswald's Church and taken part in a treasure hunt and the Year 2 Pupils visited Warwick Castle where Members of the public stopped them to praise them on their attitude and behaviour- well done Year 2's! It is great to see the continued enrichment of the curriculum. We can only do these trips though with contributions from you as parents. It is really important that trips are paid for by families. If this doesn't happen then the cost of the trips becomes prohibitive for us as a school to keep absorbing

the costs and will mean in the long run there will be less opportunities for our children to have these enrichments.

The School Day

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

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 a specific meeting point) 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.

Staffing:

Some of you may be aware, Miss Birt and her partner are expecting their second child. They are due to have their baby in February. We are currently advertising the position and will inform the Year 5 class as soon as we have further updates in terms of who will be teaching.

Mrs Peach and her husband are also expecting their first child which is due in April. This position has yet to be advertised but will be advertised at the end of December and as soon as we know staff who will be covering this position we will inform parents and ensure smooth transition for the children.



All positions are advertised on the DCC website.

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 Mr P Lamb and Miss Monroe and Mr Kidsley (Responsible for attendance)

Online safety Top Tip; Alan McKenzie and Online E Safety Specialist shares advice with schools. Top tips or useful advice will be then shared with yourselves

For Parents - Video Games and Children

Unicef have shared an article with some nice, clear and simple advice for parents/carers about online gaming. The article covers how to create a positive and safe gaming environment, how parents can engage with their children, what the benefits or gaming are and more.

You can view the article on the Unicef website [HERE](#).

For Parents - Gaming Tips for Parents of Neurodivergent Children.

Internet Matters have released another really useful guide, this time it's all about online gaming safety tips for parents and carers of neurodivergent children. It's a simple 5-page guide covering the research, example games, some of the challenges which parents face and the all-important benefits.

It's a great little guide which you can download [HERE](#).

What is new in our Curriculum?

All information about what your child is learning about can be found on the school website under the heading Curriculum as well as each individual Class page.



We are delighted to announce that this year we are working with Voice 21, the national oracy education charity, to develop our students' oracy (speaking and listening) skills.

In school, oracy is a powerful tool for learning; by teaching students to become more effective speakers and listeners we empower them to find their voice for success in school and life. It underpins young people's progress and development: their literacy and numeracy, academic attainment, wellbeing, confidence and future prospects in further or higher education and employment.

Voice 21 works with over 900 schools across the country with a mission to transform students' learning and life chances through talk. We will be working with their expert team to develop a high-quality oracy education across our school life, including our culture, curriculum, and teaching and learning.

For updates on our oracy work please check our website. We now have a dedicated Oracy Page on the school website. For further information on Voice 21 please visit www.voice21.org

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 carparks 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

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. There is a monthly reward system for attendance.

This link is very good if you are not sure about what to do if your child is unwell; [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

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

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. Star stamps are given and the new Reading Reward system is working very well.

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 collecting food for our harvest service which can support our School Food Bank and be donated to the Ashbourne Food Bank. We have also been learning about The British Values in school- Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Tolerance and Respect.



The school Council is now up and running and there are 6 committees all with Chairs and Vice Chairs. Further

information about this will be coming out to families soon so watch this space!

Dates for the term ahead:

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
Thursday 10 th October	Young Minds UK; Hello Yellow- Fundraising event- wear Yellow and bring £1
Saturday 12 th October	School Open day- 10am-12noon for Families who have children starting school in September 2025
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 for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 families
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
Thursday 24 th October	School closed
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
<p>Last Day of the school Term</p> <p>Christmas Holiday Period</p> <p>Return to school on Monday 6th January 2025 this is an INSET day.</p> <p>Children return to school on Tuesday 7th January</p>	