



'Learning and Growing Together'

January 2025 Newsletter



The Charities Committee on the School Council have been amazing at organising the Shoe Box Appeal across school. Thank you for all of your generosity. We have so many donations of shoe boxes. What a wonderful achievement. There were 540 boxes collected in total in Ashbourne.

The Christmas Fair was a lovely event and attended by lots of you- it was lovely to see so many faces. Thank you for all your donations- cakes, prizes and filled cups!

As you know December was a busy month. The EYFS and Key Stage 1 Pupils delighted us with the School Nativity and made us very proud.



We have a lot of talented aspiring musicians who have been joining events around Ashbourne to sing and play their musical instruments. It is great to see the pupils in the school enjoying all these extra curricular activities. We have Natalie Light a former pupil who comes into teach pupils on a one to one basis and who provides pupils with new opportunities.

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.

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

Behaviour; we are currently reviewing our Behaviour Policy. This can be found here [St Oswald's C of E Primary - Behaviour](#)

If you have any comments you would like to make about the content of the policy then please email to Mrs Wood Rebeccaw158@st-oswalds.derbyshire.sch.uk

Online Safety

If Santa delivered new technology for your children at Christmas, you may need some support in adding parental controls. Internet Matters can support you give your child a safe space to explore their curiosity online. Their step-by-step parental controls guides will help you to set up the right controls and privacy settings on the networks, gadgets, apps, and sites they use to give them a safer online experience.

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

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum, is underpinned by the school vision- 'Learning and Growing Together' 'We nurture the tiny seeds to grow into the mighty tree as Jesus describes in the Kingdom of Heaven' This is the aim of all of the staff at St Oswald's ensuring that we nurture all talents and develop the children's skills

and knowledge through the curriculum- enriching and providing a wide range of experiences.

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. If you have an Ashbourne residents badge you are able to park in the Leisure centre car park from 2pm without paying which is just a short 5 minute walk then to school.

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)

We have had a huge number of pupils receive 100% attendance awards in the Autumn term as well as children receiving star stamps for their books when they have had between 98% and 100% for the half term. Well done everyone!

Parent Pay:

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

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

Keep an eye on the medicine Policy and the list of Ailments and what to do which is detailed on the school website.

Governors

We would like to welcome Peter Walker a new Governor to our school. Peter will be joining us as a Foundation Governor and will be part of the whole Governing Board as well as sitting on the Safeguarding Committee.

We would like to thank Phil Lamb who has stepped down from the Governing board after two years of being a Governor.

We have Two vacancies! Please have a look yourself or pass onto members of our community who you think may be interested or would be good within this role.

Are you passionate about education and making a difference in your local community? St Oswald's Governing Board is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic individual to join our Governing Board.

We have two vacancies; Co-opted Governor and LA Governor.

You will play a vital role in shaping the strategic direction of our school ensuring the best outcomes for our children and supporting the leadership team. Co-opted Governors are chosen for their skills and expertise which complement our already strong Governing Board.

We are looking for someone who

- *Has a commitment to improving education for all children.*
- *Can bring professional skills or life experience to support the boards' work (e.g.) finance, HR, education, law, business or community engagement.*
- *can dedicate time to meetings- 2 Full Governing board meetings per full term and engage in training.*
- *Is a team player and has the ability to challenge and support.*

What's in it for you?

- *The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people*
- *Develop skills in strategic planning, leadership and teamwork.*
- *Access to governor training and networking opportunities*

No previous governance experience is required.

To express your interest please contact Mrs Wood on Rebeccaw158@st-oswalds.derbyshire.sch.uk Or Mrs Lofts (Clerk to Governors) on joannal@st-oswalds.derbyshire.sch.uk

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. We have started to hand out lots of the Bronze badge Reading Awards- Well done to those children who have achieved this!

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 School Values in respect of behaviour.

Values Corner

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.

This term we will be revisiting our school's core values and then thinking about Valuing Difference and Justice.

Spare Clothes- If like me you have had a bit of a sort out prior to Father Christmas visiting, 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!



Clubs and Activities in school

You asked we listened;

We have a number of clubs and activities held within school.

Ukelele Club: drop-in club for Y4, Y5, Y6 on Tuesday lunchtimes.(free)

Gardening Club: every Tuesday morning this is free of charge

Coding Club: Thursday lunchtimes for Y4, Y5, Y6 (free)

Five Star Singers: Wednesdays 3:30-4:10pm at the church (free)

Instrumental lessons: Monday afternoons with the woodwind teacher (£10/£5)

Performing Arts Club Monday and Thursday after school (Paid)

Spring Term we will be beginning an exercise fitness class on a Wednesday (paid)

Unfortunately Primary Stars could no longer continue with a club as not enough children attended so it wasn't viable for them.

Dates for the term ahead;

Half term	
6 th January	INSET DAY
7 th January	Children return to school
13 th January	Friends of the school Meeting- All parents whoa re interested in being part of The Friends of the School are welcome
27 th January	Full Governing Board Meeting
29 th January	Miss Birt's Last working day before starting maternity leave
3 rd February	Mrs Foster starts in Year 5 to cover maternity leave
4 th February	Year 5 & 6 Sports hall athletics
7 th February	INSET DAY
18 th February	Year 3&4 Sports hall athletics
25 th February	Tatton park Year 4 school trip Year 5 and 6 Hi Five Netball
28 th February	Shrovetide Lunch and game (Come to school in your Shrovetide clothes) Friends of the School Lucky Dip on the playground Last day of school
Half term Monday 3 rd March to Friday 7 th March	
Monday 10 th March	Return to school
12 th March	Sea life Centre- year 4
13 th March	Seven Trent Water Workshops for Key Stage 1 and 2
17 th March	History van Year 1 and 2

18 th March	History van Years 3 & 5 Fire safety Talks for Year 2 and 6
21 st March	Mrs Peach' last day
24 th March	Mr Allen starts in Year 3 covering Maternity leave
28 th March	Mothers Day service/ Easter celebrations
3 rd April	Friends of the School Film Night
4 th April	Friends of the School Lucky Dip Last day before we break up for Easter
Return to school on Tuesday 22nd April	