



'Learning and Growing Together'

October 2025 Newsletter

I cannot believe where September has gone, we have been so busy in school welcoming the new families, and new children into different year groups in addition to new members of staff within the school.

Year 5 visited Whitemoor Lakes and we had a wonderful time pushing our limits and experiencing new activities from raft building, to high ropes, The leap of faith and abseiling to name but a few. Year 2 visited Warwick castle and brought their learning to life exploring the castle, climbing the turrets and learning about the jobs of pole in the castle. Meanwhile Year 1 have visited the Church and have completed a treasure hunt.

Our Annual harvest festival led by the Collective Worship Crew was a lovely event and we are very thankful for the goods that were donated by the school community, they will be taken to the Ashbourne Foodbank and Ozzies Kitchen.

Year 5 and 6 Pupils took part in the football event at QEG's and were very successful- playing in a sportsmanlike fashion and having a super attitude.

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.

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. If waiting by the church please ensure you are visible to the class teacher and wave or make eye contact. Once they see you and let your child go, the parent is then responsible for ensuring the child crosses the road safely.

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.

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.

Please do not take any photos of children on the school site or at school events. This is to protect our children across the school.

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.

Our safeguarding governors are Mr T Kidsley, Ms Monro and Mrs Lewis

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. You can park in the carparks 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 this time they will be marked as late.

Attendance at school is crucial- every day your child misses equate 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. If your child arrives after 9am they will be given a 'U' mark and this will go against their attendance.

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/external-document-template) 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

Policies

During the Summer we updated a number of our policies and the updated policies can be found on our school website [St Oswald's C of E Primary - School Policies](#) Please take time to have a look at them.

Governors

We have a Governor Vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you are interested in the role of parent Governor and supporting the school to continue to move from strength to strength then please get in touch. This could either be by speaking to Mrs Wood on the playground, emailing into school or popping into the office.

Reading and Homework

Children are on their reading journey now and are collecting their stars in preparation for their first reading award of a Bronze badge. I am looking forward to handing the first bronze reading badges very soon.

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. We have updated our Behaviour Policy and Exclusion Policy which are on the school website.

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. Our Charities Committee (part of the school council) are holding a Cake Stall on Thursday 2nd October and all proceeds will be donated to Macmillan.

We now have our School Council in Place. The school Council has 5 committees:

- The Collective Worship Crew
- I-vengers (online safety)
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee
- The Charities Committee
- The Eco/ Gardening Committee

Dates for the term ahead:

Autumn term 2025

7 th October	Year 1 pupils visit St Oswald's to take RE into the Church Years 3, 4, 5, 6 Cross Country Competition QEG's
9 th October	Phonics Meeting for EYFS and Year 1 Parents- 9am and 6pm
10 th October	World Mental Health day

20 th October	Parents Evenings held this week- you will be contacted about a time
21 st October	Year 3 & 4 Football tournament at QEG's
23 rd October	Year 3 Pupils Cadbury's World
24 th October	Year 6 to be involved with The Ashbourne Stitching Project Last day of half term
Half term Holiday	
3 rd November	INSET Day
4 th November	Return to school
Sunday 9 th November	Remembrance Parade in Ashbourne Meet on the Market Place
10 th November	Odd Sock Day Anti Bullying Week Flu Vaccinations
11 th November	8.15 am Individual Photos and Siblings in school hall 1pm Remembrance Service 2pm Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Competition at QEG's
14 th November	Year 6 Imperial War Museum
18 th November	Year 2 pupils visit St Oswald's to take RE into the Church Year 5 & 6 tag Rugby
25 th November	Year 2 pupils visit St Oswald's to take RE into the Church
2 nd December	Year 3 pupils visit St Oswald's to take RE into the Church Advent Service in Church 1pm
8 th December	Year 3 pupils visit St Oswald's to take RE into the Church

16 th December	School Infant Nativity Play 2pm
17 th December	School Infant Nativity Play 2pm
18 th December	School Infant Nativity Play 2pm
19 th December	Carols in Church- 9am Pm Christmas party and lunch Last day of term
Return to school on Monday 5 th January	