



'Learning and Growing Together'

February 2026 Newsletter

Oracy- Everyone has a voice

Our approach to Oracy has developed during the past year. We have worked with colleagues from Voice 21 who have provided staff across the school with training to enable us to teach our children Oracy explicitly. It is our vision that we will empower our pupils to become effective speakers and listeners, enabling them to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them. We are developing their skills for later on in life. In January we were validated during an Oracy Consultancy day for the work that we are doing and the engagement of our children. This was a super day celebrating the hardwork that has gone into developing our approach. As a school we continue to develop this further and have plans to continue into next year and beyond. [St Oswald's C of E Primary - Oracy](#)

Supporting our families- sign posting for support



The Derbyshire Local Offer is in place to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as their parents and carers. It provides clear information about available services and provision, including how to apply for an assessment, early years support, education and learning, care services, preparing for adulthood, health and wellbeing, financial support and travel and transport. The Derbyshire Local Offer contains useful resources for families. The Local Offer includes a directory of local SEND services, support groups, and activities, empowering families to make informed



DERBYSHIRE LOCAL OFFER

decisions and enhance the quality of life for children and young people with SEND in Derbyshire.

The School Day

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.

Boots; At this time of the year the weather is getting cold and wet- we are aware that children are wearing boots to walk to school. Please can you ensure they have their school shoes so that they can change into them when they get to school.

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

10th February is Online safety day- it is about raising awareness about staying safe Online.

We take this very seriously and our Online safety I-vengers are supporting us in



getting the message out to children.

It is essential you know what your children are doing online- do you know what games they are playing, who are they talking to online? Are the games they playing appropriate, do you know what PEGI rating the games are. Keep communication open with your child- Be Curious!



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.

Keeping bugs at bay!

Guidance has been provided for helping to keep our children healthy.

Winter infections in children – guidance for parents/guardians

This leaflet gives advice on illnesses that are currently affecting nursery and school children across the East Midlands

What are the symptoms?

There are two groups of symptoms:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting – usually lasting 1-2 days
- Fever, tiredness, runny nose, cough and sore throat – lasting 3-4 days

What should I do if my child is unwell?

- If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms, they should not attend nursery/school until they have been symptom free for 48 hours
- If your child has a high temperature and is unwell, it is very important they stay at home and don't attend school until they have recovered. Children with mild symptoms like runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school.
- Ensure they drink plenty of fluids – taking sips rather than gulps, to avoid vomiting
- If they have a fever – give child paracetamol and/or ibuprofen, according to manufacturer's instructions. Your local pharmacist can also advise you about the best treatment for your child
- If your child is unusually sleepy, can't take fluids or has other symptoms, such as an unusual rash, headache or neck stiffness – **seek medical advice immediately**

For further information, visit [NHS.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) and search for 'respiratory infections' and 'diarrhoea and vomiting'

Infection control advice

Handwashing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of both of these infections. This applies to the child who is ill and the person caring for them. Hands should be washed using soap and rinsed under running water:

- Before and after caring for the child
- After using the toilet
- Before eating, preparing or handling food
- After cleaning up spills (vomit, diarrhoea or urine)
- Also – keep a separate towel for each family member who has symptoms, and change them regularly
- Dry hands thoroughly

Other control measures:

- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue if possible – dispose of used tissues immediately and wash hands
- Wash soiled clothing, bed linen and towels at 60°C, using detergent – if possible, wear disposable gloves to handle contaminated items
- Surfaces and touch points (taps, toilet flush handle, door handles) should be cleaned then disinfected with bleach-based cleaner
- Check that your child is up to date with their [NHS vaccinations schedule](#)

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 car parks in Ashbourne for free after 2pm with your Derbyshire dales parking disc displayed.

Cars Idling: Please can we ask you to think when you park and turn off your car engines and not have them idling. The pollution from the fumes in the air is not good for our children's health as they walk to school and wait on the playground. It is impacting on our local climate. Thank you.

Attendance

The register is taken at 8.55am. If your child comes to school after this time they will be marked as late 'L'. If your child arrives after 9am they will be given a 'U' mark and this will go against their attendance.

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.

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

Governors

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. Children are now on their journey to getting Bronze badges- well done all- super reading.

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 half term our Value will be focused on building a Strong Community; Values which we held dear- friendship, trust and mutual encouragement are important for building a strong community

Music Opportunities

Extra-curricular Music is now up-and-running:

1. Ukelele group for Y5-Y6 on Tuesday lunchtimes. Free. Run by Mrs Clarke. Y4 welcome to join after Christmas.
2. Recorder group for Y2-Y6 on Monday lunchtimes. £2. Run by Miss Light
3. Instrument tuition available: piano, recorder, sax, flute, oboe, clarinet.

Dates for the term ahead;

Spring Term 2026

2 nd February	Miss Birt returns to Year 5 History Van in school bringing the past to life for Year 1 and Year 4
3 rd February	Sports Hall Athletics Year 5 and 6
6 th February	Friends of the School Disco 3.15- 5pm Infant pupils 6-7.30 KS2 Pupils
Wk commencing 9 th February	Parents Evenings this week
10 th February	Online Safety Day
12 th February	Shrovetide Lunch and mini game Last day of the half term
13 th February	INSET Day
February Half Term	
Monday 23 rd February	Return to school
Thursday 5 th March	World Book day
Friday 13 th March	9am Mother's day service in St Oswald's Church
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 5 in St Oswald's 2pm Hi 5 Netball Yr 5 & 6
Wednesday 17 th	Primary Dance workshop
Tuesday 24 th	Year 5 in St Oswald's 2pm Hi 5 Netball Yr 3 & 4
Wednesday 25 th March	Year 1 Peak Wildlife Park
Friday 27 th March	Easter Service in St Oswald's 9am Last Day of the term
Easter Holidays	

Return to school Monday 13th April 2026