



'Learning and Growing Together'

March 2026 Newsletter

We hope you all had a fabulous half term and those involved in Shrovetide had a great two days following the play.

We have had a great first week back at school and we are looking forward to some warmer weather!

Each year during March we ask for your feedback via a questionnaire. The findings at points from the questionnaire feed into the School Improvement plan for the next academic year. We would really appreciate your time to complete- it only takes approximately 2 minutes! [Annual Questionnaire 2026 – Fill in form](#) All feedback from the questionnaire will be shared with the Governing Board.

Staffing Updates

Mrs Clarke- our peripatetic Music teacher will be leaving us in April, retirement is calling! She has worked alongside our year 3 and 4 children teaching them music skills, developing their knowledge and ultimately teaching the Year 4 pupils the Ukulele. We wish her lots of happiness in her retirement.

We would like to welcome Christopher Scott to the Governing Board as a Parent Governor.

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



DERBYSHIRE LOCAL OFFER

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



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.

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 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 \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#) 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

February Half Term	
Monday 23 rd February	Return to school
Wednesday 4 th March	EYFS visit St Oswald's Church
Thursday 5 th March	World Book day- where a mask or a hat and bring in your favourite story to share.
Friday 6 th March	A Story teller visits school to share some stories- sponsored by David Wilson Homes
Monday 9 th March	Countryside Police Team visit school to talk about staying safe in the countryside with the Year 5 and 6 Pupils
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
18 th March	Global Recycling Day

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 13 th April 2026	
Wednesday 15 th April	Dental Checks
Thursday 30 th April	Class Photos
Friday 1 st May	Primary Arts Day
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday Monday- Not at school
Monday 11 th May	Year 6 Statutory Assessment
Tuesday 12 th may	Year 6 Statutory Assessment Year 4 St Oswald's Church
Wednesday 13 th May	Year 6 Statutory Assessment
Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 Statutory Assessment
Friday 15 th May	Year 6 Park and Olde Sweet Shop Treat
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 4 @ St Oswald's Church Year 4 lead Collective Worship in school
Thursday 21 st May	Year 2 and Year 6 - Workshop from the Fire Service
Friday 22 nd May	Last day
Half Term	
Monday 1 st June	INSEt Day
Tuesday 2 nd June	Return to school
Monday 8 th June	Phonics Screening Check this week for Year 1 Multiplication Check this week for Year 4 pupils
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 6 St Oswald's Church

Wednesday 17 th June	<p>KS2 Sports Day am at the recreation ground</p> <p>1pm; Year 2 Sports day on the playground- Parents to come to the New playground to watch their children</p>
Thursday 18 th June	<p>9.30am; EYFS Sports Day on the playground- Parents to come to the New playground to watch their children</p> <p>1pm; Year 1 Sports Day on the playground- Parents to come to the New playground to watch their children</p>
Friday 19 th June	Father's Day Service- 9am at St Oswald's Church
Tuesday 23 rd June	<p>9am Year 6 at St Oswald's Church</p> <p>Year 6 Child led service</p>
Friday 26 th June	<p>Denstone cricket tournament</p> <p>Year 1 & 2 Sponsored Walk</p> <p>2pm Year 5 Ashbourne Park Big Sing</p>
Friday 3 rd July	KS 2 Sponsored Walk
Tuesday 21 st July	1pm Moving on Service
Thursday 23 rd July	Year 6 leavers play