



'Learning and Growing Together'

May 2026 Newsletter

April has been a quiet month, the children all returned to school following the Easter Holidays' refreshed and well. It has been lovely to see the creations that the children have completed for their homework in year 4- some wonderful Under the sea creatures! Lots of hard work has gone into these.

Staffing Updates

We have appointed 3 members of staff to join our school- Mr Cantellow will be joining us from September. Miss Gill will be also joining us to cover a maternity leave for the Year. Miss Fowell and her partner are expecting their first baby, due in October- I am sure you will join us in Congratulating her. Mr Cantellow and Miss Gill will visit the school during the Summer term to familiarise themselves and meet their class and the children.

We have also appointed a Teaching assistant to work alongside pupils in the school; Miss Cresswell will start at St Oswald's after half term and we very much look forward to working with her.

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.

We are in the process of updating our Communications Policy and Home School Agreement. Drafts of these can be found here. [download.asp](#)

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.

It is lovely to see the sun beginning to poke through the clouds- please can you ensure your child has a sunhat or cap that they keep in school for those sunny days, and that long lasting sun cream is applied before 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.

If you require any support then please contact Mrs Wood who can support through sign posting to the Early Help team.

Online Safety Top Tips; Your Child's Digital Footprint- All of us have a digital Footprint- It is very important that we manage this carefully. Internet Matters have provided some useful information regarding this; [How to manage your child's digital footprint | Internet Matters](#)



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.

Travel Smart week is 18th - 22nd May- this is a time when you may wish to think of creative ways to come to school rather than coming in the car, or parking a little further away and walking some of the way.

We have received guidance form our local PCSO regarding parking and Zig Zag lines outside school-

Parking outside schools...

Parking restrictions outside schools are there to keep you and your children safe. Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger and you also risk being fined. It's important that motorists follow the Highway Code (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code-road-safety>).

Parking restrictions outside schools...

Understanding yellow zigzag markings...

Most school entrances and exits in the UK have yellow zigzag road markings with the writing 'School Keep Clear'.

Zigzags can also be found at entrances and exits of hospitals, fire stations, police stations and ambulance stations. They indicate the part of the road where motorists should not wait, stop, or park a vehicle.

Sometimes there may be an accompanying sign that shows specific times when these restrictions are in place. Motorists are legally allowed to park on the zigzags outside of these hours.

Both yellow and white zigzags also show areas that must be kept clear so that children and other road users can see clearly when crossing the road.

Parking on yellow zigzags...

You can legally park on yellow zigzags under certain circumstances.

Yellow zigzags without accompanying signs advise motorists not to wait or park there at any time for the safety of children and others. We can and do issue tickets for parking on them, based on causing an obstruction to other motorists or pedestrians.

Some yellow zigzags have a single or double yellow line, which indicate different parking restrictions.


Find out more:

The Highway Code – Parking and Waiting – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/waiting-and-parking-238-to-252>


The Highway Code – Road Markings – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/road-markings>


Parking opposite yellow zigzags...


You can legally park opposite yellow zigzags. However, this can make crossing the road more dangerous, especially for children. Some schools have yellow zigzags on both sides of the road for this reason.

 Safety tips for parking outside schools...

When picking up or dropping off children at schools, you should do the following:

 Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.

 Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.

 If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or accessways.

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

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.

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. Recorder group for Y2-Y6 on Monday lunchtimes. £2. Run by Miss Light
2. Instrument tuition available: piano, recorder, sax, flute, oboe, clarinet.

The Trim Trail and Field

Now the weather is less wet the field and Trim Trail will be open for use. This area is still quite wet and muddy so we apologise if your child comes home muddy.



Wellington Boot Amnesty



We are looking to further develop the Trim Trail Area so it can be used more during the whole year. Due to how muddy this area is we are looking at having a bank of wellington boots and waterproofs.

We are asking for **donations** of wellington boots which your children have grown out of and you could donate to the school and any waterproof coats or trousers which could also be donated. You may be having a clear out at home during the Easter break and you may come across old wellies and clothing.

If you could start sending in any donations we would be very grateful.

Dates for the term ahead;

Summer Term 2026

Friday 1 st May	Primary Arts Day Y5
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday Monday- School closed
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 9 th June	New EYFS Parents Meeting
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 6 St Oswald's Church
Wednesday 17 th June	KS2 Sports Day am at the recreation ground 1pm; Year 2 Sports day on the playground- Parents to come to the new playground to watch their children
Thursday 18 th June	9.30am; EYFS Sports Day on the playground- Parents to come to the new playground to watch their children 1pm; Year 1 Sports Day on the playground- Parents to come to the new playground to watch their children
Friday 19 th June	Father's Day Service- 9am at St Oswald's Church Year 2 Sleepover- More details to follow
Tuesday 23 rd June	9am Year 6 at St Oswald's Church Year 6 Child led service

Friday 26 th June	Denstone cricket tournament Year 1 &2 Sponsored Walk 2pm Year 5 Ashbourne Park Big Sing
Monday 29 th June	9am in the school hall RSE Drop in for Parents- The Relationship and Sex Education Curriculum is changing. A drop in is available to find out information about the curriculum and the changes that have been made for September 2026.
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 6 Educational Visit- Bletchley park
Friday 3 rd July	KS 2 Sponsored Walk- Year 2 Pupils Educational Visit to Llandudno
Tuesday 7 th July	Year 6 Have their Transition Day to QEG's All classes in the school meet their new class teacher.
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 6 Have their Transition Day to QEG's All classes in the school meet their new class teacher.
Tuesday 21 st July	1pm Moving on Service
Thursday 23 rd July	Year 6 leavers play Last day of school Clap out of Year 6 pupils- 2.45pm