



'Learning and Growing Together'

September 2026 Newsletter

Welcome back to St Oswald's- and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all families joining us and welcome back to everyone already familiar with St Oswald's. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and feel relaxed and refreshed as well as managing to have lots of fun! I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Cantellow and Miss Gill who join our staff team.

As usual, we look forward to a very exciting term ahead with lots of interesting events and lessons. St Oswald's is a very special place to be and it is a privilege to be part of the dedicated team of adults, children, parents and Governors. Our ethos is such that we are like the tiny seeds growing over the year into the mighty tree as Jesus describes in the kingdom of heaven.

The Summer Holidays have seen lots of cleaning and tidying- doors have been repainted, general tidying around the school along with updates within classrooms.



Staff have been in school during the holidays preparing for the forthcoming term and year. Classes have their own dedicated page on the school website which will be updated with information and the termly overview. There is an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher on Monday 7th September at 3.30pm. At this meeting they will be able to share the expectations for the year group and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions. As always, my door is open if you require any information or support.

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.



Notices

Notices and Letters will be sent via email, so if you have changed your email address, please provide Miss Simons with a new updated one.

Staff at our School

The staffing arrangements for the year are detailed on our school website. Each class teacher will provide a short power point introducing themselves and sharing the expectations for the year group.

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. This links to our H& S Policy

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

Please can you complete the below survey with your child;

As children and young people return to school for the new academic year, I am writing to ask for your support in making sure pupils at your school have the opportunity to take part in my national survey, The Big Future. I have not yet heard from any children at your school.

The survey can be completed here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>. I have already heard from hundreds of thousands of children and young people across England, and the majority of schools have now taken part.

It is crucial that children at your school have the chance to add their voices too, so that their experiences, views and aspirations are represented when the Children's Commissioner presents her findings of the survey to Government.

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 and Ms Monro

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 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

Keeping Healthy

We have updated our Medicine Policy. This can be found under Policies on the school website. We are now able to administer certain medicines within school however if your child is unwell and has a high temperature or sickness and diarrhoea, we will not be administering medicines. If your child needs medicine administering, please go to the office where you will be asked to complete a form, and you can hand the medicine to Miss Simons or Mrs Waring.

'The school will accept non-prescription medications Non-prescription medicines must be supplied by parents/carers in their original containers labelled with the pupil's name. They must be in date for the duration that they are required for and must be accompanied by the fully completed parental consent form. Parents must also on a daily basis inform school of what dose has been given to the pupil that day to avoid accidental overdosing. Schools who give non-prescription medicines in line with these guidelines should inform parents/guardian of any dose given in writing. The school will not keep a stock of non-prescription medication to give pupils. The school will not administer any medications containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor. The school will not administer Calpol if the child has a high temperature (links to COVID)'

Governors

Our Board of Governors support our school to strive to be the best it can be. They act as a critical friend to the head teacher and the senior leadership team. More information about the role of the Governors can be found on the school website.

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.

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

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.

expect every child to follow the Golden Rules and our classroom values. We have updated our Behaviour Policy and Exclusion Policy which are attached.

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. We will be raising money for Christian Aid as well as collecting food for our harvest service which can support our School Food Bank and be donated to the Ashbourne Food Bank.

Music in school

Piano lessons There are some spaces available for individual piano lessons at school. Please contact Ms Grace Secretan directly on gracesecretan@gmail.com

Woodwind lessons There are some spaces available for individual woodwind lessons on Monday afternoons in school. It's also possible for your child to borrow a flute if they are having lessons. Please contact Miss Natalie Light directly on natalielight45@gmail.com

Recorder Club is for Y2-Y6 on Monday lunchtimes, £2/week payable in advance. This includes the long-term loan of a school recorder. Please contact Natalie as above.

Ukulele Club is for Y4-Y6 on Wednesday lunchtimes and is free. School ukuleles are available for practice. This club is a drop-in so do encourage your child to come along. Run by Mrs Felicity Morgan.

Performing Arts Clubs after-school on Mondays for Y4-6 and on Thursdays for Y1-3. Please contact Mrs Faith Morgan directly on faithm@stoswalds.derbyshire.sch.uk Look out for the email coming out soon with all the details.

iRock Bands These run on a Wednesday afternoon for Y1-Y4 and after-school for Y5-6. Please call iRock directly to book: 0330 174 2655. Children can learn the keyboard, drums, guitar and vocals. iRock bands start on Wednesday 9th September.

Dates for the term ahead:

Autumn term 2026

4 th September	INSET
7 th September	KS1 and KS2 pupils start school fulltime EYFS have two weeks of transition to school

	3.30pm; Meet the Teacher- an opportunity to find out more about the routines and expectations for the class.
Sunday 13 th September	Blessing of the Back packs in Church- Church Service 10.30am or Breakfast Church at 9am 
14 th September	Year 5 Residential at Whitemoor Lakes
15 th September	Year 5 Residential at Whitemoor Lakes
16 th September	Year 5 Residential at Whitemoor Lakes
17 th September	Year 2 visit Warwick Castle
23 rd September	The Big Sing- Year 6 pupils
25 th September	Harvest Festival- 9am in Church. All welcome. Please bring a donation/offering . All food donations go to the local food bank
28 th September	Full Governing Board Meeting
1 st October	Year 3 visit Cadbury's World
6 th October	Year 1 Pupils visit St Oswald's Church
10 th October	Open day for prospective pupils/families to visit the school
23 rd October	Last day of the half term
Half term Holiday	
2nd November	INSET Day
3 rd November	Return to school
Sunday 8 th November	Remembrance Parade in Ashbourne Meet on the Market Place
10 th November	8.15 am Individual Photos and Siblings in school hall 1pm Remembrance Service
11 th November	Walk to the Memorial Gates

17 th November	Year 2 pupils visit St Oswald's to take RE into the Church
24 th November	Flu Vaccinations
1 st 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
14 th December	School Infant Nativity Play 2pm
15 th December	School Infant Nativity Play 2pm
16 th December	School Infant Nativity Play 2pm
17 th December	School Infant Nativity Play 2pm
18 th December	Carols in Church- 9am Pm Christmas party and lunch Last day of term
Return to school on Monday 4 th January- INSET Day	
Pupils return on Tuesday 5 th January	

During the year there will be lots of Sporting Opportunities at QEG's- These will be shared with you nearer the time. Please see the flier below for Year 3 families.

