



'Learning and Growing Together'

October 2026 Newsletter



We have had a busy start to the academic year. Harvest Festival allowed us to say Thank you showing Gratitude to for the food that we have.



Extra-Curricular activities have started well- the children have been developing their musical skills and confidence with I Rock. Some children are taking individual music lessons whilst some have joined the craft club after school.

We have enriched the learning in classes with the Year 2 pupils attending Warwick Castle and learning all about medieval castles- complimenting the learning happening in class. The Year 5 pupils spent 3 days at Whitemoor lakes challenging themselves and working as a team, to build rafts, complete the Leap of faith, dangle on the Zip wire as well as kayak, and complete the challenge course.

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 a vacancy for a cleaner this is advertised via Vertas.

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.

Now the weather is beginning to turn and rain is on it's way please make sure your child comes to school with a coat each day.

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.

Liv pett joins us from QEG's Early Help team every Thursday Morning to support children within the school.

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.

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 attendance for the Month of September was -94.6%

Our Persistent Absence is 19%

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) 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.

Classroom Values

We treat each other with dignity.

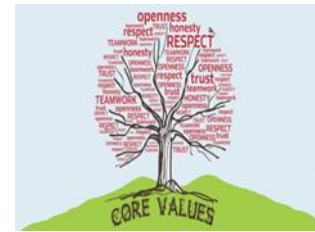
- We listen and respect each other's points of view and opinions.
- We treat each other as we wish to be treated with compassion.
- We work together to make decisions.
- We celebrate our uniqueness.
- We persevere in all we do listening to instructions.
- We stand up for what is right.

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 attached.



Values Corner

This term we will be revisiting our school's core values and then thinking about Friendship- how we can be a good friend to people.

Dates for the term ahead;

Autumn term 2026

1 st October	Year 3 visit Cadbury's World Cake sale for Macmillan
6 th October	Year 1 Pupils visit St Oswald's Church Cross Country event at QEG's
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	