



St Oswald's CE Primary Newsletter

October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

The school year has got off to a very productive start and we are delighted with how well the children have settled into their new classes. As we reach the end of our first half term, October's newsletter will summarise some of the learning that has been happening in school, things we have to look forward to and important school updates.

Thank you for your ongoing support and care for both your child's learning and the staff here at school. It was lovely to see so many of you at the open evening earlier this half term, and at our weekly collective worships each Friday. We are continuing to look at ways that you can be involved with us here at school, as it has such a positive impact on your child's learning when we work together.

I wish you all a restful half term, and look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 6th November.

Jemma Dunne

Learning for all

From Monday 6th November, we are implementing a slightly earlier **start time of 8.45am**. Gates to the playground will continue to open at 8.30am, with doors opening at 8.40am and will close at 8.45am. End times will continue to be staggered with reception at 3.05pm, KS1 at 3.10pm and KS2 at 3.15pm.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our parent survey in July. Please find attached a separate letter regarding our response to this.

Our Early Years children are now ready to join us for our celebration worship on a Friday morning. As the first Friday back after half term is our Remembrance Service, EYFS pupils will stay in phase and join us on Friday 17th November, which is also Children in Need Day, for the first time. As always, all parents and carers are welcome to join us at 9am for both the Remembrance Service and Friday collective worship.

The Reading Space that so many of you helped to create is already a much-loved area in school. Children are free to use it during playtimes and lunchtimes, with Y6 Oswald Leaders taking responsibility to help look after it. Thank you once again for your support with setting it up. If you would like to see the full list of 100 books to read at St Oswald's, these will soon be published on our school website.

Caring for each other

Mr Waterfall-Smith, and his wife Kirstie, have announced the safe arrival of their son, Frankie. With Mrs Paley, and her husband David, following shortly after with the arrival of their baby Constance Mary. We are also delighted to share with you that Mrs Lyon and her husband are expecting their first baby next spring. I am sure you will join me in sending them all our warmest congratulations.

The school value we have been exploring through collective worships this half term has been **Respect**. I want to thank everyone in school who has led a worship for us, including our new school worship team and Year 5/6 who finished the term with a service in church for their parents and carers. Congratulations to KS1 and Y5/6 who have won our 'dustpan and brush award' for tidiest cloakrooms this half term. They have enjoyed a well-earned treat this week.

We have several families that rely heavily on the disabled car parking spaces in the school car park. Unfortunately, these are often being taken by drivers without disabled parking badges. Please can I ask you to show due care by parking your car elsewhere and leaving these spaces for those who need them most. Careless parking also poses a very real danger to our children leaving school on an afternoon, and we have had some near misses reported to the school office. If you are able to, please walk to school and if not, consider other places to park outside of the car park if it is full.

A reminder that for safety, bikes are not to be used in the playground at drop off and pick up time.



Preparing for the future

The price of our school meals will be increasing from 6th November by 25p per meal to £2.75. You should have received a separate letter regarding this on Wednesday. If you think that your child may be eligible for a free school meal and you currently do not claim, we'd encourage you to visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> for further information and guidance. The school office team would be happy to support you to fill out any forms that need to be completed. Please contact them in confidence.

Places at our Night Owls after-school club are very popular, with certain nights of the week booking up very quickly far in advance. **If you have booked a space that you no longer need, please contact the school office as soon as possible** so that we can make the place available for another child to use. Any bookings that are cancelled 24-hours in advance, will be refunded. We have also expanded our extra-curricular provision to try and provide other activities on the evenings that are most in demand with our families.

Due to the development of Germany Beck, our school is now oversubscribed, with a waiting list of pupils who would like to attend. As a result, City of York Council are in the early stages of planning an extension to our school, whereby two additional classrooms will be built. This work is projected to take place by September 2025. I will of course keep you updated with any details and developments to these plans in my future newsletters.

On Wednesday 1st November, St Oswald's Church are hosting a coffee morning from 9.30-12 noon in the Church Hall. All are welcome for a hot drink, cakes and company. No purchase is necessary, you're invited to pay as you can.

Highlights of the term so far...



Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to interview York RLFC Valkyrie about their upcoming Women's Rugby Super League Grand Final.



Congratulations to our pupils who qualified for the Cross-Country Championships.



The Reading Space is used every breaktime and lunchtime by pupils across school.



The Harvest Festival donations were gratefully received by church this year.



Celebrating the completion of the Summer Reading Challenge with our hot chocolate read and relax event.

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Dates for the diary

- Mon 6 Nov: School reopens
- w/b 6th Nov: Book Fair in school
- Fri 17th Nov: Children in Need (dress up in something spotty, donations welcome via ParentPay)
- 21st/22nd Nov: Parents Evenings (letters will be sent after half term)
- Weds 22nd Nov: Box2BFit Day in school (PE kits needed)
- Fri 1st Dec: Non-uniform day in return for Christmas Fair donations (more info to follow)
- Tues 5th Dec: Y1/2 Christmas Performance (9.30am)
- Weds 6th Dec: Author Elizabeth Green visiting school
- Thurs 7th Dec: Y1/2 Christmas Performance (9.30am)
- Fri 8th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day and Puppet Shows
- Sat 9th Dec: FOSOSF Christmas Fair 10am-12pm
- Tues 12th Dec: Early Years' Nativity (2.30pm)
- Weds 13th Dec: Early Years' Nativity (9.30am)
- Weds 20th Dec: Christmas Dinner Day in school / KS2 Carols in the church 5.30-6.30pm
- Fri 22nd Dec: School closes for Christmas holidays

Dates for the Diary – term times

- Tues 9th Jan: School opens for Spring Term
- Fri 9th Feb: School closes for Half Term
- Mon 19th Feb: School reopens
- Fri 22nd March: School closes for Easter
- Mon 8th April: School opens for Summer Term
- Fri 24th May: School closes for Half Term
- Tues 4th June: School reopens
- Fri 19th July: School closes for Summer Holidays