

Our year at St Oswald's 2023-2024



*Learning for all, caring for each other,
preparing for the future.*

Let us encourage one another – Hebrews 10.25

'Reading is the key to our future'

The new school year has begun and it is wonderful to have the community together again. Over the holidays, staff have been working hard to create spaces around school to promote the children's love of learning. This has included a sprinkling of fairy magic out in our Wild Area, the instalment of two fantastic orienteering courses and our brand new 'Reading Space'.

At St Oswald's we are passionate about reading. We encourage our pupils to become life-long readers, reading for both pleasure and curiosity. Drawing on their wide experience, our teachers have worked together to design their own, personalised reading spine (collection) that includes a breadth of high-quality text types, genres and authors. From the books the pupils will share together in classrooms, we have carefully selected our '100 books to read before you leave St Oswald's' and the Reading Space is a place where these books can be shared and enjoyed.

Our parent community overwhelmed us with their generosity and purchased all 100 books for us. We were delighted to host an open evening this week, where parents and carers joined us in school to mark the start of the new academic year, giving them the opportunity to see the space they supported us to create.

I will end this entry with a few photographs of the Reading Space and wish you all happy reading in month ahead.

Jemma Dunne
Headteacher

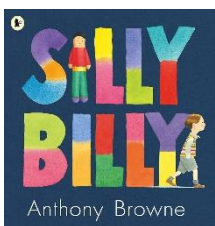


Hello Yellow

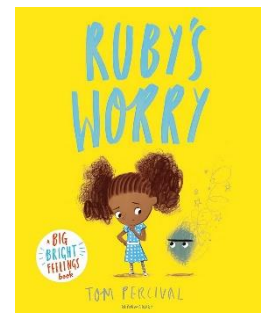
On Tuesday 10th October, St Oswald's CE Primary pupils were shining bright in their yellow clothing to support the 'Hello Yellow' campaign on behalf of Young Minds. School Council organised for pupils in school to come dressed in anything yellow, whether it be socks, trousers or even a headband. Across the school, classes participated in activities organised by School Council to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day.



We learn a lot about keeping our bodies healthy but today was all about focusing on how to keep our mind healthy and the importance of this. In class, we took part in various activities such as listening to stories. For example, Ruby's Worries and Silly Billy were shared in class story times. Collective Worship in each phase focused on the importance of our mental health and how we look after ourselves. Throughout the day, some children made positivity jars focusing on what they should be celebrated about themselves. Lots of children also had yoga sessions with their teachers which helped teach about breathing techniques and how to cope with stressful situations.



Our vision of 'Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future' is the essence of St Oswald's CE Primary but in particular on World Mental Health Day, the care pupils showed for one another was heart-warming.

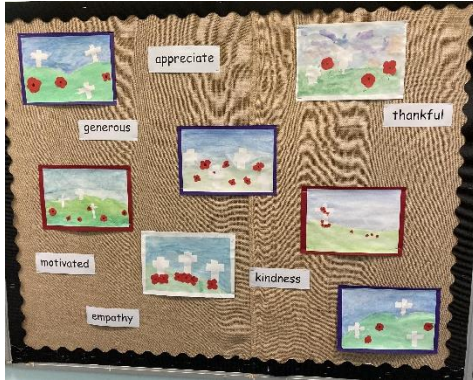


Mrs Griffiths and St Oswald's School Council



Remembrance at St Oswald's

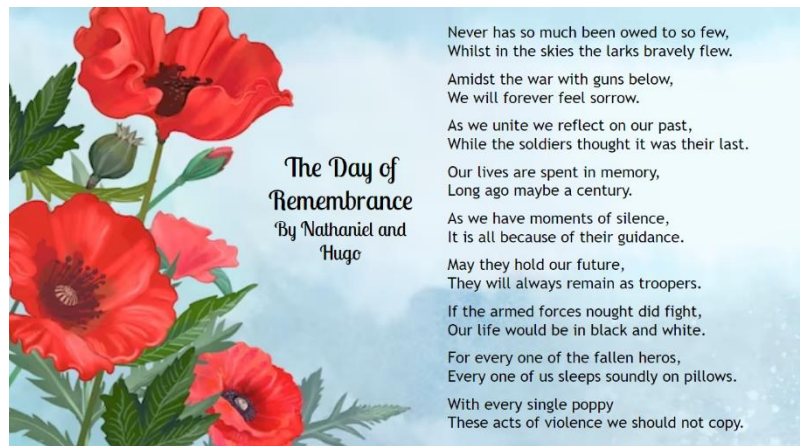
This half term, we have commemorated Remembrance Day at St Oswald's CE Primary School. As many of our families work within the armed forces, this is a particularly special day for us as a community. We have been able to share personal stories, thoughts and feelings about the events of the World Wars as well as conflicts that still continue today.



Children in Year 3/4 created beautiful pieces of art using watercolour backgrounds and layered poppies to remember those who died during the World Wars. We have displayed these in our Key Stage Two corridor, along with some words that we feel represent all those who served.

After taking part in a BBC Live poetry lesson, Nathaniel and Hugo (Year 5) were inspired to write their own poem about Remembrance Day.

It beautifully summarises the feelings of gratitude, respect and hope that we have all shared during our discussions about this special day.



On Friday, we came together as a school for our Remembrance Collective Worship. We have been working hard to practise a lovely song, 'Light a Candle', which we performed to parents and carers to spread our message of peace and hope. We were also delighted to welcome back Becky, John and Cliff who shared their own experiences of serving in the armed forces. We are always very grateful to hear their stories and to thank them for hosting our annual art competition inspired by Remembrance Day.



This year, it was the fantastic pieces of artwork produced by Annie (Year 3/4) and Noah (Year 5/6) who impressed our guests. Their names will be proudly presented on our 'Past and Present' plaque, alongside our previous years' winners.



Christmas only comes but once a year and this year here at St Oswald's the 'Christmas Cheer' has been as strong as ever. With new staff members taking the reins (do you like what I did there?) across the year groups, the children have been busy creating such wonderful Christmas gifts, which I can only hope have managed to reach home in one piece!

Away from the classroom, the children have enjoyed the use of the school hall, creating nativity with the younger ones. And the upper end of school took the short trip over to St Oswald's church to create their own piece of Christmas magic with a host of classic Christmas carols. None of this though, could have happened had it not been for the hard working members of the school staff. A special mention goes to our caretaker Mr Healey, whose tireless work to make sure on every occasion the chairs, stage and even our school 'elf on a shelf' is continuously laid out to perfection to enable visitors to sit and relax and enjoy the shows.

Miss Slater's recent end of term dance show also caused a stir. Much to her surprise there were lots of excited parents and carers eager to get a front row seat to see the children of KS1 perform. The dance baton now gets handed over next term to KS2 with high expectations. But I'm sure this is nothing that Miss Slater can't manage with her library of dance routines!

With the end of the year looming and a new one beginning I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

Mr Norman
Office Manager





St. Oswald's Church of England Primary School

Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future

Let us encourage one another – Hebrews 10.25

It was wonderful to see the children return back to school after the Christmas break. They were full of joy and excitement and a tale or two to tell of their Christmas holidays. It has also been a pleasure to welcome our new pupils this term, as well as Mr Martell who joins our staff team here, following several successful supply placements. Spring term at school always begins with a feeling of excitement for the new opportunities that lay ahead, despite the wintry weather.

We have many exciting opportunities planned for the children over the coming term to enrich their learning and stretch their horizons. Our KS2 choir will be performing at the Young Voices concert in Sheffield; our new Y6 Debate Club will be visiting London's Houses of Parliament; Purple Pig Farm will be visiting Early Years and Zoolab visiting Year 3/4; KS1 and Year 5/6 pupils will be visiting The Deep and Magna respectively.

We are so fortunate to have a staff team at school that work incredibly hard to provide a breadth of experiences for the children to enjoy. The care and attention that goes into the planning of lessons and activities beyond the school day, is incredibly appreciated. This includes our office staff, who as always, work their magic behind the scenes making bookings, organising travel and allocating funding.

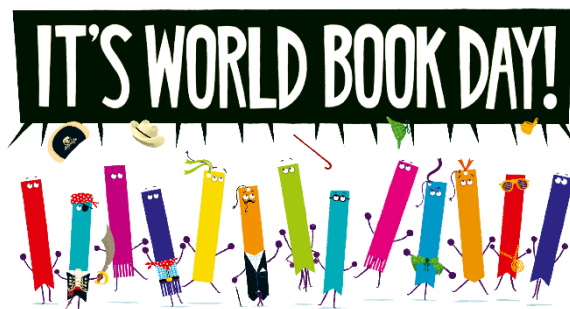
David Norman, Office Manager

We are thankful to be starting a new year together and have much to look forward to. I wish you all a very happy 2024 and will end with a few lines from our school prayer, which feel particularly fitting at this time of the year.

*'May our caring tree bloom with the values we show
And may our hearts be full of love'*

Jemma Dunne, Headteacher





'Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future.'

At St Oswald's, we foster a love of reading and embrace it across our curriculum. As part of this, we celebrate World Book Day each year through a variety of activities. This year, we invited parents and carers in for a 'stay and share a story' session across the phases. It was lovely to welcome so many families into St Oswald's where reading is celebrated, appreciated and respected.



"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers." – Charles W. Eliot



Continuing with our celebrations for reading, School Council organised a competition for World Book Day. All children at St Oswald's were invited to design a book in a box. School Council were amazed by the entries and found it a very tough choice to judge!



Thank you for reading all about World Book Day at St Oswald's Primary School!

Mrs Griffiths and School Council



Year 6 Houses of Parliament Trip!

Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future.

Here at St Oswald's Primary School, we don't just aim to provide children with an excellent education - we also want to provide our pupils with a wealth of experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.



Just before the Easter break, our Year 6 Debating Club run by Mr. Airey (Year 5/6) and Claire Sinclair (Chair of Governors) visited our capital city to see the Houses of Parliament. We took a guided tour of Parliament and sat in the public galleries in both the Houses of Lords and Commons, to observe democracy in action, before a workshop in the Parliamentary Education Centre. The

pupils were impeccably behaved throughout, asking thoughtful and considered questions and showed themselves to be real role-models for the school.

Earlier in the day, we had travelled to London by train, before a guided tour around London Bridge where we marvelled at the view across the city from the Glass Walkway at the top of Tower Bridge. This was an excellent opportunity for us to bring together some of our previous learning from units on topics such as the Great Fire of London and Monarchy.



Following our trip up London Bridge, we sailed up the Thames by boat, where we saw many of London's famous landmarks and got a good sense of the size and scale of our capital city, before arriving at Westminster Pier, by Big Ben in time for our tour and workshop.

We arrived back in York by 20:30 after dinner in Kings Cross Station and our train ride back. All of the adults who attended were incredibly proud of the pupils – we can't wait for next year!

“Wow, I can't believe we're actually *here!*”

“Are those *actual, real* MPs?”

“I think I'd like to be an MP when I grow up,”





A Musical Week at St Oswald's CE Primary School



At St Oswald's, music is an integral part of our curriculum and community. We love to sing together every week and enjoy playing lots of different instruments in our music lessons! This week has been particularly exciting and we would like to share with you some of the fantastic musical activities we have enjoyed together!



As well as our Key Stage Two choir, we have recently launched a brand new choir: 'St Oswald's Little Singers'. This group of 45 children in Year 1 and 2 are meeting every week to learn new songs and share a love of music together. We can't wait to perform in the Fulford community over the coming years!

"I love singing The Bare Necessities!" - Alice

"Singing makes me feel joy and I love the different melodies we learn together!" - Ava



Children in Year 3/4 loved having a workshop from the 'Orchestra for the Age of Enlightenment'. They learnt songs, body percussion rhythm and pieces on their recorders ready to join in with a city-wide concert at the NCEM which will explore the theme of tackling climate change together.



As part of their 'Meerkat Mail' topic, where they learn all about Africa, children in Year 1/2 experienced an African Drumming workshop this week. They learnt all about this exciting instrument and were able to learn and perform a variety of rhythms and beats.



We are so proud of the musical talents and enthusiasm of children at St Oswald's and can't wait to celebrate these achievements at our summer Arts Evening next half term. It will be a fantastic showcase of singing, dancing and performing on musical instruments!



Summer Term at St Oswald's Primary School

Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future.

Although the summer weather hasn't taken off yet, our summer term learning definitely has! Across school, our year's learning is culminating in some wonderful experiences for all with lasting memories being made...



Year 6 pupils have enjoyed their residential visit to Robinwood. The three-day trip includes a jam-packed schedule of adventurous/outdoor learning. The children and staff enjoyed every moment, and the feedback from Robinwood staff about the manners and conduct of our pupils was overwhelmingly positive.



Our youngest pupils in school are enjoying the provision that the staff work so hard to create each week. They are making particular use of the outdoor areas with new equipment and activities to enjoy.



The whole school enjoyed an amazing Playground Proms, where the band 'Graffiti Classics' gave an hour-long immersive performance for the children to enjoy. This was the perfect inspiration for our own Arts Evening that is fast approaching!



At St Oswald's we aim to provide our children with a breadth of experiences that prepare them for the next step of their journey in life. We are so proud of the confident, kind and talented young people they grow to be in their time with us. In these final, busy weeks of term, we will use our collective worships to pause and reflect on what we are thankful for, what we have learned, and where we are going to next.



St Oswald's CE Primary School

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This half term, through our school value of **Justice**, we have explored what it means to be courageous advocates. Our pupils and staff have made a real effort to consider doing the right thing to make a difference in the world, even when it means stepping out of our comfort zones and being brave. We reflected on the line of our school prayer:



'Teach us to take pride in our work and be courageous in our beliefs.'

We were delighted that two of our pupils, Milo and Savannah, entered the York Civic Trust public speaking competition this year. In the beautiful Merchant Adventurers' Hall, they debated the topic, 'York should be the capital city of the North' and spoke passionately and eloquently about their views.



Back in school, we raised over £1600 towards York RLFC and the MND charity as we were inspired by the courageous figure, Rob Burrows. The children participated in a 'Takeover Day' led by York City Knights, completing various physical challenges over the day, including a sponsored fun run.

The 4th July saw our pupils in Year 3/4 exercising their right to vote. Not being of age to vote in the General Election, they instead set up a polling station to vote on what would be cooked in their next design and technology lesson.

As we near the end of another school year, we have reflected on how thankful we are to be in such a caring and pro-active school. Our pupils make us proud every single day and we hope that through the opportunities we give them, they will be well prepared to move into the future and become the change-makers our world needs to see.

