



St Oswald's CE Primary Newsletter

Christmas 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to express my thanks for the support you have shown since the start of the school year. It has been especially wonderful to see so many of you at our Christmas events over the past few weeks and to receive such positive feedback on the children's various performances. We feel incredibly proud of each and every one of the children.

We will celebrate the last day of term as a whole school tomorrow, in the best way we know, with our Big Christmas Sing. This is taking place in the school hall at 9am, and parents/carers are welcome to join us. We expect it to be busy so will leave additional space at the back of the adult chairs as standing room.

I hope that you have a fantastic Christmas break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 7th January.

Christmas message from Bishop Barry

Bishop Barry has filmed a Christmas message for schools and their families. Please do share with your child at home if you would like to. <https://vimeo.com/1036747060?share=copy#t=0>

Parent/Carer feedback response

Overleaf you will find a response to the feedback we received during our consultation regarding the proposed school building plans. Thank you to all who shared their responses with us; it has been very valuable in feeding into the considerations moving ahead. I would also like to extend my thanks to those who completed the school meals survey. The responses have been collated and will be shared with ABM, our caterers. We will share feedback from this process with you in due course.

Inset Day 6th January 2025

School will be closed on Monday 6th January. As all of our St Oswald's staff team will be attending a joint training day offsite with staff from other York maintained schools, we will be unable to respond to phone calls/emails on that day.

Kind regards

Jemma Dunne

Jemma Dunne

Planning Consultation Feedback

Thank you for the interest and support shown over the consultation held during parents' evenings this term. Many of you took the time to view and discuss the plans with a member of the team and provided some really valuable insight and feedback. The planning for the building work is ongoing and so the responses we have received will continue to be discussed and considered. Below, we would like to share with you an initial summary:

Key categories of concern that were shared:

- Use of the school car park
- Safety of children/pedestrians on School Lane
- Safety of children/pedestrians on Heslington Lane
- Requests for additional bike storage at the proposed second school entrance

We are keen to improve traffic congestion around our school and to play our part in reducing it. This was a key reason for introducing a second entrance to the south of our school. The second entrance would have its own cycle/scooter storage as we want to make our school as accessible as possible and to encourage families to travel by foot or bicycle.

Actions we have taken so far:

- Before half term we monitored the number of cars using the school car park at the start and end of the school day. We were aware that more cars were trying to access it than we had spaces, (around half of the spaces are taken by staff who travel a distance to teach the pupils) and this meant that the space at the front of school was being used unsafely to park on. We trialled a closure of the turning circle, along with communication with families to encourage walking/cycling/scooting to school. This had a positive impact and we saw fewer cars being brought into the car park and safer parking. We will continue with this closure moving forward.
- A traffic monitoring visit has been held with Cllr Kate Ravilious and a road safety officer from City of York Council. As a result of this monitoring, we have been told that we meet the threshold for a school crossing patrol at the zebra crossing on Heslington Lane. We are delighted with this outcome and have requested timescales for implementation from CYC's transport service.

Future actions:

- We hope to work alongside the Parish Council to explore the possibility of a new footpath being laid within the Parish Field linking to the new school entrance. The aim of this being to maximise safety of children, to increase ease of access and to promote active lifestyles.
- A crossing patrol will be provided outside of the new School Lane entrance during the building work, and for longer if needed, by a member of school staff.
- Continue to work alongside CYC's road safety officers to develop a strategy for making School Lane and Heslington Lane as safe as possible.
- We plan to introduce regular initiatives, such as Walk to School week within the school calendar.

How can you support?

- Walk, scoot or cycle to school every day that you can
- Stop using the school car park wherever possible
- Respect those who need to use the accessible parking bays by keeping them clear
- Use the road and footpaths, particularly on School Lane, safely.

As a collective, you already show such amazing support for our school and the majority of feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We really appreciate the effort you are making to keep our children safe and our school a happy one! Thank you.