



St Oswald's CE Primary Newsletter

February 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end this half term, I would like to share some school updates with you. It has been a jam-packed six weeks since Christmas and we have much more to look forward to before Easter arrives. I wish you all a restful half term break and hope that some spring sunshine starts to break through for us all soon. In the meantime, I have encouraged the children to keep their hopes up for warmer weather by spotting snowdrops, the first spring flowers. They've certainly been finding more than me so far!

Jemma Dunne

Learning for all

We can see so many of our pupils have truly found their feet in their current year groups and have taken strides forward with their learning since Christmas. In our celebration workshops this half term, pupils have been recognised for their excellent attitudes to their classwork but also for showing the personal and social skills that are preparing them for the wider world. I have been especially proud when visiting classrooms to see the level of confidence growing and children that are proud to share their achievements. Each half term we share the **key learning journey** from each phase in school in a slideshow that you can find here: <https://www.stoswalds.york.sch.uk/look-at-what-we-have-been-learning>

Assessments have been taking place this half term to help us measure the progress your child is making in their core areas of learning, and to inform our teaching moving forwards. We have been really impressed with the resilience and can-do attitude our children have displayed. Feedback from the assessments will be shared with you at the next parents evening.

We love reading at St Oswald's and as part of our **World Book Day** celebrations, we would like to welcome parents and carers into school for a 'stay and share a story' session. For those who are able to join us, please enter school at 8.45am with your child via the library entrance (on the relevant day - see overleaf). The school hall will be set up ready for an enjoyable and relaxed session where you can share a story with your child. The Early Years story session will be held in the classrooms. World Book Day itself will be celebrated in school on Thursday 6th March, and children are invited to come in costume as their favourite book character. Over half term, your child may like to take part in the School Council competition to create a story book.

Caring for each other

It has been great to see the children able to enjoy all of the outdoor areas during playtimes and the level of physical activity increase. Thank you for supporting us by providing wellies for your child to wear, and forgiving us for the muddy uniforms that I'm sure you've been collecting at the end of each day!

Alongside other schools in York, we are reflecting on our responsibility to promote children's wellbeing/safety and are considering becoming a **smartphone-free environment** in the new academic year. Neighbouring schools such as Fishergate and Fulford have already banned smartphones. As always, your views are really important to us. Please help us to shape our policy moving forward by answering our short survey as honestly as possible: <https://forms.gle/1e4TaGWaR5t8jtjh6>

Mr Norman's epic run for Oswald the Owl has got off to a fantastic start. Thank you to everyone who has donated towards the challenge and the kind words of support you have shared. Many of the children in school have shown their support by joining Mr Norman in a distance run today! You can read more about the challenge here: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/davids-epic-run-for-st-oswalds-ce-primary-school#start>

Healthy Child drop-in clinics are now open on the first Tuesday of every month. The team are really friendly and supportive, so please do pop-in for a chat or any questions you may have.

Preparing for the future

We say goodbye to Mrs Walton today as she starts her maternity leave. We wish her every happiness for the year ahead. After half term, Miss Rowe will be re-joining the staff team here at St O's as she steps in to teach Barn Owls Class.

Science week is always a really enriching and exciting week at school. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to visit us to share an insight into your work. Finding out first-hand about science-based careers is a fantastic way to inspire our children, and we are very grateful to you.

Family Learning sessions will be held in Fulford Library each Wednesday morning after Easter. These will be a fantastic way to prepare your pre-school children for school life. The first 5 sessions will be based on **stories, songs and rhymes**, followed by a **Getting Ready for School** programme. We cannot recommend these highly enough!

Help us to kick start a more sustainable approach to travelling to school. If you can, leave your car at home and encourage your child to take part in the **Big Walk and Wheel Week** in the week beginning 24th March. There will be a reward for the most active class and we would love to place in the national competition which we have not entered for many years!

Dates for the diary

Mon 24th Feb: School reopens

Tues 25th Mar: Early Years - farm visiting / Reverend Sue's Collation Service at St Oswald's Church 7pm

Weds 26th Mar: FOSOSF (PTA) annual general meeting (AGM) 8.45am Fulford Library

Mon 3rd Mar: Year 5/6 Stay and Share a Story session 8.40am – school hall

Tues 4th Mar: Year 3/4 Stay and Share a Story session 8.40am – school hall

Tues 4th Mar: Healthy Child Service drop-in clinic in Fulford Library 9.30am-10.30am – open to all Fulford families

Weds 5th Mar: Year 1/2 Stay and Share a Story session 8.40am – school hall

Thurs 6th Mar: World Book Day (costumes welcome) Reception Stay and Share a Story session 8.40am – in class

Sat 8th Mar: Dance Club attending the Everybody Dance Festival at the Theatre Royal (2.30pm arrive/7pm show)

Wb. 10th Mar: Science week

Fri 14th Mar: Y5/6 visiting Fulford High science department

Fri 21st Mar: Red Nose Day (wear something red non-uniform day)

Wb. 24th Mar: 'Big Walk and Wheel Week' (Walk/cycle to school competition)

Mon 24th Mar: Year 3 Visit to Askham Bryan Wildlife Park

Tues 25th Mar: Year 1/2 Collective Worship in St Oswald's Church (All Y1/2 parents and carers warmly welcome)

Tues 25th Mar: Year 4 Visit to Askham Bryan Wildlife Park

Tues 1st Apr: Healthy Child Service drop-in clinic in Fulford Library 9.30am-10.30am – open to all Fulford families

Fri 4th Apr: 9am Easter service (school hall) Last day before the Easter holidays

Dates for the Diary – Term Times

Tues 22nd Apr: Summer term 1 begins

Mon 5th May: Bank holiday (school closed)

Wb 26th May: Half term (school closed)

Mon 2nd June: Summer term 2 begins

Fri 18th July: Last day of term before the summer holidays