

St Oswald's CE Primary

New Starters

As our school year begins, we have been settling in our new Reception Class starters. We have all been enjoying our first few weeks and have been getting used to 'big school'!



Our new topic is All About Me and we have been finding out about ourselves. We have been finding out about our emotions and learning how to draw ourselves and our facial features on our portraits.



We have been sharing fantastic stories to help us with our work on ourselves and our families and this week we have made some lovely owls to match our Owl Babies story by Martin Waddell. This story has helped us make connections with the emotions of happy, worried and sad. It has helped us to talk about the owl family and our families too. We shared our family trees and could tell the adults lots and lots about them!

We have been enjoying learning about all of the wonderful areas of provision we have to play in at St Oswald's. We are now very independent and having a go at activities on our own and with our adults.

We have had a great few weeks and we are looking forward to even more fun this term.

The EYFS Team

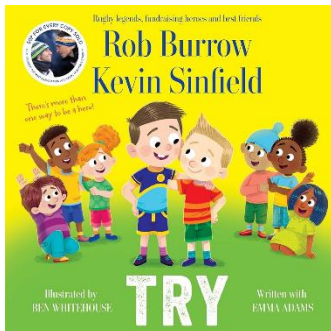


Hello Yellow



On Thursday 10th October, St Oswald's CE Primary once again took part in supporting the 'Hello Yellow' campaign on behalf of Young Minds, MND Association and York RLFC Foundation. School Council and Mr Waterfall-Smith worked exceptionally hard to organise a day filled with activities to make awareness of the importance of our mental health and how to show resilience.

Mr Waterfall-Smith began the day by bringing the school together as part of our Whole School Collective Worship to discuss the importance of resilience to support our mental health. He began by reading the inspirational story 'Try' by Rob Burrows and Kevin Sinfield.



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. Throughout the day, some children took part in mindfulness colouring, Yoga, reflection moments, outdoor resilience activities organised by Mr Sellars amongst many other things! We focused on what we should celebrate about ourselves and techniques that can support our mental health.

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.

St Oswald's School Council, Mrs Griffiths and
Mr Waterfall-Smith





Remembrance at St Oswald's



'Caring for each other'

We have once again 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. Mr Norman, our office manager, co-ordinated a special Remembrance display at the front of school this year, which was a beautiful spot to hold our 2-minute silence on Armistice Day.

On Wednesday 6th November, our Year 5 and 6 service pupils were invited to attend Ripon Cathedral's Remembrance service. We had the privilege of reading our own prayers to the congregation and the children made us very proud with their respectful behaviour and confidence.



On Friday 8th, we came together as a school for our Remembrance Collective Worship. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils led the service for us and it was fantastic. They presented their learning about the World Wars through the character of Edith and travelled back in time looking through her scrapbook. The service was full of drama re-enactments, songs and information, and was closely linked to our school value of Respect.

We are always very grateful when John, a war veteran, joins us to share in our service. John will often share a snapshot of his experience as a child and serving soldier during war times. It brings our learning to life and helps us to value the difference veterans have made to our lives. This year, he spoke about being an evacuee and what that experience was like. He also asked us to remember the soldiers from other countries who support Britain.

Each year the Royal British Legion hold a school Remembrance competition. It was the fantastic artwork and prayer produced by Evangeline (KS1) and Anya (KS2) that impressed most and were selected as the winning pieces. Their names will be proudly presented on our 'Past and Present' plaque, alongside our previous years' winners.





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Christmas has come to St Oswald's CE Primary! The school is cosy and inviting thanks to the efforts of the staff and our PTA, Friends of St Oswald's School. The children have been learning about the first Christmas story and sharing some wonderful performances with their parents and carers over the month of December.

Along with the celebrations, the children, led by the school worship team, have been considering our school value of compassion. Our Year 3/4 pupils led their families in a beautiful collective worship at St Oswald's Church on the theme of 'Compassion at Christmas'. They reminded us that although Christmas is the happiest time of year for some, it can be the hardest of times for others. We were encouraged to take a moment to be still and reflect on how we can show compassion to those who may need it.

Back in classrooms, the pupils across school joined in mixed-age pairs to create some wonderful Christmas cards and messages. These were later delivered to residents in the local care homes by members of the school worship team.

We will end our celebrations with much singing: Our Year 5/6 pupils will be leading an evening of carols at St Oswald's Church, following on from performances from our Year 3 Choir and key stage one Little Singers. It is tradition to end the term with a Big Christmas Sing and we can't think of a better way to see in the Christmas break from school.





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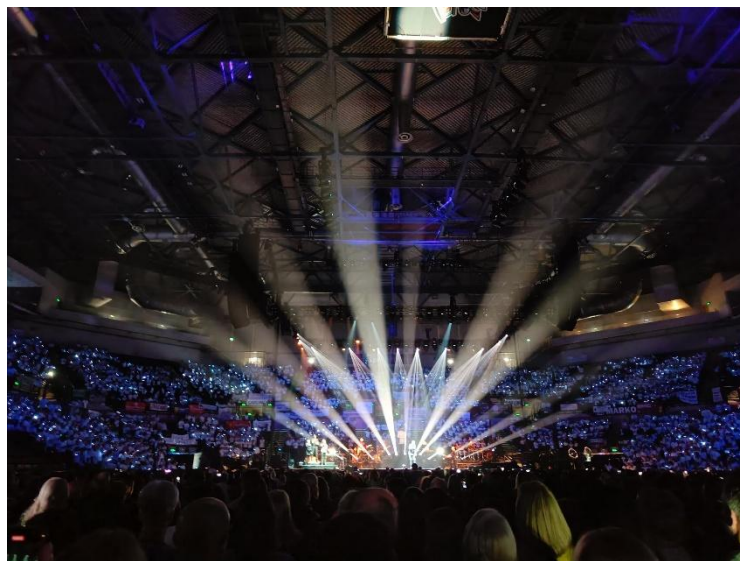
Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future.

At St Oswald's we love to sing! The songs we sing bring us together as a school community and are a way of helping us to celebrate who we are. Each week, we sing together in collective worship and beyond that, many of our children choose to join choir.

Over the years our choir has gone from strength to strength. We can no longer accommodate all the children into just one school group, so we now have our Year 1/2 Little Singers, a Year 3 Choir and a Key Stage 2 Young Voices Choir.

Our younger singers rehearsed and performed last term in various visits to elderly residents of Fulford and to mark the opening of the school Christmas fair, which was joyful and has become a real tradition. In the first week back in January, our Young Voices Choir joined with thousands of other children and professional performers in Sheffield Arena for the Young Voices concert. It was a fantastic experience for all involved - the children (and staff) sang their hearts out and had the best day! We were so proud of the children who attended as they behaved impeccably, embraced the experience and were great fun to spend the day with.

'I love it when we sing together in collective worship, because it feels like we are one big family singing with one voice.' Year 4 pupil.



Photograph of the Young Voices concert in Sheffield Arena, taken by a parent in the audience.



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Everybody Dance Festival 2025

The Year 3/4 Dance club were delighted to participate in the 'Everybody Dance Festival' at York's Theatre Royal on Saturday 9th March. For many children, this was the first time they had stepped on to a stage but they did not let their nerves show as they astounded the audience with a moving piece of dance.



The theme for this year's festival was 'Home'. In January, the children shared their ideas about what home meant to them and how lucky they were to have happy homes. We then incorporated their ideas into a piece of dance showing how love, respect and kindness can help to fix unhappy home. The children also found it fascinating to see how other dance groups had interpreted the theme.

The festival was run by 'York Dance Space' who are an amazing community dance organisation, championing dance for everyone. This was evident as all of the performances celebrated many wonderful dancers from different walks of life. We'd like to thank them for giving us this amazing opportunity.



Photographs of the children performing at the 'Everybody Dance Festival 2025' taken by Matthew Cooper