



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

Monday 1st September

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have had a lovely summer break and the staff team and I look forward to welcoming you all back to St Oswald's on **Wednesday 3rd September**. I trust that you will find the information below helpful as you prepare for the new school year but please do not hesitate to contact the school office with any questions you may have.

School Vision and the year ahead

At St Oswald's we strive to give our children every opportunity to love learning, to encourage one another and to flourish. Our school vision sits at the heart of our school and our committed staff team will continue to move forward with '**Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future**' at the core of all our work. We have three simple school rules, which we appreciate your support in encouraging at home:

Be respectful
Be safe
Be our best

Open Evening

We look forward to welcoming you into school on **Tuesday 16th September (3.30pm - 5.15pm) for our start-of-year open evening**. This is a chance for your child to introduce you to their new class teacher and to show you their classrooms. As always, families are also welcome to explore the shared areas in school, for example to share a story in the reading space. We just ask that the spaces are treated respectfully as they have taken much time and care to create.

Summer Reading Challenge

As promised, we will once again celebrate the children who complete the Summer Reading Challenge with a treat. Anyone who brings in their finisher's certificate will be invited to a **hot chocolate 'relax and read' event** on Wednesday 17th September as a reward and will be entered into a prize draw to win a book of their choice from our '100 books to read at St Oswald's' list!

Smartphone Free School

We allow Y5/6 pupils to hand a phone in at school as part of their independent walking to/from school plan if parents or carers choose. However, we are now a **smartphone free school** and ask that **no child is sent to school with a smartphone**. Basic 'brick' phones are encouraged for those who feel a phone is needed. If your child will be joining Year 6 and has already been provided with a smartphone, we will make an exception this year if you feel strongly that they need it with them for safety reasons.

School Meal Price Increases

Due to increasing costs, ABM are having to increase the price of a school meal by 5p to £2.90.

The increase will not affect those pupils who are eligible for '**Free School Meals**'. If you think that your child may be eligible for a free school meal and you currently do not claim, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> for further information and guidance. The form is very easy to fill in and our school office team would be happy to support you in applying.

ParentPay Update

We ask that any families with outstanding payments on ParentPay make these as soon as possible to clear balances before new payment items are released this week. Please speak to the school office if you require support with this.

Uniform

Our uniform policy is set out on our school website: <https://www.stoswalds.york.sch.uk/school-uniform> for those who would like to check the requirements ready for a new school year. The key change to our policy for September is the **addition of plain black trainers**, if preferred, to smart school shoes. We'd also encourage named wellies and waterproofs as we plan to be outdoors in all weather.

Term-time holidays

We continue to implement City of York Council's guidance for term-time holidays. Any family taking a child out of school for 5 or more days for a holiday will be issued with a fine. This includes those absences where parents inform us that their child is ill but we know that they have been on holiday. The children learn so much in every school day, usually building upon the day/s before and unauthorised absences can have a huge impact on learning. Term dates and holidays can be found at the end of this letter and on our school website. [term dates](#)

Communication

This year we will continue to operate an open-door policy with teachers available for a quick chat at the start and end of each day. If you require a longer conversation or further support, please don't hesitate to arrange a telephone or face-to-face meeting with us. Teachers will reply to emails at their earliest opportunity, which is usually after the school day has ended. Any emails for staff can be sent via the school office stoswalds.primary@york.gov.uk At St Oswald's one of our core values is respect. All staff endeavour to live out this value every day and we ask that in turn, parents and carers treat our staff in a respectful manner at all times.

Whole school newsletters are shared via email on a half termly basis. We have made the decision to move away from using social media to share updates with you. Phase newsletters are shared fortnightly, via an online platform called Seesaw, and will include updates, key information, events and dates for the diary. Our website has been developed to be a useful portal of information, including half '[look what we've been learning](#)' slideshows for each key stage. We hope you will find the site simple to navigate and helpful.

Parents and carers are warmly welcome at our weekly celebration worship that takes place each Friday morning at 9am. Please note that children in reception only join us for this once they have settled fully into primary school life and we will update reception parents when they do. Our first celebration worship is on **Friday 12th September**.

School Building Work Update

Sewells FM have been working hard over the summer holiday on our building project and you will notice some changes when you return on Wednesday: all of our outdoor play equipment has been repaired and is now ready for the children to enjoy again; our all-weather track has been installed and has a tarmac surface which is safe to use while we await a final resin finish and early years are developing their new outdoor area. **We are hopeful that our second entrance on School Lane will be ready for use from the start of term.** Families can enter using the new gate next to the Parish Field, making a much shorter and safer journey for those coming from the south of school (Fordlands Road/Germany Beck direction). Any families coming from the Heslington Lane direction will be able to continue using our side path, with entry next to the front office, as they were before the summer holidays. We encourage families to enjoy a walk/cycle to and from school each day, and ask that you avoid School Lane for parking vehicles for safety reasons. The school car park remains open for those who have no option but to travel by car.

School gates will open at 8.30am with doors open between 8.40 and 8.45am. Children should be in school for a prompt 8.45am start to the day and we thank you for your consistent support with this.

I wish you all an enjoyable end to the summer break and look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely



Jemma Dunne

