



St Oswald's CE Primary Newsletter

January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the spring term! School is once again abuzz and we are so happy to be back with the children. Apologies for a longer newsletter this month - we seem to have a lot of news to share with you this time!

Jemma Dunne

Learning for all

Our new term has got off to a busy start with lots of exciting new topics and learning taking place across school. Key events are listed at the end of this newsletter so please take a few moments to see what dates may need to be added to your calendar.

Last week, 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! I'd like to thank Mrs Walton for the hard work she put in to rehearsing with the choir each week and the hours spent organising the day. And also the children, who behaved impeccably, embraced the experience and were great fun to spend the day with.

Friendship is our school value this half term. This week, we've been thinking about 'unlikely friendships' and how by being kind we can make the best, sometimes unexpected, friendships. Our challenge this half term is to 'be a friend'. We will be celebrating the children who are displaying fantastic friendship skills in collective worship each Friday morning with a caring tree leaf and certificate.

At this time of year, the wet, muddy weather means uniform and the school building becomes really dirty really quickly, therefore we have traditionally stayed off the playing fields. However, we are keen to maximise the use of our outdoor space for learning and play and so are inviting the children to bring **wellies and waterproof trousers to school to wear outdoors. From the start of February**, any child who is wearing wellies will be allowed to play on the fields at breaktimes. We are hoping to build a bank of spare items so that all children can access the green space. If you have any at home that are no longer needed and are happy to donate, they'd be gratefully received by class teachers or the school office. Over time, we are planning on introducing better storage, but for now your child should have named wellies/waterproofs in a (named) bag to keep on their peg.

Caring for each other

We are delighted to send our **congratulations** to Mrs Griffiths on the safe arrival of her baby Olivia and to Mr Lloyd on the safe arrival of his baby Beatrice. The girls were born just one day apart so it's been a very exciting week! Mr Lloyd will be spending the next couple of weeks at home with his family and Miss Rowe will be teaching Rabbits Class in his absence.

We are looking for a **school crossing patrol** person (lollipop person) to work just an hour a day. If you are interested in the position, or know a grandparent or friend who might be, please find more details by visiting <https://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolCrossingPatrols>. We hope you will agree that this is a fantastic measure to have in place and will make a significant difference to the safety of our families using the very busy Heslington Lane crossing.

Mr Norman's fundraising challenge - Virtual run from St Oswald's to Allianz Rugby Stadium, Twickenham. Mr Norman is hoping to raise money to replace our much-loved Oswald Owl sculpture at the front of school. For many years a beautiful carved owl stood pride of place on the school roundabout, but last year he went missing! (A secret between the parents/carers and ourselves is that the sculpture had completely rotted through and become unsafe to keep). We would love to replace him, and perhaps even have a wooden sculpture of each class creature surrounding him at the front of school. But this comes at considerable expense. Details on how to sponsor Mr Norman in his fantastic challenge will follow.

We are looking forward to the launch of a new **Little Troopers Club** in partnership with Lord Deramore's and Fishergate Primary School. Thanks to successful grant funding, we are excited to offer this club, which will be available to pupils from military families, starting this term. This initiative is aimed at providing a

supportive, fun, and safe space for our service children to come together, relax, and engage in a variety of creative, social, and mindful activities. Service families should have received a letter this week to share more details about the club.

Preparing for the future

Mrs Walton's maternity leave is fast approaching. We are delighted that Miss Rowe will be returning to St Oswald's to teach Barn Owls Class in Mrs Walton's absence. I am sure you will join us in wishing Mrs Walton all the best for a happy and healthy maternity leave.

At the start of term, we had the wonderful news that Reverend Sue has been appointed as the incumbent vicar at St Oswald's Church. We are so pleased that she will be staying in the parish as the children and staff really love her, and the caring, inclusive relationship she encourages us to have with the church. Here are a few words from Sue: *I am so excited to have made the decision to stay in Fulford. A big influence in making my decision has been how much I enjoy working with all the children and staff at St Oswald's School! I am told they enjoy me coming in for collective worship or to visit a class... I can tell you I enjoy it even more! After my licensing on Tuesday 25 February, my intention is to remain as vicar of St Oswald's Church until I retire - which hopefully won't be for a long time yet. Sue S*

We have been working hard to build stronger links with agencies in York to better support our families and strengthen our community offer. Starting in February, **The Healthy Child Service** will be running a drop-in clinic from 9.30-10.30am on the first Tuesday of each month, this will be held in Fulford Library, next to school.

After Easter, we are hopeful that **Family Learning** will be running sessions each Wednesday morning of the half term. These are really popular elsewhere in the city and are aimed at reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents /carers to explore ways that you can support your families at home through activities and play. We will confirm the details/dates prior to starting.

PCSO Toni Wadsworth and her team have been working more closely with school – including visits to help children understand how to stay safe in the community. Toni has asked us to share this introduction with you:

Fulford / Fishergate PCSO

Hello everyone, I am PCSO Toni Wadsworth 6551, PCSO for the Fulford area.

I have worked the Fulford area for over 4 years and have been serving as a PCSO in York for over 15 years. As part of my role, I assist with incidents of anti-social behaviour, crime prevention and community problem solving.

I regularly attend community events and have attended the school to visit children regarding my role in the community and keeping safe.

You may see me around school on occasions, please feel free to speak to me regarding any concerns you have in the community.

FOSOSF (Friends of St Oswald's School, Fulford – Parent Teacher Association)

Unfortunately, FOSOSF, like many other school PTAs, is at risk of closure if we cannot gain enough members to keep it active. We are incredibly keen to rebuild the team of volunteers that help to organise and run our school/community events as the benefits, both social and financial, are huge. For example, many school trips and visitors are currently subsidised by donations, which would otherwise come at a full cost to parents and carers throughout the year. We are hosting a coffee morning on **Tuesday 11th February 8.45-9.45am** for anyone interested in supporting. Although there are key roles such as Chair to fill, there is also space for anyone who can volunteer smaller amounts of time, or even help with the prep for events such as craft-making and organising resources. If you are interested in supporting, but unable to make the coffee morning, please contact the school office to share your details.

Lauren Cook has decided now is the right time to step back from her role as Chair of FOSOSF. We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Lauren for the commitment she has shown in her role over the past 4 years – the difference she and the team have made to supporting us to develop our school environment and funding school trips/visitors has been significant.

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Dates for the diary

- 20/22 Jan: Mrs Walton's class parents' evenings
- Wed 22nd Jan: KS1 Dinostar visitor workshops
- Tues 4th Feb: Healthy Child Service drop-in clinic in Fulford Library 9.30am-10.30am
- Fri 7th Feb: NSPCC number day (maths morning in school)
- Mon 10th Feb: Year 6 visiting Fulford High for performance
- Tues 11th Feb: FOSOSF Coffee Morning 8.45am – Library all welcome
- Tues 11th Feb: Year 6 parent/carer SATS information evening 5.30pm – school hall
- Weds 12th Feb: SEND parent/carer coffee afternoon 2-3pm
- Thurs 13th Feb: Year 5/6 Visit to York's Chocolate Story
- Fri 14th Feb: Last day before half term week**
- Mon 24th Feb: School reopens/** Early Years farm visiting school
- 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
- 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 (times to be confirmed)
- 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)
- Tues 1st Apr: Healthy Child Service drop-in clinic in Fulford Library 9.30am-10.30am
- Fri 4th Apr: 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