



St Oswald's CE Primary Newsletter

March 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring has arrived and we have been really enjoying the warmer, lighter days outside. We will be celebrating the end of spring term with a big Easter sing at 9am on Friday (tomorrow), to which you are all very welcome. I hope that you have a wonderful spring break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 14th April.

Jemma Dunne

Learning for all

Once again, it has been wonderful to welcome so many of you in school to share your children's learning and progress over the past half term. We have been delighted to see you at our stay-and-share-a-story sessions, parents' evenings, collective worships and phase events.

World Book Day 'Week' was a huge success in school with so many parents and carers sharing a love of reading with the children. As I said in an earlier email, reading with your children is one of the most beneficial things you can do to help their development and it was a joy to see so many of you sharing stories as part of our stay-and-share-a-story mornings. Our 'chocotastic' bars were a hit with all 400 selling out and the winners of the golden tickets have been enjoying their prizes/experiences over the past few weeks.

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>

We are incredibly proud of our recent musical performances outside of school. Our Year 3/4 dance club performed at York Theatre Royal, representing our school as fantastic ambassadors with a beautiful "around the world" themed piece. Our Key Stage Two Choir performed at Young Voices at Sheffield Arena and were amazing not just on the evening itself but in the weeks leading up to the concert, where they showed great commitment learning a wide range of songs. Both events were a pleasure to be a part of, and the children made us incredibly proud.

As we end the spring term, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff. Their tireless commitment shines through every single day. In particular, the time given to wider school life and wellbeing: we have packed so many wider curriculum events and experiences which the children have loved both in and out of school. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a passionate and devoted team. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for everything they do.

Caring for each other

We have a significant staffing update to share with you. At the end of the school year, after 13 years of service at St Oswald's, Mr Waterfall-Smith will be moving on to pastures new. Mr Waterfall-Smith is part of the fabric of our school and lives and breathes our school vision; we will be very sad to see him leave. We are, however, proud of his achievements and wish him all the best as he starts his new role at Terrington Hall Preparatory School.

We are also delighted to share that, thanks to a generous donation from a parent, we have now planted the first of our very own St Oswald's snowdrops. In school, we talk about how snowdrops are a sign of hope and remind us to appreciate beauty even during the long, dark days of winter. Be sure to keep an eye on the roundabout at the front of the school next year to see them in bloom.

Preparing for the future

When we return after the Easter holidays, we will quickly be back into the swing of learning, building on the year's achievements, and for some pupils, preparing for statutory assessments. Summer term at St Oswald's is a lot of hard work and a lot of fun! The best way you can support us and your child is to help get your child to school, on time, every day. Having strong attendance is not about ticking boxes; it helps children be present for learning, build resilience and to strengthen routines, all of which prepares them for the future. We know how hard you already work with this - our school attendance continues to be above the national average - and greatly appreciate your ongoing support.

Devices - Easter is the perfect time to have a spring clean of smart devices! We encourage you to take the opportunity to check in with what your children are engaging with at home and perhaps make a switch. Apps such as BBC iPlayer are full of regulated, selected content that is suitable for children, whereas Youtube is highly unregulated with algorithms set to lead children into more extreme versions of content they have initially enjoyed.

We are expecting a very exciting delivery of our new Oswald sculpture very soon and can't wait to share it with you all. Watch this space (...and the roundabout at the front of school)!

Dates for the diary

Fri 27th March: 9am Easter Sing (school hall - all welcome) **Last day before the Easter holidays**

Further details to follow but key summer term dates already in the diary are:

Tues 14th Apr: Summer term 1 begins

21st/22nd Apr: Year 4 STEM day with visitor

Weds 22nd Apr: KS1 Drumming workshop

28th/29th Apr: Year 2 STEM day with visitor

Mon 4th May: Bank holiday (school closed)

Tues 5th May: Y3/4 Cooking morning (parents/carers invited)

Fri 8th May: Y5/6 Wellbeing day

Wb. 11th May: Y6 SATS Week / Assessment week in school

Fri 15th May: Y5/6 Visit to Rowntree Park

Wb 25th May: Half term (school closed)

Mon 1st June: Summer term 2 begins

1st-3rd June: Year 6 residential at Robinwood

Wb 1st/8th June: Year 4 MTC (multiplication tables check) week

Wb 8th June: Phonics screening check week (Year 1 and some Year 2s)

Friday 12th June: Year 5 'Night Under the Stars'

Tues 16th June: 'Our Story' whole school diversity day

Thurs 18th June: Arts Evening

Wb. 22nd June: Sports days week

Tues 23rd June: KS1 trip to Wonderlab/NRM

Weds 1st July: Year 6-7 transition day

Weds 8th July: FOSOSF Summer Picnic 4.30-6.30

Thurs 9th July: Year 5/6 performances

Tues 14th July: End of year open classrooms for parents and carers 3.30-5.15pm

Fri 17th July: Last day of term before the summer holidays

Weds 9th Sept: School reopens to children for the 2026-2027 academic year (full term dates to follow)