



St Oswald's CE Primary Newsletter

July 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence, develop new skills and achieve so much across all areas of school life. They continue to make us incredibly proud, and it has been a privilege to share in their successes and celebrate their many achievements. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff team, who work with such care, enthusiasm and commitment to ensure that every child has the very best experiences and opportunities. Their hard work and passion make such a difference to our school community. I look forward to seeing many of you at our final end-of-year celebrations and events over the coming days. Thank you once again for your continued support, and I wish you and your families a wonderful summer break.

Jemma Dunne

Learning for all

You should now have received your child's end of year report, which details and celebrates the progress that has been made over the school year. Year 6 SATs results are to follow, a bit later than usual this year, but I want to credit the way our pupils conducted themselves during the exams, showing a mature, 'can-do' attitude. We are proud of each and every one of them.

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is now open and is a great way to spend your quieter summer days and an even better way of keeping your child's reading skills, and love of reading, developing whilst they are away from school. The challenge invites children, to read six or more library books over the summer. There are stickers and other rewards for every book read, with a medal and certificate for every child who completes the challenge. Taking part is completely free and children have until the start of September to finish. We love the reading challenge at St Oswald's and came in second place once again amongst York schools last year! As usual, we plan to 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** in school time 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! Your children can sign up now at Fulford Library!

Caring for each other

Staffing Update: We have some sad farewells to say as the school year comes to an end. Firstly, to Mr Waterfall-Smith, who over the years has undoubtedly made such a difference to hundreds of children; he will be sorely missed as he moves on to his new role at Terrington Prep School. Miss Slater left us at Christmas to travel to Australia and it may come as little surprise that she loves it there so much she has decided to stay longer. We wish her all the very best and hope she comes back to visit us soon! And finally, Mr Winn, who has been a wonderful forest school lead over the past two years, is starting a new adventure with his own art gallery and studio in Micklegate Bar. Mr Winn will be back to work with us at times, but for now we wish him an amazing experience doing what he loves best.

Collective worship this Friday morning will be a chance to say goodbye to our staff and pupil leavers and for our Year 6 pupils to say goodbye to the other children in school. Year 6 will host their full leavers assembly at 2pm for their own parents and carers. As usual, all are welcome to join the morning Collective Worship.

Preparing for the future

As we near the end of this academic year, we would once again appreciate your feedback on how well you feel we are moving forward with our school vision and provision. **Our parent survey** is now open. If you can spare a few minutes to share your feedback with us, we would appreciate it.

School uniform has been maintained to a good standard this year. Thank you for your support with this. Our uniform policy, and the link to purchase affordable second-hand uniform 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. Please note that studs are the only safe/appropriate earrings for in school.

Children wearing hoop earrings will be asked to remove them. The key change to our policy this year was the **addition of plain black trainers**, if preferred, to smart school shoes. We'd also encourage wellies and waterproofs as we plan to be outdoors in all weather.

We currently 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. We are a **smartphone free school** and we ask that **no child is sent to school with a smartphone**. Basic 'brick' phones are encouraged for those who feel a phone is needed.

Dates for the diary

Thurs 18th July: EYFS sports morning 9am
Fri 19th July: Collective worship 9am (Year 6 leading – all parents/carers welcome)
Fri 19th July: Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2pm (Year 6 parents/carers welcome)
Fri 19th July: Last day of term before the summer holidays

2026-2027

School Year Dates

Mon 7th Sept: Inset day (school closed)
Tues 8th Sept: Inset day (school closed)
Weds 9th Sept: Autumn term 1 begins - School reopens
Wb 26th Oct: Half term week (school closed)

Mon 2nd Nov: Autumn term 2 begins
21st Dec – 3rd Jan: Christmas holidays (school closed)

Mon 4th Jan: Inset day (school closed)
Tues 5th Jan: Spring term 1 begins
Wb 8th Feb: Half term week (school closed)

Mon 15th Feb: Spring term 2 begins
22nd Mar – 4th Apr: Easter holidays (school closed)

Mon 5th Apr: Inset day (school closed)
Tues 6th Apr: Summer term 1 begins

Mon 3rd May: Bank holiday (school closed)

Wb 31st May: Half term (school closed)

Mon 7th June: Summer term 2 begins
Fri 23rd July: Last day of term before the summer holidays
Mon 26th July: Inset day (school closed)