

St Oswald's CE Primary Newsletter
October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

The school year has got off to a very productive start and we are delighted with how well the children have settled into their new classes. I have loved spending time with the children at our relax and read afternoon, the poetry slam and at lunchtimes for our OPAL launch - they've been an absolute joy. As we reach the end of our first half term, I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support and care for both your child's learning and the staff here at school.

I wish you all a restful half term, and look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 2nd November.

Jemma Dunne

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

Our **Early Years children** are now ready to join us for our celebration worship on a Friday morning. As the first Friday back after half term is our Remembrance Service, EYFS pupils will stay in phase and join us on Friday 13th November, which is also Children in Need Day, for the first time. As always, all parents and carers are welcome to join us at 9am for both the Remembrance Service and Friday collective worship.

We have **launched our OPAL (outdoor play and learning) offer** outdoors and it has been absolutely amazing! At playtimes, the outdoor area comes to life and it has been a joy watching the children interact so brilliantly together in the new areas of provision. This week has seen us introduce a dig pit, muddy cafe, small world areas, performance area and supervised sports and this has been possible thanks to the support and donations from our families. We have also used donations from FOSOSF to buy new music equipment and waterproof trousers already, and are preparing equipment for our next provision spaced. THANK YOU so much for supporting us with this new project. We really do think it is going to transform our outdoor space and lunchtimes for the children over the next two years. Moving forwards, we ask you to **'consider play before throwing it away'**. If any item is no longer wanted/needed at home, let a member of staff know and we will see if we can use it in a provision space somewhere outdoors! And, if your child doesn't already have **wellies and waterproofs** in school, we'd encourage them to be in after half term - there's so much more choice for them at playtimes when they have the right kit on.

On a similar note, we have been so happy to see the planned improvements for **Night Owls** take effect. The children now have a lovely outdoor space to play in and have so much choice as to how they'd like to relax: brand new apparatus and equipment has been installed, with indoor options including different games, activities and crafts. Families collecting their children can now report directly to the gate next to the school office.

Thank you to all of our families who kindly donated gifts for **harvest**. We will be sending these over to church after half term, so if your family is in need of a bag of long-lasting food/cleaning products, please contact the school office as soon as possible, and they will gladly prepare a bag for you.

The school value we have been exploring through **collective worships** this half term has been Respect. I want to thank our new school worship team who led a worship for us - it was wonderful. Congratulations goes to KS1 who have won our 'dustpan and brush award' for tidiest cloakrooms this half term. They will enjoy a well-earned reward for their respectful behaviour.

Our **strong reading culture** here at St Oswald's has been recognised by York Libraries as we once again came 2nd place in the summer reading challenge across all the schools in York. As a result, we have received some new books and have also been offered a rare opportunity to welcome an author to school free of charge. After half term, Sheena Dempsey, author of the Pablo Splash books will be visiting the KS1 and 2 children to tell them all about her life as an author and her books.

I would like to share my thanks with those parents/carers who showed an interest in supporting the school further through governorship, and for others who took the time to vote in the **parent governor election**. As a result, I am pleased to welcome Neil Smith as our new parent governor.

Autumn Term Dates for the Diary

Mon 2nd Nov: Autumn term 2 begins

Wb. 2nd Nov Book fair week (Tuesday-Friday after school, in the hall, each day)

6th Nov - Remembrance worship 9am (no early years)

10th Nov - Sheena Dempsey, author visit

13th Nov - Children in Need (wear something comfy - non-uniform day)

16th Nov - Reception starters 2027 open evening 5-6pm

17th Nov - Y3/4 Dance Festival

24th and 25th Nov - Parent/Carer Evenings

27th Nov - Flu vaccination catch up day

30th Nov - Y5/6 Fabulous Finish Day

2nd Dec - Y3/4 Design & Technology morning

8th Dec - Y3/4 Christmas Collective Worship in church 2.15pm

10th Dec - EYFS nativity (am)

11th Dec - Christmas jumper day and puppet shows - *donations for chocolate tombola encouraged*

12th Dec - Christmas Fair 10am-12pm

15th and 16th Dec - KS1 nativity (am)

16th Dec - Christmas dinner day

17th Y5/6 carol concert in church 5.30-6.30

18th Dec - last day of term Big Christmas Sing 9am

21st Dec – 3rd Jan: Christmas holidays (school closed)

2026-2027

School Year Dates

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)