ST OSWALD'S

- CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL -

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Parents' Evenings this week. It was lovely to see such a fantastic turnout and to have the opportunity to discuss the children's progress and how well they have settled into their new classes. If you were unable to attend, please get in touch with your child's class teacher after half term to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Deadline for Secondary School Applications

A reminder to parents of children in Year 6 that the deadline for applying for a secondary school place is **31st October 2026**. When completing your application, we strongly recommend listing more than one school preference in case your first choice is unsuccessful. You can complete your application by following the link **HERE.**

Reception class applications for 2027

Reception applications for **September 2027** are now open. To make an application, please follow the link **HERE**.
The closing date for applications is **15th January 2027**.

Toys and Fidget items in school

We have noticed an increasing number of children bringing toys into school, particularly fidget toys and 'squishies'. Could we please ask that children only bring these items into class if this has been agreed with their class teacher to help with focus and concentration. Unfortunately, some of these toys are becoming a distraction, both for the children using them and others around them. Thank you for your support with this.

Safeguarding updates

A quick reminder that, in line with government guidelines and our school policy, mobile phones and smartwatches with messaging, camera or video features are not allowed to be used during the school day. We understand that some older children may bring a phone to school for safety reasons and to reassure parents when travelling independently. If this is the case, children must hand their phone to their class teacher each morning and collect it at home time.

We also thought it would be helpful to share some of the systems we have in place to keep children safe online and reassure parents about how we protect them when using technology in school. We use *Netsweeper* to block harmful or inappropriate websites and content, alongside *Smoothwall Monitor*, which monitors activity on school devices in real time and alerts staff to any potential safeguarding concerns. Both systems are part of our everyday safeguarding procedures, helping us provide a safe and positive environment for children to learn online.

School Meals

After half term, Aspens, our new school meal provider, will be introducing an updated three-week menu, which you can view on our school website **HERE**. All meals are freshly prepared from scratch, with children enjoying a wide range of choices, including a daily sandwich or tomato pasta option alongside the main menu.
Thank you for your patience and understanding while Aspens have been settling in and getting used to our school. We're delighted that Clare and Sarah are still looking after us in the kitchen, and things are already starting to feel like business as usual!

PTO

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St Oswald's Catholic Primary School is part of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number No 7841435.
Registered Office: Fenham Hall Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9YH

Attendance

As you know, we always keep a close eye on attendance. We made a fantastic start to the school year, although, due to a number of sickness bugs over the last couple of weeks, our attendance has understandably dipped. Our aim remains 98%, so thank you for your continued support in making sure children are in school whenever they are well enough to attend. Every school day counts, and you can check your child's attendance at any time through the Arbor app.

Dates for Diaries

Please find below some key dates for the Autumn Term **(recently added dates in red):**

October

Friday 23rd October – Break up for half term

November

Monday 2nd November – School re-opens for children

Wednesday 4th November – Year 2 'Brush Up' workshop delivered by Newcastle Dental School

Friday 6th November – Year 3 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Monday 9th November – Year 5 trip to the Centre for Life

Wednesday 11th November – 'Supporting Young People with Anxiety' parent workshop (details to follow)

Wednesday 11th November – Year 4 Youth Village Residential Parents' meeting (in-school) 5pm

Thursday 12th November – PTA AGM (details to follow)

Friday 13th November – Children in Need

Friday 13th November – Year 4 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

w/c Monday 16th November – Anti-bullying Week ('Break the Silence')

Monday 16th November – Odd Socks Day

Monday 16th November – Reception & Year 6 Heights and Weights

Tuesday 17th November – Year 5 Keswick Residential Parents' meeting (online) 5-5:45pm

Tuesday 17th November – Year 6 Borrowdale Residential Parents' meeting (online) 5:45-6:30pm

Friday 27th November - Year 1 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Friday 27th November – Christmas Fair in school from 3pm (details to follow)

Monday 30th November – Year 5 & Year 6 'Exercise and Mental Health' workshop delivered by the PE service

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December

Tuesday 1st December – Annual Nasal Flu Vaccination for all classes in school

Sunday 13th December – Choir singing in Sacred Heart Church hall after 10:30am Mass **(Change of date)**

Tuesday 8th December – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity in school 9am

Wednesday 9th December – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity in school 9am

Thursday 10th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 10th December - Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity in school 9am

Friday 11th December - Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity in school 9am

Friday 11th December – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Storytime with Santa at the Gosforth Civic Theatre

Monday 14th December – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Party in school

Tuesday 15th December – KS2 Christmas Party in school

Wednesday 16th December – Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Production at Sacred Heart church 7pm

Thursday 17th December – Advent Reflection for families in school 8:20am

Friday 18th December – Christmas Carols/Songs on the KS2 yard (Reception - Year 6) 2:30pm

Friday 18th December – Break up for Christmas

Other important dates:

Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th March – Year 4 Residential Retreat to the Youth Village, Consett

Monday 10th - Thursday 13th May 2027 – Year 6 SATs week (please do not book holidays during this week)

Friday 28th May 2027 - Staff Training Day (School closed to children)

Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd June 2027 – Year 5 residential to Keswick

Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th June 2027 – Year 6 residential to Borrowdale

With my very best wishes,

P. Marley

Mr P Marley

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