Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well.

New Interactive TVs

We would like to share some great news and to say thank you for the continued support you give to our school community.

Thanks to the generous fundraising efforts of our PTA, along with the amazing donations made by families through school fairs, cake sales and other events, we have recently installed three new interactive TV screens in Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5. This means that every classroom across the school is now equipped with a high-quality interactive screen.

These screens play an important role in everyday teaching and learning, and having reliable, modern equipment in every classroom helps us to provide the high-quality experiences all of our children deserve. This improvement would not have been possible without the hard work of our PTA and the generosity of our families, for which we are extremely grateful.

As one of the lowest-funded schools in Newcastle due to our geographical location, our budget is under significant pressure. Resources such as interactive screens, iPads and laptops are increasingly difficult to fund through school budgets alone, making additional funding streams - including PTA fundraising, grants and sponsorship, alongside government funding such as Pupil Premium - more important than ever.

Pupil Premium is additional funding provided to schools for children who are eligible for free school meals. Although all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive free school meals, we would gently encourage all eligible families to apply, as this funding supports your child's education throughout their time at St Oswald's, not just during the period of eligibility. The application process is simple and completely confidential, and it helps us to invest in high-quality resources for all of our children. Eligible families can apply via the Newcastle City Council website by clicking the link **HERE**.

We would also warmly welcome any advice or support from parents who may be able to help us access grants or sponsorship from local businesses. Please do get in touch if you feel you could help in this way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working with us to give our children the very best.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week, the Wellbeing Council will lead an assembly to mark Children's Mental Health Week. The theme, *'This is My Place'*, encourages children to reflect on what it means to belong and how they can help everyone feel included. Children will take part in an art activity, creating personal maps of places, groups, activities or other things where they feel they belong.

On Thursday, Jenny Reay, a mental health practitioner from RISE, will lead an assembly and work with classes over the half term to support emotional regulation and wellbeing.

We would also like to remind you about *The Wellbeing Hub* - a fantastic free resource for parents and carers, developed by experts in child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing.

For more information and details on how to register, please see the flyer attached to this email.

PTO

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PTA Valentine's Cake Sale

On Friday 13th February, the PTA are organising a Valentine's Cake Sale after school. If you are able to donate any bought or homemade cakes (no nuts, please), it would be greatly appreciated!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jobs and Careers Advice

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who completed our recent survey about your jobs and the careers our children could learn about. Your input is really appreciated and will help broaden the children's understanding of the world of work.

We're also very grateful to those who have already volunteered to come into school to share their experiences. If you would like to join them, please complete the survey **HERE**. We'll be in touch with all volunteers after half term to arrange visits. Your time and insight make a real difference in inspiring and informing our children.

Year 4 & Year 5 Easter Production

Please note that the date of the Year 4 & Year 5 Easter Production has now been confirmed and will take place a day earlier than previously communicated. It will now be held on **Tuesday 31st March at 7pm**. We hope you will be able to join us.

Dates for Diaries

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

February

Monday 9th February – Year 3 & Year 4 Team Games session delivered by the Newcastle PE Service

Tuesday 10th February – Year 6 visit to St Mary's High School

Thursday 12th February - Year 4 First Confessions at Sacred Heart Church 7pm

Friday 13th February – Year 6 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Friday 13th February – PTA Valentine's Cake Sale 3pm

Friday 13th February – Break up for the half term

Monday 23rd February - School re-opens for the second half of the Spring term

Tuesday 24th February – Children's North East Parent workshop *'Communication and Conflict'* 1:30-2:45pm

March

Monday 2nd – Wednesday 4th March - Year 5 Bikeability (Details to follow)

Tuesday 3rd March – Drama Club Production of Joseph in school (Details to follow)

Thursday 5th March – Drama Club Production of Joseph in school (Details to follow)

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Friday 6th March – Children's author Naomi Barley leading reading workshops across school

Friday 6th March – Year 1 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Friday 13th March – Year 3 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day 2026

Friday 20th March – Year 5 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Monday 23rd March - Year 4 Bikeability (Details to follow)

Tuesday 24th March - Parents' Evening in school (all classes)

Wednesday 25th March – Year 4 Stations of the Cross at St Mary's Cathedral

Thursday 26th March - Parents' Evening in school (all classes)

Monday 30th March - Easter Egg competition in school

April

Wednesday 1st April – Year 4 Dance Festival at the Whitley Bay Playhouse (Details to follow)

Tuesday 30th March – Year 4 & Year 5 Easter Production at Sacred Heart Church 7pm (New date)

Thursday 2nd April – Reception class Easter Story for parents in school 9am

Thursday 2nd April – Break up for the Easter holidays

Monday 20th April – School re-opens for the Summer term

With my very best wishes,

P Marley

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