ST OSWALD'S

- CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL -

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back after the Christmas break - I hope you had a great holiday and I wish you all the very best for 2026. It has been lovely to see how quickly the children have settled back into school.

Diversity and Uniqueness Day

Inspired by *What Makes Me a Me?* by Ben Faulk and David Tazzyman, we will be celebrating Diversity and Uniqueness Day on Thursday 15th January. This special day will give children the opportunity to explore and celebrate their own identities while learning about and respecting the identities of others through a range of classroom activities. Children are invited (but not required) to wear clothing that reflects part of their identity - such as cultural dress, colours linked to heritage, or something meaningful to them - and may also bring in a small, named item that represents who they are or what they are good at, to share with their class. There is no expectation to buy anything new, and all participation is optional. We look forward to celebrating the rich diversity of our school community and ensuring every child feels valued, included and proud of who they are.

School Attendance

As highlighted in previous correspondence, regular school attendance is so important, and we are very grateful for the continued commitment shown by our families, children, and staff. While our attendance has recently fallen slightly below our ambitious 98% target, it remains strong at 97.5% and reflects the shared efforts of our school community - thank you.

We fully understand that children may occasionally be unwell and that their health and wellbeing must always come first; however, we encourage attendance whenever children are well enough, even if only for the last day or two of the week and ask that appointments and holidays are arranged outside school hours wherever possible.

Advice on when you should keep children off school and for how long, as well as information about when you don't need to, can be found by following the NHS link **HERE**.

Please remember that attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence and equates to missing around half a day of school each week.

You can view an up-to-date attendance figure for your child when you open the Arbor app.

If you would like any advice or support regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Social Media

A reminder that we have moved our social media presence from X (formerly Twitter) to Facebook and Instagram. We would love for you to follow us and see all the fantastic things your children are doing at school. You can find us on Facebook at *St Oswald's Primary School* and on Instagram at *@stoswaldsnewcastle*

Dates for Diaries

Please find below some key dates for the Spring term:

January

Tuesday 13th January – Year 5 trip to Nissan

Thursday 15th January – Diversity Day in school

Tuesday 20th January – Year 5 Puberty session with the school nurse (Growing and Changing)

PTO

St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Hartford Road, Gosforth,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 5LE

office@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk
www.stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk
0191 2852437

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Tuesday 20th January – Y2 PANTS session with the school nurse

Tuesday 20th January – Children's North East Parent workshop 'Ways to wellbeing' 1:30-3pm

Friday 23rd January – Year 2 & Year 3 Carbon Monoxide workshops

Thursday 29th January – Year 5 & Year 6 Carbon Monoxide workshops

Thursday 29th January – Year 6 at Theatre Royal 'Weird'

Friday 30th January – Year 2 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Friday 30th January – Year 6 trip to Nissan

February

Friday 6th February – Year 4 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

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 – Break up for the half term

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

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)

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

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April

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

Wednesday 1st April – Year 4 & Year 5 Easter Production at Sacred Heart Church 7pm **TBC**

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

P Marley

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