ST OSWALD'S

- CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL -

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ

Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well.

Christmas at St Oswald's

The season of Advent and the end of the Autumn term are always a really special time in school, and this year has been no exception. Over the past couple of weeks, we have been incredibly proud of the children as they prepared for and shared their beautiful performances. Their enthusiasm, confidence and joy have given us the best possible start to the festive season.
I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the families and friends of the children at St Oswald's for the many ways you support our school. Attending performances, joining us for Celebrations of the Word, helping at Christmas Fairs, singing carols (especially during such a busy time of year) means a great deal to us all. We are truly grateful. Thank you.

Year 1 Celebration of the Word

Year 1 launched the season of Advent with a special Celebration of the Word, shared with their families. Together, they reflected on the meaning of Advent and how we can prepare for the birth of Jesus. The children shared the story of the Annunciation, offered their thoughtful Advent promises, and placed cloths in the cradle in readiness for Jesus' arrival. The celebration concluded with a beautiful liturgical movement, creating a prayerful and joyful beginning to the Advent season.





Christmas Performances

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 kicked off the Christmas performances last week with their fantastic production of *Prickly Hay*. This was followed later in the week by Year 3 and Year 4's beautiful Christingle celebration, and the final performance was the Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas production in church.
All of the performances were wonderfully attended, as always, and filled with festive cheer that was enjoyed by everyone. It was so lovely to see parents, grandparents and other family members coming together to celebrate and enjoy the children's amazing talents.







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Registered Office: Fenham Hall Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9YH

Christmas Parties

Children (and staff) from Reception to Year 6 had the chance to really let their hair down this week as they enjoyed their Christmas parties. There was plenty of dancing to favourite festive songs, lots of laughter and lovely moments of fun shared with friends.



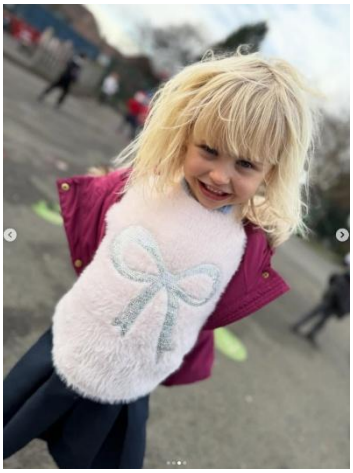




Christmas Jumper Day

The school was full of festive cheer last week when we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. The school was bursting with colour, sparkles and Christmas spirit!
We raised a fantastic £235. Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped support such a wonderful cause.





Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, there was great excitement across the school as we enjoyed Christmas Dinner Day! Our fantastic kitchen staff — Clare, Sarah and Emily — prepared a delicious festive meal with all the trimmings, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. A huge thank you to our amazing kitchen team for making the day so special — smiles all round!






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Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair was, once again, a wonderful success! A huge thank you to our fantastic PTA and to everyone who came along to support the event. Together, we raised an impressive **£1,750** for our school! This achievement was made possible not only by those who attended, but also by everyone who bought raffle tickets, donated items for the stalls, and the generous individuals and businesses who contributed raffle prizes - a brilliant team effort all round!





Advent Reflection

Yesterday, our Faith in Action team invited families into school for a final Advent reflection before we broke up for the holidays. The children led us in prayer, reminding us of the importance and significance of this very special time of year.







Christmas in the Parish and Community

Carol Singing

This half-term, Mrs Morris and Mrs Summersby have been leading a lunchtime Christmas Choir Club, which the children have really enjoyed. Their enthusiasm and hard work shone through in their wonderful performances at Sacred Heart Church and at Gosforth Shopping Centre, where they helped spread a great deal of Christmas cheer throughout our community.

We also brought the term to a close with our annual Christmas Carols on the yard, always a much-loved and special occasion that beautifully sets the tone for the exciting days ahead.







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Year 5 visit to St Mary's Cathedral and the Christmas Market

Year 5 joined other Newcastle Catholic schools at St Mary's Cathedral for a beautiful Christmas Carol Service. They sang beautifully and prayed together to mark the beginning of the festive season.

After the service, they enjoyed a wonderfully Christmassy trip to the Christmas market, taking part in a fabulous French workshop and treating themselves to a delicious crêpe — which the children confidently ordered in French!







Storytime with Santa

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had an amazing visit to the Gosforth Civic Theatre, where they enjoyed a wonderful Story Time with Santa and Mrs Claus. The children were even given their very own story from Santa himself! What a perfect way to celebrate Christmas Jumper Day — full of festive fun, smiles, and Christmas magic!







Christmas Angels

Children in every class enjoyed making their *Angels of Hope*. They reflected thoughtfully on how to prepare for Christmas and the powerful message of hope it brings. Year 6 created Angels to distribute around the local area and wider community — a wonderful gesture to spread kindness, hope and positivity. After Sunday morning Mass, we presented the SVP with some angels, which will be passed on to housebound parishioners to bring some Christmas cheer. A beautiful example of living out our faith through love and service.







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Bambinelli Sunday

On Sunday, many of our school family joined us at Sacred Heart Church to celebrate Bambinelli Sunday. Children brought their knitted baby Jesus figures to be blessed by Father Michael, marking this special tradition on the Third Sunday of Advent. Our Christmas Choir then sang beautifully for families and parishioners. A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support us, and to our wonderful choir for giving up their time during such a busy season. Your singing and kindness truly helped us prepare our hearts for Christmas.





Sacred Heart Toy Appeal

Our Year 6 Faith in Action team made an appeal for donations to support the Sacred Heart Church Toy Appeal, asking for new toys to help families who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a memorable Christmas. In a special assembly, the team reminded everyone that even if you aren't able to donate a toy, sharing kindness and spreading the Word also makes a difference. The response was overwhelming! Gerard and Jo Shepherd came into school to thank everyone on behalf of the parish. Thank you once again for your generosity and kindness.

Carols by Candlelight

On Monday evening, the parish held its annual Carols by Candlelight service at Sacred Heart Church. Children from St Oswald's, both past and present, helped with the readings, dressed the crib and carried lanterns to the front of the church. As always, it was a beautiful and moving celebration.







Other Information

Social Media

We are excited to announce 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*
There are already lots of photographs from our Christmas events available to enjoy, so take a look and share in the festive fun!

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Term Dates for 2026-27

The term and holiday dates for 2026-27 have now been published and can be viewed on our school website by following the link **HERE**. I have also attached a copy to the email I sent with the newsletter.

PE Arrangements for next half term

After Christmas, the days that some classes have PE will be changing. The classes with updated PE days have been highlighted below:

Reception: Monday & Thursday
Year 1: Tuesday & Friday
Year 2: Thursday & Friday
Year 3: Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 4: Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 5: Monday & Thursday
Year 6: Monday and Friday

Finally, on behalf of myself, the staff and the Governors, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support and kindness this term. Your generosity and thoughtful messages mean so much to us, and we are truly grateful for the lovely gifts you have given.

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you all when school re-opens on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

With my very best wishes,



P Marley

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