

St Oswald's Catholic Primary School St Oswald’s Catholic Community:

Headteacher - Mrs B Wood With Christ at the centre of our

# Chapel Lane community, our mission is to live,

# Longton love and learn as Jesus taught us.

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**The Newsletter**

**Autumn term no. 1 – 10 September 2021**

**Follow us on twitter @StOswaldsCPS**

**PLEASE READ THE NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new school year, lovely to see all the children looking smart and keen to learn. A very warm and special welcome to all our new Reception children and their families.

**Newsletter:**

You will receive the newsletter every Thursday by email so please read it! If you do not already receive the newsletter electronically, please contact the school office to update your email address. The newsletter is also uploaded to the website every Friday. You can also follow us on twitter **@StOswaldsCPS**

**Update:**

Over the summer we have been busy adding to our fabulous outdoor provision. We now have a super poly tunnel ready for growing our own seedlings etc

We have ordered a new garden/allotment area with potting shed, raised beds and a water butt. Sadly due to supply issues, we will have to wait until November for it all to be installed.

We will be adding a storytelling chair to the Willow area very soon and our thanks go to last years Y6 for this amazing gift. THANK YOU!

We do have the most fantastic grounds and we are now working towards being an official Forest School.

We have added two Book Swap Boxes near the gate. One is for adults to donate books that they have finished and want to pass on. Just help yourself! The other box is for children to donate books that they have finished and again, just help yourself to a great read!

**Uniform:**

The children have returned to school looking very smart, so thank you for ensuring your child is in full school uniform. Please ensure that your child does not come to school wearing any jewellery or nail varnish (page 7 School Prospectus). If your child has had their ears pierced over the holidays and have not yet fully healed, please ensure that plasters are worn over the earings until the earings can be removed for school. Trainers are not an acceptable form of footwear – black school shoes only. The children in the Infants are expected to bring their St Oswald’s green school bag to school as they fit in the space provided. There is no need for children to bring pencil cases to school, school provides everything your child needs; they can use their pencil case at home as we find that they do become a distraction!

**Safeguarding – End of Day Arrangements:**

Please find attached the ‘End of School Day’ arrangements form, a paper copy has also been sent home with your child today. Could you please return this form by **TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER** so the staff are very clear about where your child is going at the end of the school day and who with! Please do not be offended if staff do not recognise the person picking up your child and ask for clarification. In Reception, until we get to know the ‘faces’ of who picks up, please make yourself known to the Reception staff. Could we also ask if you have a query or question for the class staff, that you please wait until every child is dismissed so that staff are not distracted from their ‘End of Day’ duties which is to make sure every child has been safely handed over to their parent/carer. Thank you.

**Mobile Phones:**

We understand that, in Year 6, as you let your child become more independent by cycling or walking home alone, you may allow them to carry a phone for emergencies. The policy is that they hand their phone in to their class teacher as soon as they arrive at school and this will then be kept safe in the office until home time when your child can collect their phone from the school office. There is no need for a mobile phone to be brought to school for any other reason. Thank you.

**Attendance:**

Thank you for your understanding about attendance and recognising that authorised absences will only be given in **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES** and must be applied for on the official ‘Application for Absence’ form available on the school website or from the school office. If your child is in school on time every day they will make great progress. The 2021-2022 Holiday List is on the website. Taking Covid related absences out, attendance for last year was 98.4% which is outstanding.

**Friday Favourites and Marvellous Mondays – Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Pupils:**

**Please note that Friday Favourites and Marvellous Mondays are continuing as normal, if your child is already receiving Friday Favourites and/or Marvellous Mondays, they will continue to do so until we are informed otherwise!** However, if your child is normally on packed lunches and you would like your child to have a school meal on a Friday or Monday, please contact the school office. Payment should be made through ParentPay. If you no longer wish your child to receive a meal on a Friday or Monday, please ensure that one week’s notice is given to the school office. Failure to do so will mean that you will still be charged. Children already on school meals are automatically enrolled for Friday Favourites and Marvellous Mondays.

**School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme:**

The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme recommenced at the beginning of term for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. There is no need for children in the Infants to bring a snack in for playtime as they are provided with a piece of fruit every day. Children in Y3.Y4, Y5 and Y6 may bring a piece of fruit for break time. Please note that the snack can only be fruit, no biscuits etc.

Every child needs their own water bottle in school every day as we do encourage regular drinking of water. Please do not fill the water bottle with any other drink! Water only. Thank you.

**ParentPay Activation Letters for Reception Parents:**

ParentPay is a web-based service for schools which enables parents to make secure on-line payments by credit and debit card or by cash at local stores through the PayPoint network. The service is used for payments such as Early Birds’ Breakfast Club, school trips and also for school meals (for Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 pupils). Activation letters have been sent home today to children in Reception and we would be grateful if you could activate your account as soon as possible. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

**Pupil Premium:**

Even through free school meals are now being provided for all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as part of the Government initiative, please may I remind you that for those pupils who have a **STATUTORY** entitlement to free school meals (those pupils whose parents are in receipt of benefits, such as Income Support, etc.) of the importance to still register for Pupil Premium. School can benefit from additional funding through the Pupil Premium, which is worth over £1300 per pupil for the school once registration has been completed, so please check if you are entitled as school benefits greatly! A comprehensive list of the benefit entitlements are available on the application form, which is available from the trays by the school office. Alternatively, one phone call can confirm if you are entitled, it’s worth doing, so please call 01772 531809 and have your NI number handy!

Qualifying benefits:

If you or your partner receive any of the following benefits you can apply for free school meals:

* Income Support
* Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
* Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
* Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
* Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

**Meet the Teacher Meetings:**

Each class teacher will be presenting to parents an outline of the curriculum expectations and routines for their year group. The meetings will be held in the school hall and in order to keep numbers to the minimum, we are inviting 1 adult per child. Masks to be worn. Meetings will start at 6.30pm and last approx. 40 minutes. Children are not to attend.

Tuesday 14th September Reception

Wednesday 15th September Year 6

Thursday 16th September Year 1

Monday 20th September Year 2

Tuesday 21st September Year 4

Wednesday 22nd September Year 5

Thursday 23rd September Year 3

**Medical Needs:**

Please ensure that school has been provided with up-to-date information on the ‘Medical Condition/Allergy’ form if you child has any medical needs or allergies which have been confirmed by a Health Professional. Any child with asthma should also have a ‘School Asthma Card’ completed and returned to school ASAP. These forms are both available from the website or the school office. Please also provided two named inhalers which will be kept securely in school. Please remember to contact us regularly to up-date or cancel your child’s medical details. It is a parent’s responsibility to make sure we have up-to-date medication in school for any child with long term medical needs.

**Swimming:**

Children in Year 3 would normally start swimming at Penwortham Leisure Centre this term but as no swimming lessons took place last year, children in Year 4 will swim at Penwortham Leisure Centre in the Spring Term.

**Primary Admissions 2022:**

**If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2022 then you MUST apply on-line at** [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools) **The CLOSING DATE FOR PRIMARY APPLICATIONS IS SATURDAY 15 JANUARY 2022** **with the offer letter being issued to parents on MONDAY 18 APRIL 2022**.

**Please ensure that you also complete the ST OSWALD’S SUPPLEMENTARY FAITH FORM which is available on the school website or from school. The Supplementary Faith Form must then be forwarded to SCHOOL together with a copy of your child’s BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE!**

**Please note: If your child was baptised at St Oswald’s and you do not have a copy of your child’s baptismal certificate, please complete a ‘Baptismal Certificate request slip’, which is available from school and post this through the St Oswald’s presbytery postbox.**

**Secondary Admissions 2022:**

**If your child is due to transfer to High School in September 2022, then please apply on-line at** [**www.lancashire.gov.uik/schools**](http://www.lancashire.gov.uik/schools)**. The CLOSING DATE FOR SECONDARY APPLICATIONS IS SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER 2022 with the offer letters being issued on TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2022.**

**St Oswald’s Clubs:**

**Players in Education Drama Club** (privately run), will begin **on Friday 17 September** 3.15-4.30pm and will be **open to all pupils.** The course will run for 5 weeks. Flyers have been issued to all children on Tuesday 7th September. Please click on the link if you wish to apply for a place <https://www.playersineducation.com/sign-up-st-oswalds> . Further details are available from Miss Rebecca on 07854 337313.

**Guitar Club** (privately run) will be returning with her Guitar Club on **Friday 17 September.** Miss Galea is in the process of contacting everyone who has applied for a place. Any queries regarding guitar lessons, please contact Miss Galea on 079200 56721.

Sports Clubs for Y5/Y6 will be starting w/c 27th September and details will be in the next newsletter.

**Key Dates so far for September:**

Sunday 12th September Fr Michael has arranged an Enrolment Mass in Church for children in Year 5 who are taking part in the Sacramental Preparation programme and he has already e-mailed the information to families. The Mass is for the children and their immediate families. The Mass will start at 10.30am and Fr Michael has requested that all adults are to wear a mask.

Wednesday 15th September School photographer will be in to take children’s individual school photographs or if they have a sibling in school their photograph will be taken together.

Thursday 16th September The Lancashire Evening Post photographer will be coming into school to take a photograph of

the Reception pupils. This photograph will appear in the ‘School Starters 2021’ supplement of the newspaper. **IF YOU DO NOT WISH FOR YOUR CHILD TO BE IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH, PLEASE LET US KNOW IN WRITING BY EMAIL OR LETTER**. Thank you.

Tuesday 28th September 6pm Mr Horrocks, Headteacher from All Hallows will be here at St Oswald’s to talk to Y6 Parents. The meeting will be in the hall and restricted to 1 adult per child and we ask that you wear a mask. No children to attend.

**PTFA News:**

The special Tea-towels have finally arrived! If you placed an order in the summer term, we will send the tea-towel(s) home with your child next week. Thank you for your patience.

**Headlice:**

We have had a reported case of headlice in Y3 and Y6 so please check and treat your child and everyone in the household so we can minimise any spread. Throughout the year there are always a few cases of headlice so please do not be alarmed and always let us know!

And finally……

We are operating under the latest guidance issued for COVID -19 so I have attached the latest letter issued by the Local Authority.

In summary:

* Don’t send your child to school if they are unwell
* Make sure your child gets a PCR test
* If result is negative and they are feeling well, they can return to school
* If result is positive your child needs to isolate for 10 days and school will provide a Learning Pack for you to do at home.

We are carrying on with the routines of thorough handwashing, sanitizing, ventilation, outdoor learning and staff wearing masks when distancing from other adults may be difficult. If you attend meetings at school, we will ask you to wear a mask.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with school if you have any queries. We will always do our best to help. Here’s to a great term ahead for your children filled with super learning, friendship and growing up together!

Yours sincerely

B Wood

Headteacher