



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher – Mr. C.J. Hough
Chapel Lane
Longton
Preston PR4 5EB

St Oswald's Catholic Community:
With Christ at the centre of our
community, our mission is to live,
love and learn as Jesus taught us.

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The Newsletter **Autumn term no. 1– 4th September 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this message finds you well and that you and your families have enjoyed a restful and joyful summer break. As the new Headteacher of St. Oswald's, I am delighted to welcome you all to the start of the 2025–2026 academic year. It is a privilege to join such a vibrant and caring school community, and I look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure the very best outcomes for our children.

This year brings exciting opportunities for learning, growth, and collaboration. Our dedicated staff have been working hard to prepare engaging lessons and enriching experiences that will inspire every child to thrive. We remain committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where every pupil feels valued and supported.

I am keen to get to know our families and hear your thoughts about what makes our school special and how we can continue to grow together. Please don't hesitate to reach out, whether it's to share feedback, ask questions, or simply say hello. Thank you for your continued support. Let's make this year one to remember.

Uniform:

The children have returned to school looking very smart, 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. If your child has had their ears pierced over the holidays and they have not yet fully healed, please ensure that plasters are worn over the earrings until the earrings 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 spaces provided.

Please ensure that all uniform items are labelled with your child's name.

Safeguarding – End of Day Arrangements:

Please find attached the 'End of School Day' arrangements form. A paper copy was sent home with your child on Tuesday. Could you please return this form by FRIDAY 5th September so 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 at the office on arrival at school **before** going through the gate. Phones are kept safe in the office until home time when your child can collect their phone from the school office on exiting the school premises. There is no need for a mobile phone to be brought to school for any other reason.

Attendance:

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ABOUT ATTENDANCE PENALTY NOTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE.

Marvellous Mondays and Friday Favourites- School Lunches Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Pupils:

Please note that Marvellous Mondays and Friday Favourites School Lunches will continue as normal; if your child is already enrolled on the respective days, 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 Monday or Friday, please contact the school office. Payment should be made through ParentPay. If you no longer wish your child to receive a meal on a Monday or Friday, 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 the Monday and Friday.

School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme: R, Y1 and Y2

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 sweets or biscuits etc. We are a NUT-FREE School and therefore please do not send your child in with a snack containing nuts.

Every child needs their own water bottle in school every day as we do encourage regular drinking of water. Water only in the water bottle please. 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 were sent home on Tuesday 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:

Free school meals are currently provided for all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as part of the Government initiative. It is still possible 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.) 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 to 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 to hand.

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)

Medical Needs:

Please ensure that we have up-to-date information on the 'Medical Condition/Allergy' form if your child has any medical needs or allergies which have been confirmed by a Health Professional.

Any child with asthma needs a 'School Asthma Card' completed and returned to school ASAP with a named inhaler. Forms available from the website or the school office. Let us know asap if you amend 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.

Nut Allergies:

St Oswald's is a Nut-Free School. Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy, it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts eg Nutella, can trigger an anaphylactic shock which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties.

As a school we have a responsibility to keep all pupils, staff and visitors safe reducing any risk of harm so pupils, staff and visitors should not bring products containing nuts into school either in their lunch boxes or as snacks.

To be clear, the following items must not be brought into school:

- Packets of nuts
- Peanut butter/Nutella sandwiches

- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely.

No items containing nuts are prepared in the school kitchen.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Primary Admissions 2026:

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2026 then you **MUST** apply on-line at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools The CLOSING DATE FOR PRIMARY APPLICATIONS IS 15th JANUARY 2026.

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', available from school and post this through the St Oswald's presbytery post-box for Fr Michael.

Secondary Admissions 2026:

If your child is due to transfer to High School in September 2026, then please apply on-line at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools. The CLOSING DATE FOR SECONDARY APPLICATIONS IS 31st OCTOBER 2025.

Admin Reminders:

- A week's notice **must** be given if you wish your child to change from packed lunches to school meals, or vice-versa. This is normal school policy – thank you for your co-operation.
- Check your child's bag on a regular basis to make sure you are not missing out on anything! Any letters issued are also put on the school website.

School Spider Communication:

As you are aware, we moved ALL school communication to School Spider last year. For Reception parents, you will be able to download the app from Friday 5th September. You can download the app via the Apple Store or Google Play Store by searching School Spider Parents. Please select St Oswald's Catholic Primary School and "Create account" using the email associated with the school. You can find a more detailed user guide attached.

The newsletter is issued every Thursday; please read it as it does contain all the information you need regarding dates, updates etc. Newsletters are also posted to the website and paper copies are available in the front entrance.

Car Park Safety:

Please only park in the marked bays provided as parking anywhere else can cause an obstruction. For safety, walk your children to the car, using the pedestrian paths as far as possible. Please be mindful that safety for every child is paramount.

Swimming:

Swimming for **Year 3** starts on **Monday 8th September** at Penwortham Leisure Centre. The children will leave at 1.15pm prompt and return at 3.00pm. Girls must have a one-piece swimming costume and boys will need swimming trunks (not long shorts) All pupils need a swimming hat and towel (letter issued to Y3 today). There will be NO swimming on 15th September due to refurbishment of the pool.

School Meal Promotion:

'Roald Dahl Day' School Meal Promotion will take place on **Tuesday 16th September**. If your child is already having school meals, they will automatically be included in this event. The meal served will be George's Marvelous Chicken Burger with Mr Fox's Fantastic Hash Brown Bites or The Twits' Pasta Twists & Tomato Sauce with the Grand High Witch's Garlic Bread or James Giant filled Jacket Potato followed by Wonka's Whipple-Scrumptious Doughnut Rings with Charlie's Chocolate River. If you would like your child to have a school meal on this date, please complete the slip below and return to school no later than Friday 12th September.

PE Days:

At St Oswald's PE is considered a core subject, just as important as Maths and English. Every child is expected to wear a PE kit for the lesson and the kit stays in school for the entire half term.

PE DAYS:

Reception: Thursday am

Y1: Friday

Y2: Wednesday am

Y3: Tuesday

Y4: Monday
Y5: Wednesday
Y6: Thursday

Forest School days for Autumn Term: Children will need a pair of wellies (named please) to keep in school.

Reception: Tuesday
Y1: Wednesday
Y2: Thursday

Home Reading Books:

Reading books for Y1-Y6 will be sent home w/c Monday 8th September.

Class Blogs:

Class Blogs will start Friday 12th September. Every Friday your child's Class Teacher will publish a blog on the Class Page of the website which will summarise the learning from the week and give guidance for what needs to be practised to help embed key skills. Please take some time to read the blog so you know what your child is learning every week over the year.

Meet the Teacher Meetings:

Each Class Teacher will present their curriculum, routines and things you need to know for the year ahead. The presentations will be added to the Class Pages on the website if you are unable to attend.

Year 6 3.30-4pm Tuesday 9th September

Year 5 3.30-4pm Wednesday 10th September

Year 4 3.30-4pm Tuesday 16th September

Year 3 3.30-4pm Thursday 11th September

Year 2 3.30-4.00pm Monday 15th September

Year 1 3.30-4.00pm Thursday 18th September

Curriculum Evening for parents in Reception will be 3.30– 4.30pm or 6.30-7.30pm on Wednesday 17th September. At this meeting we explain how we teach phonics, reading, writing and number so please try to come along as it will be very useful.

Annual Nasal Flu Vaccinations:

The Intrahealth Team will be in school on Wednesday 5th November to deliver the Annual Nasal Flu programme. A consent form will be sent home with your child tomorrow (Friday 5th September) for you to complete. Please read and complete either the YES form or NO form in full (one per child) and return to school by Wednesday 11th September.

Key Dates for September:

Monday 15th September - 6-7pm Mrs Cooper, from All Hallows will be here at St Oswald's to talk to Y5 and Y6 parents about All Hallows including Admission arrangements etc. Please return the slip below so we have an indication of numbers for the meeting. It is understood that children do not attend this meeting.

Thursday 18th September - Y3/4/5/6 Mass in church at 2pm 'Together Again'

Fr Michael has invited all Key Stage 2 to celebrate the return to school. Parents/Grandparents are more than welcome to come along.

Friday 19th September – School photographer in to take individual photographs of the pupils or if they have a sibling in school their photograph will be taken together.

Thursday 25th September - All Hallows Open Evening 5pm onwards.

Friday 26th September - Fr Michael has invited the Reception children and parents/grandparents to a special 'Starting School' Blessing in church at 2.30 pm.

St Oswald's Wider Opportunities Clubs:

Players in Education Drama Club (privately run), will begin on Friday 12th September 3.15-4.30pm and is open to all pupils. The course will run for 6 weeks with the last session on Friday 17th October. If you wish to apply for a place, please click on the link below (see flyer attached):

Guitar Club (privately run) Miss Galea will be returning with Guitar / Ukuleles Club for Y3-Y6 in the Green Room starting on Monday 8th September.

Miss Galea is in the process of contacting everyone who has applied for a place stating their allocated time. Any queries regarding guitar lessons, please contact Miss Galea on 079200 56721.

Netball Club: Y5 and Y6 are invited to join the Netball Club run by Mrs Cookson and Miss Gravili on Mondays, starting Monday 8th September 3.15-4.15pm. The Club will run every week this half term with the final session being Monday 13th October. The Club will then re-open in the Spring Term. Please return the slip below if you wish for your child to join.

Football Club: Y5 and Y6 boys and girls are invited to join the Football Club which starts Wednesday 10th September 3.15-4.15pm. The Club will run every week with the last session on Wednesday 15th October; reopening in the Spring Term. Mr Campbell and his team of willing volunteers will be running the club with Miss Fisher taking the Girls Football. Please return the slip below if you wish for your child to join.

School Choir: Choir will start on Wednesday 10th September 8.15am – 8.45am in the Green Room. If your child wishes to join (Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6), please complete the slip attached asap. Mr Campbell and Mrs Whitworth will be running the Choir sessions.

Drums with Adam Darwen (privately run) will start w/c Monday 8th September for Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6. Lessons take place every Monday afternoon. This club is now fully booked.

Rock, Steady Band with Connor: If you have booked a place for your child, Connor will be running the bands starting Friday 13th September in the Green Room.

And finally...

Miss Fisher got married in the summer holidays and is now Mrs Armstrong. Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Armstrong!

A big welcome to Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Farrington who joined Team Oswald this year as teaching assistants in Y3 and Y1.

Here's to a great term ahead for your child filled with super learning, opportunities for friendships to flourish and being happy growing together!

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with school if you have any queries. We will try to do our best to help.

Yours sincerely

C Hough
Headteacher

YEAR 5/YEAR 6 NETBALL CLUB – MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER- MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2025 3.15pm – 4.15 pm

I would like my child to join the Netball Club.

(1) I will collect my child at 4.15 pm.

(2) Other hometime arrangements, i.e. After School Club, walking home with permission, etc.:

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Name of child: Signed:

Emergency contact nos.:

YEAR 5/YEAR 6 FOOTBALL CLUB – WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER- WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2025 3.15 pm– 4.15 pm

I would like my child to join the Football Club.

(3) I will collect my child at 4.15 pm.

(4) Other hometime arrangements, i.e. After School Club, walking home with permission, etc.:

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Name of child: Signed:

Emergency contact nos.:

YEAR 3/ YEAR 4/ YEAR 5/YEAR 6 CHOIR - WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2025 8.15 am – 8.45 am IN THE GREEN ROOM

I would like my child to join the Choir.

Name of child: Signed:

Emergency contact nos.:

ALL HALLOWS MEETING FOR Y5/Y6 PARENTS – MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 6-7pm

I/We will be attending the All Hallows Parents Meeting at St Oswald's.

Name of child: Year Group

Number of adults attending

SCHOOL MEAL PROMOTION –'ROALD DAHL' – TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

I would like my child to have a school meal on Tuesday 16th September. I will ensure payment of £2.90 is made in advance through ParentPay (children Y3-Y6).

Name of child: Year group:

Signature of parent/carers:
