



St Oswald's CE Primary Newsletter

October 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

The school year has got off to a very productive start and we are pleased with how well the children have settled into their new classes. As we reach the end of our first half term, October's newsletter will summarise some of the learning that has been happening in school, things we have to look forward to and important school updates.

Thank you for your ongoing support and care for both your child's learning and the staff here at school. It was lovely to see so many of you at the open evening earlier this half term, and at our weekly collective worships each Friday. It has such a positive impact on your child's learning when we work together and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you next half term.

I wish you all a restful half term, and look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 4th November.

Jemma Dunne

Learning for all

Now that the children have had time to settle into their new classes, we will be reinforcing our **start time of 8.45am from Monday 4th November**. Gates to the playground will continue to open at 8.30am, with doors opening at 8.40am and will **close at 8.45am**. Please support us in being able to start lessons promptly by giving your child time to come in calmly and arranging longer conversations with teachers to take place at the end of the school day. Any pupils arriving after 8.45am should enter school via the front office. End times will continue to be staggered with reception at 3.05pm, KS1 at 3.10pm and KS2 at 3.15pm.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our parent survey in July. Please find attached a separate letter regarding our response to this.

Our Early Years children are now ready to join us for our celebration worship on a Friday morning. As the first Friday back after half term is our Remembrance Service, EYFS pupils will stay in phase and join us on Friday 15th November, which is also Children in Need Day, for the first time. As always, all parents and carers are welcome to join us at 9am for both the Remembrance Service and Friday collective worship. Younger siblings are also warmly welcome, we just politely ask that if they become disruptive, they are taken outside until settled to allow the worship to continue smoothly.

At the end of every half term, each phase creates a presentation to share with you that shows the learning that has been taking place this half term. These will be made available over the half term break. It would be wonderful if you could take the time to look at these alongside your children at home and discuss what they enjoyed and can remember. <https://www.stoswalds.york.sch.uk/look-at-what-we-have-been-learning>

Caring for each other



The school value we have been exploring through collective worships this half term has been **Respect**. I want to thank everyone in school who has led a worship for us, including Reverend Sue, our new school worship team, who were amazing, and Year 5/6 who finished the term with a lovely service in church for their parents and carers. It was so good, we have asked them to repeat it for the whole school in our Remembrance service on Friday 8th November.

Thank you to the families who completed our travel survey and have supported us in trialling the closure of our school roundabout at the start and end of day. We are especially grateful to those who have made a real effort to walk or cycle to school as we know it isn't always convenient. We are pleased with the positive impact of this and will **continue with the closure after half term**. We have several families that rely heavily on the disabled car parking spaces in the school car park. Unfortunately, these are often being taken by drivers without blue disabled parking badges. Please can I ask you to show due care by parking your car elsewhere and leaving these spaces for those who need them most.

We are delighted to share with you that Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Walton and Mr Lloyd are all expecting their first babies with their respective partners in the spring term. I am sure you will all join us in wishing them the very best in the coming months.

We encourage children to enjoy a healthy snack as part of their morning playtimes and fruit is provided for children in early years and KS1. Via their SeeSaw newsletters, phases will share a comprehensive list of what snacks would be allowed, but if your child would like to bring a snack from home, this would ideally be a piece of fresh fruit or veg. Children with confectionery or crisps will be asked to save them as part of their lunchtime meal. Thank you for your support with this.

Early Birds serve breakfast until 8.20am, so if children could arrive in good time to enjoy their breakfast before needing to go to class, that would be really helpful. Breakfast and activities are provided for the children attending so we ask that no food or toys are brought in from home – this helps avoid upset and anything being lost.

Due to our KS2 chess club being so popular, we are looking for some donations of chess sets. If you have an unused set that you are willing to donate, we would be very grateful!

Preparing for the future

Our Year 6 pupils are preparing to develop their leadership skills by taking on additional responsibilities to represent our school. We are excited to see which of our vacancies the pupils decide to apply for and for them step up as role models to the younger children in school. Once a pupil has fulfilled their responsibility, they will be recognised as an Oswald Leader (OWL) with a certificate and a special badge to wear as part of their uniform.

Our extra-curricular activity timetable for next half term has been shared and we hope that your child will find an activity that suits their interests. If you would like more information about any of the clubs, please contact the named member of staff or the school office.

Places at our Night Owls after-school club are very popular, with certain nights of the week booking up very quickly far in advance. **If you have booked a space that you no longer need, please contact the school office as soon as possible** so that we can make the place available for another child to use. Any bookings that are cancelled 24-hours in advance, will be refunded.

Due to the development of Germany Beck, our school is now oversubscribed, with a waiting list of pupils who would like to attend. As a result, City of York Council have made a planning proposal to extend our school, whereby two additional classrooms will be built along with other alterations to enhance our site. I am excited that we are nearing the stage to be able to share the plans with you, which I feel will be of real benefit to our school community. We plan to hold a consultation in the school hall during the parents' evenings on 19th and 20th November. Please do drop in for a hot drink, to see the plans and to share any questions or feedback you may have.

Some highlights of the term so far...



Relax and read event



Harvest Festival



Settling into Early Years



Our new school worship team

Celebrating Hello Yellow Day



Dates for the diary

- Mon 4 Nov: School reopens
- w/b 4th Nov: Book Fair in school
- Fri 8th Nov: Remembrance service 9am (all welcome)
- Fri 15th Nov: Children in Need (dress up in something spotty, donations welcome via ParentPay)
- Mon 18th Nov: 2025 Reception Starters Open Evening 5pm
- 19th/20th Nov: Parents Evenings (letters will be sent after half term)/ Planning consultation in hall (3.30-6.30 TBC)
- Tues 2nd Dec: Y1/2 Christmas Performance (9.30am)
- Thurs 5th Dec: Y1/2 Christmas Performance (9.30am)
- Fri 6th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day and Puppet Shows
- Sat 7th Dec: FOSOSF Christmas Fair 10am-12pm
- Tues 10th Dec: Year 3/4 Collective Worship in church 2.15pm (all Y3/4 parents/carers welcome)
- Tues 10th Dec: Early Years' Nativity (9.30am)
- Weds 11th Dec: Early Years' Nativity (2.15pm)
- Weds 18th Dec: Christmas Dinner Day in school / KS2 Carols in the church 5.30-6.30pm
- Fri 20th Dec: School closes for Christmas holidays

Dates for the Diary – term times

- Mon 6th Jan: Inset day (school closed)
- Tues 7th Jan: Spring term 1 begins
- Wb 17th Feb: Half term week (school closed)
- Mon 24th Feb: Spring term 2 begins
- 7th Apr–21st Apr: Easter holidays (school closed)
- Tues 22nd Apr: Summer term 1 begins
- Mon 5th May: Bank holiday (school closed)
- Wb 26th May: Half term (school closed)
- Mon 2nd June: Summer term 2 begins
- Fri 18th July: Last day of term before the summer holidays

Term dates for next academic year are now available on our school website.