



'Learning and Growing Together'

October 2023 Newsletter

It has been another busy month, we have appointed our School Council Representatives and followed a democratic process for all of our appointments. We have also appointed the Collective Worship crew, Members of the Gardening Club and I-vengers.



Year 1 have visited Sudbury Hall as part of their learning about the past, developing their knowledge about how things have changed. Year 2 have visited Warwick Castle exploring Castles, and Knights and how they have shaped our history.

Thank you to those families who supported the coffee morning and Macmillan cakes sale, in total we have raised £121.60 for Macmillan.

Thank you to those parents who joined Mrs Elliott for the reading meeting support and further information about how to support your child reading can be found on the school website. Mrs Mansfield held a phonics meeting which showed how we teach phonics at St Oswald's and the process we use. Thank you to those families who attended.

The first Sporting event of the year was held at QEG's. The feedback from this was really positive. The children enjoyed taking part and being part of a team.

The EYFS pupils have been enjoying Forest School on a weekly basis- lots of learning to be had!

The School Day

Doors will open at 8.45 am Children will be able to come into school at 8.45am.

All doors and Playground gates will close at 8.55am. Registers will be taken between 8.55 and 9am. If your child comes in after 8.55 am they need to be taken to Miss Simons in the school Office. Learning will begin at 9am. The end of the day is 3.15pm

We would advise that due to congestion on the playground and the sheer number of pupils we have that you remain considerate and patient around the school gates. If you have a child in Key Stage 2 you may continue with the arrangement of meeting near the church as this also gives your child independence when leaving school. Children in year 5 and 6 are able to walk home on their own (or walk to where however if this is going to happen we will need confirmation and an MS Teams form will be sent out at the beginning of the academic year in relation to this

We would suggest that when picking up your child you pick up your youngest child first.

Staff will not be able to answer the doors after this time due to the fact they will be taking the register. We have an Open Door Policy, if you have any queries or would like to speak to your child's class teacher then there is more time at the end of the day; alternatively you are able to make an appointment with your child's class teacher, or Mrs Wood, to discuss anything confidentially.

Notices

Please keep an eye on the school notice boards which are on the playground, outside each classroom and by the main entrance. They will have any new messages regarding specific events, or things happening during the year. Letters will be sent via email, so if you have changed your email address please provide Miss Simons with a new updated one.



Vacancies: No vacancies at present

Contacting Staff: Staff will respond to emails between 8am and 5pm. Please allow 24 hours for an email response. If you wish to contact a member of staff or arrange an appointment please contact the school office who will arrange with the class teacher for a convenient time to meet.

Uniform:

Uniform is available to purchase in school. Please ensure you label everything!!!! Our expectation is that you wear the full school uniform- no black skirts, shorts or trousers. Boots are not to be worn to school.

PE Kits- Our expectation is that the school PE Kit is worn to school- No colourful leggings, football shorts or other sports gear. If pupils do not come in the correct kit we will provide spares and ask them to change.

We do have a range of pre-loved clothes which we can provide for families if you require.

Please do not allow your child to wear jewellery to school. They will be asked to remove jewellery and place it in an envelope for safe keeping. If a child has their ears pierced and they are in KS2 studs can be worn, if they are in KS1 or EYFS no piercings are permitted.

Safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at St Oswald's is Mrs Wood; Mrs Mansfield is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. If you have any concerns that a child is suffering or at risk then please call Starting Point on 01629 533190/01629 535353

Online Safety

Please click on this link for information on how to set up parental controls on your broadband at home.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/networks-wifi/>

Remember parental controls (although important) are not the only solution as they only prevent access to certain types of web-sites. Conversations at home about responsible online behaviour are the best forms of safety.



Mobile Phones: Governors have requested that the school Playground becomes a Mobile free zone. Whilst you are on the school playground please refrain from using your Mobile phone.

Staying safe online is a Safeguarding Responsibility of us all. If we become aware that your child is playing on games which are not age appropriate or if

they have apps on their phones which are not age appropriate, then we will be in contact with you to discuss the reasons the games have an age limitation.

We are using 'My Voice' which helps all of us as a community to keep our children safe. If you have any concerns or worries and would like to report anything then you can do so by using this quirky code.



Our safeguarding governors are Mrs S Revie and Mr P Lamb.

Online safety Top Tip; Alan McKenzie and Online E Safety Specialist shares advice with schools. Top tips or useful advice will be then shared with yourselves [For Parents - Supporting Young Girls' Wellbeing](#).

From managing screen time, the fear of missing out and body image. All these and more can affect the wellbeing of children. Internet Matters have put together a great series of articles for parents and although aimed at 9-10 year old girls I would say it is worthwhile for all older and younger children, boys and girls.

You can see the advice page here [Support 9-10-year-old girls' wellbeing | Internet Matters](#)

Travelling to school



The beginning and end of the school days are extremely busy on Mayfield Road outside school. Please think very carefully where you park. It is safer to arrive 5 minutes early and park away from the school gates and walk the last 5 minutes to school. You will have noticed that there are signs outside school restricting parking and this will be monitored by the Traffic Warden. Our motto is '**Park Away Stride Today!**' Where possible please walk, scoot or cycle to school. During September you are able to park in the carparks in Ashbourne for free after 2pm with your Derbyshire dales parking disc displayed.



Attendance

The register is taken between 8.55-9am. If your child comes to school after this time they will be marked as late.

Attendance at school is crucial- every day your child misses equates to lost learning. If your child is unwell then please contact the school office on the first day of absence. The phones will be manned from 8am. Please email the school office if your child is unwell not the class teacher; info@st-oswalds.derbyshire.sch.uk

If Miss Simons or Mrs Waring have not heard from you regarding your child's absence by 9.30am then they will call you. The Attendance policy is on the school website. Holidays are not permitted during term time. Attendance is rewarded with certificates on a monthly basis.

This link is very good if you are not sure about what to do if your child is unwell; [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Parent Pay:

Please check your child's Parent Pay account and ensure any outstanding bills are paid. Miss Simons and Mrs Faulkner are looking at what outstanding payments are on parent pay and will be in contact over the next few weeks.

Fruit in school



Fruit in school is free for Key Stage 1 children. We ask that children try the fruit and have a single piece if they are not keen. In Key Stage 2 the children can bring in a healthy snack to school- fresh fruit/vegetables, etc. (No nuts due to allergies and no pepperoni sticks, no items wrapped in wrappers, etc.) We are a health promoting school and we have pupils who have allergies therefore we need to be mindful of what we bring into school

Keeping Healthy

We have updated our Medicine Policy. This can be found under Policies on the school Website. We are now able to administer certain medicines within school however if your child is unwell and has a high temperature or sickness and diarrhoea we will not be administering medicines. If your child needs medicine administering please go to the office where you will be asked to complete a form and you can hand the medicine to Miss Simons or Mrs Waring.

The school will accept non-prescription medications Non-prescription medicines must be supplied by parents/carers in their original containers labelled with the pupil's name. They must be in date for

the duration that they are required for and must be accompanied by the fully completed parental consent form. Parents must also on a daily basis inform school of what dose has been given to the pupil that day to avoid accidental overdosing. Schools who give non-prescription medicines in line with these guidelines should inform parents/guardian of any dose given in writing. The school will not keep a stock of non-prescription medication to give pupils. The school will not administer any medications containing aspirin unless prescribed by a doctor. The school will not administer Calpol if the child has a high temperature (links to COVID)'

Governors

Our Board of Governors support our school to strive to be the best it can be. They act as a critical friend to the head teacher and the senior leadership team. More information about the role of the Governors can be found on the school website. We would like to welcome two new Governros to our school team- Mr Thomas Kidsley who joins us as a Co-opted Governor and Mr Scott who joins us as a Parent Governor.

Reading and Homework

We ask that you read with your child daily- 10 minutes a day is crucial in developing your child's love of reading and stamina. Reading books are changed twice a week and your child will be heard read up to three times a week individually and during Guided Group reading sessions.

Homework will be sent out weekly. The amount of homework increases as your child moves through the school. All homework will be linked to the learning your child will be doing in class. Our Homework policy is on our website if you would like to find out more.

Helping in school

If you would be interested in helping in school; listening to children read helping in lessons and supporting the school in any way then please drop us an email or pop and see Mrs Wood or one of the class teachers. If you are interested in helping or you have a relative that is interested in helping then we would love to have you be part of the team.

Dates for the term ahead;

Autumn term 2023

Monday 2 nd October	2.30pm-4.30pm Year 5&6 football tournament at QEG's
Tuesday 3 rd October	Harvest festival in church- All welcome 9.15am
Saturday 7 th October	School Open day- 10am-12noon
Tuesday 10 th October	EYFS visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum World Mental Health day- Wear something yellow
Friday 13 th October	Sarah Dines MP visiting school - Meeting The School Council developing our learning about Democracy
Tuesday 17 th October	Year 1 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Friday 20 th October	Autin Dance Theatre group visiting school to work with Year 5 pupils for a Dance workshop focused on conservation and the environment (This group were at the Ashbourne Arts Festival)
Monday 23 rd October	Year 3, 4, 5,6 Cross Country
Tuesday 24 th October	Year 1 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum Parents Evenings KS1 & KS2
Wednesday 25 th October	Parents Evenings KS1 & KS2
Thursday 26 th October	Year 3 Educational Visit to Cadburys World Parents Evenings KS1 & KS2 Last Day at School
Friday 27 th October	INSET Day- School closed to Pupils
Half term	
Tuesday 7 th November	Remembrance Service in Church

	EYFS Parents Evening
Wednesday 8 th November	EYFS Parents Evening
Thursday 9 th November	EYFS Parents Evenings
Monday 13 th November- Anti Bullying Week	Anti Bullying week- wear Odd Socks 2.30pm TAG Rugby event QEG's Year 5&6
Friday 17 th November	Year 6 Educational Visit to London- Winston Churchill War rooms and Parliament
Monday 20 th November	2.30pm TAG Rugby event QEG's Year 3 &4
Tuesday 21 st November	Year 2 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum 6pm Full Governing Board Meeting
Monday 27 th November	2.30pm Year 5 & 6 Hockey Tournament QEG's
Tuesday 5 th December	Year 2 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper day- Bring in a gift for the Tombola
Monday 11 th December	Year 5& 6 Basket ball tournament QEG's
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 3 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Wednesday 13 th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Thursday 14 th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity
Monday 18 th December	Christmas Fair- 3.30pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 3 visit St Oswald's Church as part of the curriculum
Friday 22 nd December	Carols in Church 9.15am Christmas party and Christmas Lunch
Last Day of the school Term	
Christmas Holiday Period	
Return to school on Monday 8th January 2024	

Local Sporting Events you may wish for your child to join or try out for- This one relates to Girls/Women's Rugby- Please have a look and maybe pop down for a trial.

