

St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 23/01/2026



Mission Statement
We walk in the footsteps of Jesus so that we may have life in all its fullness.
John 10-10

School Website: www.stoswaldsrc.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very positive start to the year, and the children have settled back into school brilliantly. We have lots of exciting events ahead, including Number Day and World Book Day, which will give the children wonderful opportunities to learn, engage and have fun. Please take a moment to look at the list of upcoming events at the bottom of this newsletter, paying particular attention to Parents Evening dates.

We have noticed a drop in attendance in recent weeks. We hope that we are now coming to the end of the seasonal sicknesses going round, and hope everyone is recovering. Thank you for making every effort to ensure your child attends school regularly, as this maximises their learning and development.

Wishing you a restful weekend,
Mr D. Woodhouse

Attendance

Attendance has taken a bit of a dip at the start of this term due mainly to illness. We hope everyone has now recovered and can be back in school as soon as possible!

Red	Under 92%
Amber	92-96.99%
Green	97% and above

If your child is going to be absent, please inform the school office on 01915 367922 by 9am on **each morning** of the absence.

Welcome Nursery new starters!

We have had lots of new starters in our Nursery this January, so we hope you will join us in welcoming them to the school community.

Our Nursery is now full, and so we will not be having an intake at Easter this year. If you would like to apply for a place from September 2026 onwards, please collect a form from the school office.

Attendance Award

Congratulations to Year 4 who won the Attendance award this week with 94.4%

Reception — 92.7%

Year 1 — 88.9%

Year 2 — 90.0%

Year 3 — 88.4%

Year 4 — 94.4%

Year 5 — 93.8%

Year 6 — 86.2%

Our school target is at least 97%

Parents Evening—Pick Up 3.15pm

Parents Evening will be held on Monday 9th March and Wednesday 11th March 2026. We will **dismiss the children at 3.15pm** on these days, so that we can get set up ready for a 3.30pm start to parents evening. Appointments can be booked via Arbor from Monday 9th February.

Number Day!

We are celebrating National Number Day in school on Friday 6th February. Children are invited to come in non-uniform, dressed as whatever they would like to be when they grow up. We will be taking part in lots of maths-themed activities through the day, and considering how maths is used in all careers and numbers are all around us.

If you ever have any safeguarding related concerns at all, please speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

* Mr Woodhouse * Mrs Keith * Mr Smith * Miss Porter * Mrs Frey *

World Book Day—4th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Wednesday 4th March 2026. Children are invited to come in to school dressed as their favourite character, book or story.

Peek a Book Competition

This year's World Book Day competition is 'Peek a Book'. Children are invited to think about how a favourite book could be represented in a jar or box. It can be a book of their choice, but no books must be damaged in the making of your jar please! Any box/jar container can be used. Children must carefully put chosen items into the box that represent and provide clues about their book, selected quotes from the book and ideas about its characters or setting can also be included.

Please make sure that your 'Peek a Book' competition entries are clearly labelled your child's first name and class. All entries must be in school on the morning of Wed 4th March for judging and the jars will be displayed for everyone to see as part of our World Book Day celebrations.. Winners will be announced on Fri 6th March.



PE

PE days are now as follows:

Nursery: Tuesdays

Reception: Tuesdays

Y1: Mondays

Y2: Wednesdays

Y3: Mondays

Y4: Fridays (Swimming)

Y5: Thursdays

Y6: Thursdays

A PE kit can be brought into school and left for the half term. It should include a white t-shirt, shorts/leggings/joggers and trainers.

Free School Meals

Please follow this link to check your child's eligibility for Free School Meals. If you are already eligible, you need not reapply, as once confirmed, eligibility remains in place until the end of primary school.

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/pp-bccet>

First Words Together

We had a brilliant First Words Together session with Megan from The Literacy Trust. This is a 6 week course for some of our Nursery children and their parents, and uses fun activities to support developing speech and language.

Gruffalo Crumble!

Nursery have been doing some fabulous work on their story 'The Gruffalo' including building homes for the animals and making Gruffalo Crumble !



Tesco Blue Tokens

Voting is almost at an end for us in local Tesco stores. We will let you know the result once it is announced—we could win up to £1500 to spend on resources for the children. Winning this money will be put to very good use on new outdoor equipment for the children to use at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Free Parents Workshop

All parents and carers are invited to take part in a free workshop at Biddick Family Hub. "Understanding Children's Behaviour" on Thursday 19th February, 1pm to 3pm. Please book your place using the following number: 01914234980

Trips and Clubs

We are now using Arbor for all trips and clubs sign up. Please keep an eye on your emails for all information about upcoming after school clubs and trips.

Packed Lunches

Please remember that we are a nut-free school, so ensure any items sent in packed lunches do not contain nuts. Including chocolate spread, satay type chicken, peanut butter, etc.

Packed lunches should contain a healthy variety of items including starchy foods, protein, dairy/calcium, and plenty of fruits and veggie. Please only include chocolate and sugary items as an occasional treat.

Y6 Residential

We are delighted that Year 6 will be going back to Newby Wiske in Yorkshire for their residential this year. Please see the letter sent out by Mr Smith with details of how to reserve your child's place.

Earrings

Earrings are not permitted to be worn in school as they are a hazard and can cause significant injury if they catch on something (e.g. at break-time or during PE). Whilst pierced ears are healing, studs must be covered with a plaster whilst at school. Once healed, they should be removed whilst at school and replaced once at home. We encourage you to only pierce ears during holiday periods.

Discovery Zoo

On 7th January Nursery, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 has a visit from Discovery Zoo. They learned all about different types of animals and their habitats, diet along with different types of skeletons and the food chain. Everyone enjoyed getting



Key Dates Spring Term 2026

Friday 6th February—National Number Day (Non-Uniform—What do you want to be?)
Tuesday 10th Feb—Y5 taster morning at St Wilfrid's
Thursday 12th Feb—Y6 trip to Newcastle University
Thursday 19th Feb—9.15am Phonics Meeting (Y1 parents)
Friday 20th Feb—Finish for Half Term 3.25pm

Monday 23rd February—Friday 27th February—Half Term

Monday 2nd March—Return to school
Wednesday 4th March—World Book Day (non-uniform)

Monday 9th March—Parents Evening 3.30-6pm (Pick up 3.15pm)
Wednesday 11th March—Parents Evening 3.30-6pm (Pick up 3.15pm)
Thursday 12th March—School Photo Day

Tuesday 17th March—Music Festival (choir) evening performance
Wednesday 18th March—Music Festival (Y2) evening performance
Thursday 19th March—3.30pm SATs meeting for Y6 parents

Friday 27th March—Easter Bonnets/Garden of Gethsemane competition 9.15am
Thursday 2nd April—Chocolate Raffle drawn

Thursday 2nd April—Finish for Easter at 1.15pm



Y3 Trip to Multiskills Festival

Year 3 attended a Multiskills Festival at Temple Park on Wednesday, where they practiced lots of sports skills such as throwing, catching and balancing.



Vote for a member of staff who has made a difference

Every year, our Trust celebrates members of staff who make a big difference to a pupils and school life.

The Inspirational Staff Award is nominated by pupils) This award celebrates someone who is positive and full of enthusiasm, who has gone over and above the remit of their role to emotionally and practically support pupil(s). This award is held in the highest esteem as the nominations come from the grassroots of our Trust.

Nominations will show that the individual has made an impact on a pupil(s) that is memorable enough for that young person to want to mark the efforts of the staff member. This could be by providing additional support, a consistent friendly face, leading on new opportunities or championing student causes in school, or providing an inspiring role model.

We would like you to think about all the staff at our school, including the Headteacher and teachers, the teaching assistants, the office staff, the kitchen staff, caretaking team etc. If there is someone that you think has done a really good job then you can nominate them for this award.

For younger pupils you may need to ask an adult for some help to make your nomination.

Nominations need to be a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words, you can use the link below to access the nomination form.

Nominations will close on Friday 20 March 2026.

Nominate using this link:

pupil2026 | Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

Or type in <http://Www.bccet.org.uk/pupil2026> to your browser.