

St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 20/03/2026



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,

I hope you are all well. It's lovely to see the sun starting to shine and the days gradually getting lighter—spring really does seem to be on its way. Attendance over the past few weeks has been excellent, with only a small number of children absent. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain this; hopefully we can keep this positive trend going as we move towards the summer term.

A huge well done to all of the children who took part in the music festival, both in the choir and in KS1. I know they sang beautifully and represented our school wonderfully. I'm sure you are incredibly proud of them—just as we are.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Mr D. Woodhouse
Headteacher

Attendance

Attendance has been really good this half term so far, we are so pleased that everyone is back in school and working hard.

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.

Catholic Social Teaching Awards

Please look out for an email asking you to nominate your child for a Catholic Social Teaching Award. You can nominate them simply by replying to the email. Every half term we celebrate putting our Catholic faith into action, including things like volunteering, being charitable, being kind and supportive with our neighbours/community, putting others first or taking an active part in our parish. The awards will be given out for each achievement during our final Celebration Assembly of the term.

Attendance Award

Congratulations to Year 4 who won the Attendance Award this week with 98.9%

Reception — 93.6%
Year 1 — 96.7%
Year 2 — 98.1%
Year 3 — 93.0%
Year 4 — 98.9%
Year 5 — 96.6%
Year 6 — 96.2%

Our school target is at least 97%

Y5 Celebration of the Word

Today Year 5 invited their parents and carers in to school to share a special Celebration of the Word. They shared their learning about St Joseph and sang some beautiful hymns. Thank you all for joining us.

Key Dates

Remember we finish school for the Easter holidays at 1.15pm on Thursday 2nd April.

We return after Easter on Monday 20th April.

Our next INSET day is Friday 3rd July 2026.

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 *

Y5 Basketball Finalists

Our Y5 basketball stars made it to the finals of the Hoops4Health tournament this year! On Friday 13th March they attended a Newcastle Eagles game at the Vertu Arena, and played their own semi final match during a game break. Sadly we were knocked out at the semi final stage, but it was still an amazing experience for everyone, and fantastic to watch some professional basketball at the same time!



Music Festival 2026

We are very proud of our Choir and our Year 2 class, who took part in the South Tyneside Music Festival on different nights this week.

Year 2 absolutely blew the audience away during their performance of 'The North Wind and the Sun'. The children really did us all very proud during their rehearsals and their performance at The Customs House. They all put in 100% effort, sang their hearts out and were all true superstars. Well done Year 2!

Our Choir were part of the KS2 Music Festival and performed "Beyond the Farmers Field" with other groups of children, and sang "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" as their individual song. They showed off their incredible talent and we are so proud of how they represent our school.



Times Table Rockstars Champion

Each week, we celebrate our fantastic mathematicians with the Times Table Champion Trophy! This special award is presented to the child who reaches the very top of the whole-school times table leaderboard, showing outstanding dedication, speed, and accuracy in their practice.

Our champion proudly keeps the trophy in their classroom for the week and is recognised in assembly, inspiring others to keep practising and aiming high. Who will be our next Times Table Champion?

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If you are having difficulties logging into your Times Table Rockstar account, please see your class teacher or Mrs Pratt.

Nursery Stay and Play

On Thursday 26th March, Nursery parents are invited in to an Easter themed stay-and-play event. 10.30am for AM children, 2.15pm for PM children, and all-day parents are welcome to attend either one.

Y4 Sustainable Energy Workshop

On Monday 16th March, Year 4 took part in a sustainable energy workshop. They learned all about greener ways of generating energy, and even made their own wind turbines!

Easter Raffle

On Monday, the children will come home with a strip of raffle tickets to buy/sell at home - 50p per ticket. Please return tickets/monies by Wednesday 1st April. Lots of chocolate and Easter prizes to be won!

Also, congratulations to Isaac (Nursery) who was the winner of our Mother's Day hamper. Lewis his brother collected it on his behalf. The money raised will be used to pay for prizes for our Easter bonnet/ Garden of Gethsemane competition which will be held on Friday 27th (please do not use any real eggs on your entries) .



We will also be having a "guess the number of chocolates in the jar" competition for £1 a guess. Mrs Raine will be taking entries in the yard, or children can bring £1 in to school.

Mini Vinnies Tuck Shop

This week the Mini Vinnies ran a healthy tuck shop at breaktimes in aid of the Charlie and Carter Foundation. They raised a fabulous £104!

Easter Bonnets and Gardens of Gethsemane

Children are invited to create their own Easter bonnet or Garden of Gethsemane at home, and bring it in to school for the competition judging on Friday 27th March. Entries will be displayed in the school hall for parents to view from 9-9.30am. Winners will be announced during Celebration Assembly on Friday afternoon.

Due to allergies within school, please do not use any real eggs or egg shells in your work.



Update - March 2026

School Meal Prices

As you are aware committed to keeping our school meal prices as low as we can, however we will be making a small increase to all school meal prices after Easter. This increase is part of our annual price review and the increase is driven by inflation. Our meals are still cheaper than other providers in the Northeast region, where the average meal price is £2.91.

The increase will allow us to continue to use the **same quality products** and ingredients, offer the **same number of choices** and **keep our portion sizes the same**.

- A primary school meal will be £2.60
- A secondary school meal will be £2.75

This covers the cost of a main meal and a dessert, with water available in all our schools. Don't forget currently all Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2) pupils are entitled to a Free School Meal. To find out more contact your school office.

Healthy, balanced choices

We will be launching our summer menus in primary schools after Easter. Sample menu's can be found by visiting the [Chadwick's Kitchen page](#) on the Trust website.

Designing menus for thousands of pupils isn't a quick task. Every dish is carefully planned to meet the **School Food Standards**, the government's benchmark for healthy eating in education. These standards help ensure that what we serve supports pupils' learning, energy levels, and long-term wellbeing. Requirements include:

- A daily serving of vegetables or salad
- Fruit-based desserts (at least 50% fruit) twice a week
- No more than 2 deep-fried, batter-coated, or breadcrumb-coated items a week
- No more than two pastry-based dishes per week
- Protein-rich meals - meat, poultry, or dairy-free alternatives on at least 3 days

Our teams continually review the latest health guidance, and are working to further reduce ultra-processed foods across our menus. Alongside this, they create bespoke menus for pupils with medical diets, continually reviewing ingredients and recipes.

Thanks to this ongoing effort, our pupils enjoy meals that are not only tasty but genuinely nourishing, helping them thrive throughout the school day.

www.bccet.org.uk

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 veggies. Please only include chocolate and sugary items as an occasional treat.

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>

Trip to the Royal Northern Sinfonia

We are fortunate that we have once again secured tickets for Years 2,3, 4, and 5 to attend the Glasshouse, this time to listen to the Royal Northern Sinfonia perform Sounds of the Deep on Tuesday 28th April. Please look out for a letter from Mrs Hambling with all the details.