



Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2026

### **Attendance**

***You have 190 days to come to school and 175 to do everything else!***

***We can't teach an empty chair!***

Regular attendance at school is significant to a child's educational development and progress. There is now a bigger [Government drive to improve attendance](#). When a child's attendance falls to 90% or below it is classed as persistent absence. We hope that by working together, attendance will improve and children will achieve fully in school. The school's policy for attendance is available on the school [website](#).

Please click on the [link](#) to see the guidance for parents regarding attendance:

Class attendance last week was as follows:

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Year 2       | 99.29% |
| Year 4       | 97.27% |
| Year 3       | 95.86% |
| Year 6       | 95.56% |
| Reception    | 93.33% |
| Year 1       | 92.33% |
| Year 5       | 92.07% |
| Nursery      | 89.58% |
|              |        |
| Whole School | 94.79% |

The classes in **green** are above our target of **96%** and those in **red** are below, some significantly below. We will be targeting those with poor attendance.

If you are unable to call school, e.g no credit on your phone, please use School Spider \* to report the absence or click [here](#) to send an email to let us know, please try to let us know by 9.00AM. *You will need to log into School Spider to do this, if you need help logging in, please let school know.*

[Info for parents from the DfE regarding fines: Fines for parents for taking children out of school.](#)

### **OFSTED**

Our OFSTED inspection concludes today, we will let you know of the outcomes as soon as we are able to do so. Thank you to those of you who gave the inspectors such positive feedback – it is much appreciated.

### **October Half Term Events at Netherton Library**

Attached to the newsletter is information on what's happening at Netherton Library over half term.

### **School Photographer**

The school photographer will be in school this Friday for individual photographs. Please remember to send your child into school in their school uniform. If they have PE on Friday, please send their PE kit into school in a bag. Families with babies can have a group photograph taken at 11.30AM. Please bring your baby into school at 11.30AM.

### **One Vision Housing is 20 Years Old!**

Please see attached birthday invitation from One Vision Housing which is open to the whole community.

### **Free School Meals**

There are changes to eligibility for Free School Meals.

**Universal Credit Eligibility:** All children in households receiving Universal Credit are now entitled to free school meals, removing the previous £7,400 earnings cap for basic meal eligibility.

**Two New Benefit Categories:** Benefits-based free school meals are split into **Targeted FSM** (households earning £7,400 or less, plus legacy/other qualifying benefits) and **Expanded FSM** (households receiving Universal Credit earning above £7,400).

Please click on this [link](#) to apply for free school meals.

### **National Study of Morning Routines and Before School Childcare**

The Department for Education is supporting this national study of morning routines and before school childcare, and St Oswald's Church of England Primary School is one of the schools taking part. There's still time to share your views, it takes about 5-10 minutes: Complete it [here](#). Closes 23rd October 2026.

### **Family Life – Sefton Support Services**

### **Access the Family Life Toolkit**

The Family Life Toolkit offers trusted information, advice and resources to support families, parents, carers, children and young people. Visit the Family Life Toolkit: [Sefton Family Life Toolkit](#) <https://www.seftonfamilylife.com/>

### **Pop Up Book Stall - EYFS**

Next Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October there will be a pop-up book stall for families to choose a free book for your children, the books are aimed for EYFS only. There will also be reading resources available to support early reading with your children. The pop up book stall will be open outside Reception class after school at 3.15pm.

### **School Water Bottles**

We encourage all children to have a school water bottle which can be purchased at the school office for the price of £1.50. We ensure that all the bottles and lids are suitably washed and returned to classes. Every water bottle and lid is named. This ensures that there is no confusion about water bottles or cross contamination. We do not allow water bottles that are not clear as we cannot see what is inside of them. We have a water only policy for drinks.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

Despite the difficulties that they face everyday – through poverty, illness, disability or other disadvantages – receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe, that their faces light up with huge smiles. A shoebox filled with simple, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, clothing, sweets and a small gift can bring joy to someone who may have very little. It is about more than the things inside. **Each box is personal. Each one is an expression of care. Each one lets someone know they have not been forgotten.** Can you help us by filling a shoebox? Leaflets were sent home with all children two weeks ago, please do help this wonderful appeal and fill a box for Blythwood Care in 2026. The deadline for returning boxes is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **The Big Future**

*The Big Future* is asking children and young people about their lives, their experiences and their hopes for the future. I will be using what they tell me to build a national picture of what matters to children today and to ensure their views are heard by Government.

**The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and can be accessed here:**

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Every school has a different community, and every child has a different experience. That is why it is so important that the picture we build reflects children from **every part of England, including your children.**

I would be very grateful for your support in giving them the chance to be heard.

Yours sincerely,

**Dame Rachel de Souza**  
**Children's Commissioner for England**

### **Sefton Be Active**

Attached to the newsletter is the Sefton be Active Half Term guide.

## Dates for 2026/27

For school term dates for the forthcoming academic year and upcoming events for this year, please see the school calendar on our [website](#).

### October

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> October                                              | World Mental Health Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> October                                             | pm - ½ Year 3 swimming                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> October                                             | School group photographs (classes)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> October                                             | <b>School's 67<sup>th</sup> birthday! Happy birthday St. Oswald's C.E.</b><br>pm - ½ Year 3 swimming<br>No Choir after school club on this day.<br>TT Rockstars competition for KS2 – finish for half term.                                                                            |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Half term – 26<sup>th</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> October</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> November                                             | First day back for all pupils                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> November                                             | 'Parenting Puzzle' course starts for parents 9am – 11am run by Mrs Brannigan for all those difficult situations parents face, 5-week course.                                                                                                                                           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> November                                             | Anti-bullying week.<br>9.15am – Mini-church for all EYFS families at church.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> November                                            | 10am – Communion at church – all welcome.<br>Parenting Puzzle Week 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> November                                            | Year 5 History Day – Pupils will be undertaking a fun day of History exploration on Vikings & Anglo Saxons and will put on a performance for Year 5 parents at the end of the day at 2.45pm – all are welcome to come and see what the children have learnt – they'd love to show you. |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> November                                            | Enterprise Week for all pupils.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> November                                            | Children in Need Day & World Children's Day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> November                                            | Last week of After school clubs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> November                                            | Mufti-Day – funds raised go to PFA. TT rockstars competition for KS2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November                                            | Assessment week for all pupils. PFA silent disco – details & tickets nearer the time.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

### Parenting Puzzle

A 5-week course, please see the attached flier for further details. An extra session has been put on by Mrs Brannigan and Sefton Mental Health Support Team to introduce you to the programme and explain what we can offer in terms of support for both you and your child.

### CAMHS

The Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) put together a monthly newsletter for parents and professionals, signposting support such as groups, training and workshops. Click the [link](#) to have a look and see if there is anything of any interest. If you have any questions you can contact Mrs Keiley/Mrs Maguire (SENDco and Mental Health lead) via the school office.

**Christian Values** This week's Christian Value is Friendship.

**Article 12:** Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E Murtagh  
Headteacher

### **A Prayer for our School**

*This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here,  
let peace begin with me.  
Let the room be full of contentment  
Let love abide here  
Love of human kind, love of life itself  
And love of God  
Let us remember that as many hands build  
a house,  
Many hearts build a school.  
Amen*

