



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher – Mr. C.J. Hough
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St Oswald's Catholic Community:
With Christ at the centre of our
community, our mission is to live,
love and learn as Jesus taught us.

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The Newsletter **Autumn term no. 14– 11th December 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Jesus Christ came to draw everyone into his love – to joyfully share in God's own life. How can we live and love more like Christ as we journey through Advent? Perhaps we can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help anyone who is in need; as a family, resolve to support a local or national good cause in the coming new year; make a special effort to let other family members know how much we love them.

Up-date since the last newsletter:

- Well done to all the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for their magnificent performance of 'Born in a Barn'. It was lovely to watch! Thank you for all your kind donations, we raised an incredible £315 which will go to the charity that we are supporting; Alder Hey Children's Hospital.
- Fr. Michael would like to thank our Y6 members of the Choir who sang for the residents of Longton Nursing Home on Tuesday. A beautiful service.
- A big thank you to all our Reception Parents for attending the 'Christmas Stay & Play'. The session was very well supported. We hope you all had fun making Christmas crafts with your child.
- St Oswald's School Calendar is now available from the school office and will also be available to buy at the Bingo Night. Cost of calendars: £6.00 1 calendar or £10.00 for 2 calendars.

Reminders:

- **Any donations of bottles, chocolates, biscuits etc. to make some luxury hampers as prizes for the Grand Christmas Raffle, would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off in the boxes at the school entrance. Thank you.**
- Santa Dash Sponsor money – if you have not yet returned the sponsor money, please do so asap.
- Raffle tickets – last chance to return your raffle tickets. Grand Draw is on Thursday 18th November.
- Primary School Admissions 2026 – the closing date is Thursday 15th January 2025 for your application for a Primary School place for September 2026. Please remember to return the Supplementary Faith Form with a copy of your child's baptism certificate.

Coming up: The Final Week

Sunday 14th December:

Advent Christmas Carol Service in Church at 3pm. The School Choir have been invited to attend. If your child is in the choir, please arrange for your child to be at church at 2.45pm. **Your child can wear their own clothes with a Christmas jumper (not school uniform as previously stated).** Everyone is welcome to come along to share this meaningful journey towards Christmas.

Monday 15th December:

Final swimming session for Y3.

Wednesday 17th December:

Nasal Flu Vaccinations mop-up: The School Nursing Team from Intrahealth will be in school at 9am to deliver the nasal flu vaccinations for children that were absent on the day of vaccinations.

Christmas Jumper Day! Children can replace their school jumper or cardigan for a Christmas jumper or make their school jumper look Christmassy! A donation of £1 will be collected at the gate on the day by the School Council. The proceeds will be sent to Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

Grand Christmas Post Day! Today is the day that children can bring their Christmas cards to school for their friends if they wish.

Carol singing at Ashwood Court and Booths: The Choir will visit Ashwood Court in Longton at 10am to sing carols to the residents and then move on to Booths for 11am. Parents are welcome to come along to Booths at 11am.

Christmas Lunch Day! If your child is on a packed lunch, please make it a festive one. Every child in the school will be given a Christmas cracker!

PTFA Christmas Family Bingo: 6.30pm – 8.00pm in school. Free tickets are available from the office. Bingo Books available on the night for a suggested donation of £2. Prizes to be won, tuck shop open, tea and coffee available. Come along for a fun night with the family! You need a ticket for this event; last year we sold out!! No tickets will be available on the door for this event.

Thursday 18th December:

Y6 will be leading the Christingle Service in church 2pm. Everyone invited to come along.

The Grand Christmas Raffle winners will be announced today. Prizes include a Yaffe photoshoot (worth £250), Ice Skating voucher along with luxury hampers to be won! If you need more raffle tickets, call in at the office.

Friday 19th December:

School closes 1.30pm for Christmas and re-opens on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Christmas and New Year Mass times for St Oswald's Catholic Church, Longton

The Advent Service of Reconciliation with individual confession Saturday 20th December at 10.30am.

Wednesday 24th December – Vigil Masses of the Nativity – 5pm and 7pm

Thursday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord - 8:30am

Friday 26th December - Feast of St Stephen, 9.30am

Saturday 27th December - Feast of the Holy Family Vigil Mass 5pm

Sunday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Family - 8:30am

Monday 29th December – Feast of St Thomas Becket – 9.30am

Tuesday 30th December– Sixth day within the Octave of the Lord 9.30am

Wednesday 31st December - No Mass

Thursday 1st January 2026 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, 9.30am

Friday 2nd January 2026 – Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

Saturday 3rd January Second Sunday after the Nativity Vigil Mass 5pm

Sunday 4th January Second Sunday after the Nativity Mass 8.30am

Monday 5th January Weekday of Christmas 9.30am

Tuesday 6th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Holyday) 9.30am

Safeguarding / Online Safety Notice: Protecting Your Child This Christmas:

As Christmas approaches and many children receive new technology, we urge parents to remain vigilant about their child's online activity. When you gift a device that can access the internet, you're not just gifting the device itself:

you're giving a portal to the entire online world. And while that includes all the fun bits, like chatting with friends and finding new favourite games, it also comes with a whole host of potential safeguarding risks.

Popular platforms such as WhatsApp, Xbox/PlayStation gaming chats, and social media apps like TikTok and Instagram often expose children to risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and contact from strangers. Please note that most of these platforms have age restrictions for a reason:

- WhatsApp/Instagram/TikTok: 13+

- Xbox/PlayStation online gaming: 18+ games often have unrestricted chat features.

Research shows a significant rise in online grooming cases, with the NSPCC reporting over 6,000 incidents last year linked to platforms like Instagram. Gaming chat features have also been flagged by the police for enabling harmful interactions.

We strongly advise you to:

- Supervise and monitor technology use and adjust settings to avoid contact from strangers.

- Regularly discuss online safety with your child. Please visit the Safeguarding page on our website for all information regarding online safety as well as all the platform guides.

- Follow recommended age guidelines.

We have attached guides on setting up and monitoring devices that your children may have access to.

Your vigilance can make all the difference in keeping your children safe.

The link below also has some very useful information about keeping your child safe online.

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2022/12/15/guide-to-gifting-tech/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

NHS Pharmacy First Service:

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment?

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Common condition	Patient eligibility
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst as well as at <https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>

Community News:

Lancashire Warm Spaces: Lancashire County Council are developing a network of warm, safe and welcoming spaces to support residents during the winter months.

These warm spaces will provide residents with somewhere to keep warm, access information and advice or simply to spend time with others.

All Lancashire Libraries are also warm and welcoming spaces, where residents can find:

- A free hot drink
- A space to sit
- Free computers and Wi-Fi
- Charging points for your phone or laptop
- Events and activities
- Help from staff to find information

To find out more please search for: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/cost-of-living/warm-spaces/>

And finally....

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries. We will do our very best to help you.

Yours sincerely

C.J. Hough
Headteacher