



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 **Spring Term Newsletter No.3 – 22nd January 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christian communities (just like families) are never perfect – even Jesus' closest disciples weren't always the ideal set of people. However, everyone works better with others in community.

Our schools and parish communities were founded to be places of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness. People in the past answered Jesus' call to form our Catholic school communities which now welcome and support us and our children. Now it's our turn to continue the work, to build on and develop the warm and loving community of our school – together.

"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community." St Baldwin of Canterbury

Update since the last newsletter:

- Congratulations to the boys' football team who got through the quarter finals at the SPAR Lancashire Finals in Fleetwood last week. Well done team!

Coming up:

Sportshall Athletics Competition **Tuesday 27th January** 2pm – 4.45pm at Priory Academy (letter issued to the team Wednesday). We will leave school at 1.45pm. Any parents who is able to help with transportation, please arrive at school at 1.40pm. Thank you.

Y5 will attend Mass **Tuesday 27th January** at 9.30am. Everyone welcome.

Reception visit to Longton Library **Wednesday 28th January** (letter issued Wednesday).

Dance from the Heart leader training **Tuesday 3rd February** at Priory Academy 1-2.30pm (letter to be issued to the Dance Leaders soon).

Y6 Robinwood Residential visit **Wednesday 4th February – Friday 6th February**. Children are to arrive at school at the normal time. The coach will depart at 9.30am on Wednesday morning and return back to school on Friday at 3pm approx. The children will come back in to school and be dismissed as normal. Children are NOT allowed to bring any mobile phones, cameras or any other electronic devices. If any children are on medication, please drop it off at the school office in a clear sealed bag with full instructions, dosage etc on Tuesday 3rd February at the latest.

Reminder that full payment is to be paid by Friday 30th January. Thank you.

PTFA Annual General Meeting **Monday 9th February** 6pm in school. Everyone is invited to come along.

PTFA Valentine's Disco **Wednesday 11th February**

Infants (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) from 6.15-7 pm and Juniors (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6) from 7.15-8.15pm. The theme is 'red and white'. Tickets are £3.50 before the event or £4.00 on the door. Tickets on sale from the school office from Monday 26th January. Tuck Shop will be available. Playground will be open to help with parking on the night!

PTFA Cake Sale **CHANGE OF DATE TO Wednesday 11th February** 3.15pm on the playground.

School closes for Half Term **Friday 14th February**.

Parents Evening **Tuesday 24th February** or **Thursday 26th February** from 3.40pm – 6.00pm. **Appointments will go live at 9am on Monday 26th January.** Bookings must be made through the School Spider app Each slot lasts 5 minutes with your child's class teacher. Please arrive 5 minutes prior to your appointment time to allow you time to look at your child's work.

Y4 Sacramental Mass **Sunday 1st March** 10.30am in church.

We welcome Professor, Yuichi Tansei from Shujitsu University in Okayama **Monday 2nd March**. Yuichi and four students will be joining us as part of their teacher training studies into methods of teaching reading and writing. The students will also be delivering cultural lessons to every class so the children can learn about life in Japan. It is always a very special two weeks for all the children.

Y4 Sacramental Preparation meeting **Monday 2nd March** 6.30pm in church.

Reception visit to Bring Yer Wellies **Tuesday 3rd March** as part of their Planting & Life Cycles studies (letter issued 21st January).

World Book Day 2025 **Thursday 5th March**. To celebrate the love of reading, the children are invited to come to School dressed as a book character. If you would like to share a story with a small group of children at the end of the day, please fill in the attached slip or email the office so we can plan the groups. Thank you.

Freddy Fit will be in school **Wednesday 12th March** to promote healthy lifestyles with every class. This is being funded from our Sports Premium funding. Every child must have their PE Kit in school for this event.

Y1 Mother Day Assembly **Friday 13th March** 2.40pm in the School Hall. Y1 Parents invited.

Admin Reminders:

- A week's notice **must** be given in writing (preferably by email) if you wish your child to change from packed lunches to school meals, or vice-versa. This is normal school policy – thank you for your co-operation.
- **It is essential that your child's Parent Pay account is in credit for school meals and Early Bird's. Please may I remind you to check your child's Parent Pay account on a regular basis and top-up as necessary. The account MUST stay in credit at all times.** Thank you for your co-operation.
- Check your child's bag on a regular basis to make sure you are not missing out on anything. Any letters issued are also put on the school website.

Absence (Illness):

If your child is absent for any reason during the term, please telephone the school before 9.30 am on the first morning of your child's absence. If we do not receive a message from, you will receive a telephone call from school to query the reason for your child's absence. This is a "1st Day Contact" system and is part of our safeguarding procedure. On your child's return to school, please provide a letter or email the school office explaining the absence. If no explanation is received in writing, the absence will be deemed as unauthorised.

Absence (Medical/Dental Appointments, etc.) with Appointment Card:

Where possible, please try to make appointments out of school time. However, should you need to take your child out of school for an appointment, **please provide school with a copy of the appointment card or letter at least two days in advance of the appointment. If an appointment card is not available, please write a note or email the school with the details of the appointment.** Pupils should be collected from the school office. Please ensure that your child has been 'signed out' on collection. On your child's return to school, pupils must be brought to the school office and, again be 'signed in' by a parent, carer or family member. This is for health and safety and fire regulation purposes to ensure that all pupils are accounted for.

Free School Meals Vouchers – February half term holiday 2026

The Department for Works and Pensions Household Support Fund (HSF) grant has been extended for a further year with funding being made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England. The funding will support those most in need, helping with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. We can confirm that approval has been granted for schools to utilise the LCC Edenred account to order February half term holiday vouchers for benefits-eligible Free School Meal pupils. This extends to all benefits-eligible school aged children (Reception up to and including Year 11) and where applicable, benefits-eligible secondary school sixth form students.

Each eligible pupil will be issued with **£15** in vouchers to cover the one-week holiday period w/c 16th February 2026. If your own circumstances have changed and you think you are entitled please contact Pupil Access Team at Lancashire County Council on 01772 531809 with your Name, Date of Birth and National Insurance Number.

Qualifying benefits:

If you or your partner receive any of the following benefits you can apply for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

And finally....

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

C.J. Hough
Headteacher

ST OSWALD'S WORLD BOOK DAY STORYTIME – THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026

Yes I would love to come and share a story with a group on children on Thursday 5th March at 2.40pm.

Name of child: Name of Parent:

Preferred Year Group:
