



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher – Mr. C.J. Hough
Chapel Lane
Longton
Preston PR4 5EB

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.

Email head@longton-st-oswalds.lancs.sch.uk
bursar@longton-st-oswalds.lancs.sch.uk

Tel: 01772 613402

The Newsletter Spring Term Newsletter No.8– 4th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Water is a sign of life. The 'living water' is a sign of everything that Jesus offers us to satisfy our need of God's love and guidance. With its serious message, this Sunday's Gospel is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people just as they are – and that includes us too!

God has no favourites; we are all loved equally by God. The season of Lent presents a great opportunity for everyone to enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink.

Update since last newsletter:

- Fr Michael would like to pass on his thanks to all the Y4 families who attended Mass on Sunday and the Sacramental Programme session on Monday. Next Mass is Sunday 8th March 10.30am with session 2 of the programme on Monday 9th March at 6.30pm.
- We welcome Yuichi, Ryoko, Suzuka, Rio and Mizuki! Yuichi is a Professor at Shujitsu University, Okayama and has been visiting St Oswald's for many years with Japanese students. We look forward to them spending 2 weeks at school and learning about life in Japan and Japanese culture.
- Reception had a great time at Bring Yer' Wellies learning about planting & growing in the sunshine! The children asked lots of questions and the staff commented how well behaved the children were!
- Well done to the Cross Country Team who ran so brilliantly on Tuesday. There were over 300 competitors and the St. Oswald's children were outstanding, pushing themselves to their limits and never giving up.
- The Mother's Day Stall and Cake Sale made a whopping £186! Thank you to Mrs Nowak and her team.
- Your child will come home with a book token today that they can exchange at a participating retailer for one of 12 specially produced titles. Titles for 2026 include: *Unicorn Academy: My Secret Unicorn Diary*, *Funny FACTopia!*, *Pablo and Splash: The Castle Quest*, *Pia's Pet Club: Iguana Escape*, *Bear Rescue*, *Bunny vs Monkey: Total Chaos!*, *Skandar and the Secret Element*, *Chaos at the Chocolate Factory*, and *Unbelievable Football*. The participating retailers include Sainsburys, Asda, Tesco, The Works, Waterstones and local independent booksellers from Thursday 12th February until Sunday 15th March. Let's celebrate the National Year of Reading at St Oswald's!

Coming up - dates to Easter:

Friday 6th March -Whole school Wellbeing Festival Day in school on. Each class will have wellbeing session throughout the day which includes yoga, learning breathing techniques and practicing calming movements. PE kits are needed for this event.

Sunday 8th March - Y4 Sacramental Mass 10.30am in Church

Monday 9th March - Y4 Sacramental Programme session 6.30pm in Church.

Wednesday 11th March - We welcome Freddy Fit back to school. Every child must have their PE Kit in school for this event.

Friday 13th March - Y5 and Y6 will attend Mass at Church at 9.30am. All welcome to attend.

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

Sunday 15th March - Y4 Sacramental Mass 10.30am in Church

Monday 16th March - Reception walk to the Park.

Monday 16th March - Y4 Sacramental Programme session 6.30pm in Church.

Wednesday 18th March -Y4 visit to Southport Eco Centre as part of their Geography Studies 'Rainforests'.

Friday 20th March -Rock, Steady Band Showcase 2.15pm. Parents invited to come along to watch the performance.

Friday 20th March - Stations of the Cross Service in Church at 7pm. Everyone invited to come along.

Sunday 22nd March - Y4 Sacramental Mass 10.30am in Church

Monday 23rd March - Y4 Sacramental Programme session 6.30pm in Church.

Tuesday 24th March -Height & Weight checks for children in Reception & Year 6. This is an **OPT-OUT** process. If you wish to withdraw your child from the National Child Measurement Programme, please contact the NHS team on 0300 247 0040 before the date of the measure. Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

Y6 will take part in the health needs assessment questionnaire. This is an **OPT-OUT** process. If you wish to withdraw your child from completing the questionnaire, please contact the NHS team on 0300 247 0040 before the date of the measure (letters have been sent home 26th February).

Tuesday 24th March – 'This Girl Can' Sporting Event at Lostock Hall Academy 3.45pm – 5.30pm (letter issued to the Y5 team today).

Wednesday 25th March - Y5 visit to Judges Lodgings, Lancaster Centre as part of their History Studies on 'Victorians'

Wednesday 25th March – Reception 'Spring Stay & Play' 2-3pm. If you have a child in Reception and would like to come along, please complete the slip below and send it in so we know numbers for the session.

Thursday 26th March – Last Brass Band lesson.

Thursday 26th March - PTFA Family Easter Bingo 6.30-8.00pm. Tickets are available from the school office w/c 9th March.

Monday 30th March - NHS Lancashire Vision Screening Service will carry out vision checks on for children in Reception. This is an **OPT-OUT** system. All children will have vision screening in school unless a reply slip is returned (letters sent out 30th January).

Tuesday 31st March - Y1 visit to Martin Mere as part of their Geography studies on 'Animals & Plants.'

Wednesday 1st April – Y2 visit to Longton Library. Details to be sent out shortly.

School closes Thursday 2nd April at 3.15pm (afterschool club running as normal) and re-opens on Monday 20th April.

Summer Uniform:

Reminder that Summer uniform is to be worn when school re-opens after the Easter Holidays.

Boys: School polo shirt with logo, grey trousers or shorts, school sweatshirt with logo, grey socks and black school shoes.

Girls: Green/white gingham dresses or school polo shirt with grey trousers or shorts, white socks and black school shoes.

We do have a collection of pre-loved clothing which will be displayed on the playground on Friday 6th March. There are lots of grey shorts and summer dresses (some are even new with labels). Feel free to come along and take anything you like, free of charge!

Reminder from Early Birds Breakfast Club:

Please can you ensure that when you drop your child off for Breakfast Club that you wait until a member of staff collects them from the entrance area. Thank you.

ParentPay Reminders:

Please may I remind parents to check their ParentPay account regularly and ensure that it is topped up and in credit! Outstanding amounts should never accrue to more than two weeks of debt, i.e £27.00 for school meals and £35.00 for Early Birds. Thank you.

Free School Meals Vouchers – Easter 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 Easter 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 **£30** in vouchers to cover the two-week holiday period w/c 30th March 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)

Stay Strong, Get Vaccinated:

We have been asked to share the following information from the LCC Health Protection Team:

A major new national campaign, Stay Strong, Get Vaccinated, launched on 16th February 2026 by the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, and the UKHSA, to boost uptake of routine childhood vaccinations, and will run until 31st March 2026. The initiative comes as the UK continues to see rising cases of preventable diseases, including measles, which spread rapidly among unvaccinated children.

The key messages document attached is aimed at parents & guardians of 0-5 year olds, so they can consider the benefits of childhood vaccinations.

The LCC Health Protection Team is committed to raising awareness and providing valuable information to help your communities and the people in it, to stay healthy and safe. We work to ensure that they have access to the resources and knowledge to help them make informed choices to protect themselves and their loved ones. Please see flyer attached.

Art & Craft Holiday Club:

Please see flyer attached from Merle Creative regarding a local holiday Art & Craft Club for Easter.

And finally....

Please find attached the Online Safety Newsletter which has lots of important information regarding parental controls, mobile phone risks for children etc. Please take time to read this. Thank you.

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

C.J. Hough
Headteacher

RECEPTION STAY & PLAY SESSION 'STEP INTO SPRING" – WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2026

I would like to attend the Stay & Play session on Wednesday 25th March 2026 2-3pm.

Name of Child Signature
