



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

Final Newsletter of the Academic Year 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

September Opening:

When we return to school in September, the school gates will open at 8.40am and will close at 8.50am. Your child may arrive at any time within the 10-minute window. Punctuality is an important life skill so please be on time every day.

The end of the school day is 3.15pm and children are to be collected from the playground.

Uniform:

We return in WINTER uniform in September (page 28 of the School Prospectus). Black school shoes only, no trainers to be worn.

Jewellery must not be worn at school. It is important that ear-piercing is ONLY carried out at the beginning of the summer holidays, as earrings are not permitted to be worn at school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Guitars:

Beginners' guitar lessons will start Monday 7th September for Y3-Y6. Miss Galea will be in touch during the holidays to those who have returned the slips. If your child wishes to join, please email Miss Galea on carmelmgalea@gmail.com.

Players in Education:

Please find details attached for the September course at St Oswald's. If you wish for your child to take part, please click on the link.

<https://www.playersdramaschool.co.uk/players-in-education/>

Drumming:

Drumming lessons start on Monday 7th September. There are a few places available so if you wish for your child to start drumming lessons (Y3-Y6), please see letter attached.

Wind/Brass Lessons:

Letters will be sent home at the beginning of September to the children who have registered their interest.

Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs in deprived areas and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, the Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, they have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

PTFA Fundraising:

The PTFA have been fantastic throughout the year, a huge thank you to the PTFA for all the hard work and commitment to ensuring that we have great resources for all our children. This year we have bought new picnic benches for the school playground so thank you to everyone for supporting the events! A PTFA AGM will be held in September so watch out for the date and come along to join us.

Thank you:

A huge thank you to all the parent/grandparent volunteers who have been such a fantastic help and support in school this year. If you do have any spare time next year and would like to help out by hearing readers, helping at Forest School etc, please get in touch for a chat.

Thank you to Mrs Nowak and her team for all the cakes this year.

Thank you to Fr. Michael for all the masses over the past year, especially the final Leavers Mass for Y6.

Good Luck:

Y6 spent a lovely week celebrating their final week as a class. We would like to wish Y6 all the very best as they leave St Oswald's and move on to their next stage of education. The children are ready for their new challenges and we hope to hear of their great achievements. Good Luck Y6, keep in touch.

And finally....

We say goodbye to Claire in our kitchen. Claire has been with us for 12 years and has done an amazing job running our school kitchen and providing children with wonderful school meals always with a smile! We will miss her but wish her all the best in her new job.

On behalf of the dedicated staff team and Governors, I would like to wish you all a very safe and happy summer. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and feedback over the past year. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 2nd September.

Please contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

C.J. Hough
Headteacher