



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
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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.

Tel: 01772 613402

The Newsletter **Autumn term no. 2– 10th September 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus the question about how many times we should forgive. Jesus' answer shows that we must forgive one another just as God forgives us: again and again, without limit.

God is our loving Father and we can always count on his loving forgiveness and on the freedom that his forgiveness brings. Jesus instructs us to be just as forgiving toward others.

Forgiveness is the lifeblood of any family or community. St John Paul II reminds us, "Forgiveness does not come naturally. Forgiving from the heart can sometimes be actually heroic."

Thank you for supporting the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings which are being held over the next 2 weeks. Each class teacher will post their PowerPoint presentation on the class pages of the website for your information if you were not able to make the meeting. The teachers have given you the key messages for the year but as teaching and learning is far more complex than a brief overview, please appreciate that there will be times when the class timetable has to change, topics moved to a different term etc. If you have any queries at all at any point in the year, please get in touch.

Please find attached September's Online Safety Newsletter which features new guidance on the growing concern related to AI-manipulated images and information regarding parental controls. Ever increasing numbers of online safety issues are highlighting that regular monitoring of your child's online access is crucial.

It would hugely benefit your child's mental health if you don't allow a phone until they are ready for High School. Most children are not mature enough emotionally or socially to cope with group Whats App etc.

Friday 11th September – Rock Steady Band lessons to start with Connor Banks

Saturday 12th September - 'Education Weekend' Mass in church at 5pm. Fr Michael has invited everyone to come along to celebrate mass with the teachers and governors of the school.

Monday 14th September – Drumming lessons to start with Adam Darwen

Monday 14th September – Netball to start run by Mrs Cookson and Miss Gravili

Monday 14th September – 3.30-4pm Y6 Meet the Teacher

Monday 14th September – 3.30-4pm Curriculum Meeting for Reception

Wednesday 16th September – 3.30-4pm Y4 Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 16th September – 3.30-4pm Y1 Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 16th September - 6-7pm Mrs Cooper from All Hallows has invited Y5 and Y6 prospective parents to All Hallows to meet to discuss Admission arrangements etc.

Thursday 17th September – 3.30-4pm Y3 Meet the Teacher

Thursday 17th September – Wind/Brass Club to start with Mrs Campbell

Thursday 17th September – 1st match of Y5/Y6 football tournament at Penwortham Priory Academy, 3.40pm – 5pm

Friday 18th September – School photographer in to take individual photographs of the pupils or if they have a sibling in school their photograph will be taken together.

Thursday 24th September - All Hallows Open Evening 5-7.30pm.

Primary Admissions 2027:

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2027 then you **MUST** apply on-line at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools The CLOSING DATE FOR PRIMARY APPLICATIONS IS 15th JANUARY 2027.

Please ensure that you also complete the ST OSWALD'S SUPPLEMENTARY FAITH FORM which is available on the school website or from school. The Supplementary Faith Form must then be forwarded to SCHOOL together with a copy of your child's BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE! Please note: If your child was baptised at St Oswald's and you do not have a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, please complete a 'Baptismal Certificate request slip', available from school and post this through the St Oswald's presbytery post-box for Fr Michael.

Secondary Admissions 2027:

If your child is due to transfer to High School in September 2027, then please apply on-line at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools. The CLOSING DATE FOR SECONDARY APPLICATIONS IS 31st OCTOBER 2026.

Free School Meals – Important changes from September 2026.

Firstly, if your child is already receiving Free School Meals and is in Years 3–6, there is nothing you need to do. The Local Authority already holds your information and will automatically check your child's eligibility ahead of their return to school in September 2026.

If your child is in Key Stage 1 (Reception to Year 2), they will already have been receiving a free school meal through the universal infant scheme. If you have previously completed a Free School Meal application, so that your child's school can access additional funding, your eligibility will also be automatically checked—so again, you do not need to take any action.

If your child has not been receiving a free school meal and you believe you may be eligible, please read the information below.

From September 2026, the Government is extending eligibility for Free School Meals. This means that more families may now qualify for support, even if they have not previously been eligible.

What this means for you

- If your household income is lower, your child may now be entitled to free school meals at school
- Schools receive additional funding (known as Pupil Premium) for every eligible child, which is used to support learning, resources and enrichment opportunities
- Even if your child prefers a packed lunch, applying can still bring valuable benefits to both your child and the school

What you need to do

- If you think you may now be eligible, we strongly encourage you to submit an application before the start of the academic year.
- Applications are quick, confidential and securely processed
- If your child is already receiving Free School Meals, you do not need to reapply

Why it's important to apply

- Ensures your child receives all the support they are entitled to

- Helps the school access additional funding to support pupils
- May provide access to further support, such as help with trips or activities

If you would like further information or support with your application, please contact the school office.
Please see information booklet attached.

We encourage all families to take a few minutes to check their eligibility — this support can make a real difference.

Packed Lunches:

If you do not wish for your child to have a cooked meal, he/she may bring a healthy packed lunch. This should be brought in a lunch box, which must be clearly named. Please make sure that all containers are unbreakable. Your child will need a separate drink packed in their lunchbox. Classroom water bottles cannot be taken to the dining hall; keeping them in class ensures they don't get lost and are available for the afternoon. **Please do not send glass bottles, cans, fizzy drinks or flasks as hot food is not permitted.** Please also ensure that the appropriate cutlery is provided, e.g. a spoon for yoghurt, but note that items such as skewers must not be sent. Packed lunches should not include chocolate covered confectionery, sweets, fast food, food fried in oil, nuts or nut products including Nutella, peanut butter etc, although they can be healthy, they are a danger for children with nut allergies. We do encourage healthy eating for all pupils.

If your child has an allergy or requires a specific diet, please inform us in writing so the school kitchen can cater for their needs.

Medicines:

Any children who are on long term medication (e.g asthma, nut allergy etc), please can parents check that their medicine has been returned to school and is in date. If your child is asthmatic, 2 inhalers are required in school which also must be in date. Any problems, please contact the school office.

Admin Reminders:

- A week's notice **must** be given 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.
- 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.

Reminder - ParentPay Activation Letters for Reception Parents:

Letters have been sent home last week to Reception parents in with details how to activate your ParentPay account. We are encouraging all parents to activate their ParentPay accounts as soon as possible. This service is used for payments such as Early Birds' Breakfast Club, school trips and also for school meals (for Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 pupils). If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Reminder - Safeguarding – End of Day Arrangements:

Please return the 'End of School Day' arrangements form. A paper copy was sent home with your child last week. It is extremely important that these forms are returned so the member of staff knows the end of day arrangements for your child. Thank you.

Car Park and Parking:

- The one-way system must be adhered to.
- Only park in the designated parking bays.
- The disabled bays are only to be used by registered disabled badge holders. The badge **MUST** be on view.
- No parking on designated walk ways or yellow gridded areas.
- Supervise your child when using the car park.
- Engines to be switched off once you have parked in the car park.

- Do not park inconsiderately across anybody's drive in the locality of the school (the Police have already received calls from local residents)
- Fixed Penalty Charge Notices will be issued to anybody parking on the zigzags- it's dangerous and illegal.

Fr Michael allows the school to have use of the car park; the car park does not belong to school.

A log is kept and shared with the police of any near misses, abusive behaviour, dangerous/inconsiderate parking.

Thank you for your co-operation in keeping every child safe. Please share the above with whoever picks your child up from school so everyone is clear about car parking at the end of the school day.

And finally...

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with school if you have any queries; please drop us an email or call the school office. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

C.J. Hough
Headteacher