



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.

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The Newsletter

Autumn term no. 3– 17th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the images of workers and a vineyard to show us something about the kingdom of Heaven and God's generosity. God's ways are not our ways. At first, it may appear unfair that the workers who started early were only paid the same as those who arrived later. But, on reflection, we see that not only was the Landowner being fair by paying what had been agreed, he was being overly generous through rewarding everyone equally (even those who came at the last hour). God's generosity is unlimited and offered to each one of us.

Update since the last newsletter:

- Fr. Michael would like to thank everyone who attended the Education Mass on Saturday.
- Mrs Cooper would like to thank Y5/Y6 parents who attended the meeting on Wednesday. Supplementary Faith Forms are to be returned to school by Thursday 15th October so we can send the forms to All Hallows on Friday 16th October.

Coming up:

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.

Tuesday 22nd September

School Meal Promotion 'Coding Day'. If your child is already having school meals, they will automatically be included in this event. The meal served will be Glitching Chicken Goujons with Data Stream Dips or Cheese & Tomato Pizza Pocket served with Micro-Chip Fries, Server Sweetcorn & Processer Peas or Binary Baked Jacket Potato with Choice of Fillings & Salad followed by Waffle Grid & Chocolate Sauce or Java Jelly Pots served with Ctrl+Alt+Del-icious Fruit Wedges.

If you would like your child to have a school meal on this date, please complete the slip below and return to school no later than Tuesday 20th September.

Thursday 24th September

2nd match of Y5/Y6 football tournament at Penwortham Priory Academy, 3.40pm – 5pm.

Thursday 24th September

All Hallows Open Evening 5-7.30pm.

Thursday 1st October

Y5 author visit to Longton Library with Jen Carney (letter to be sent home today).

Thursday 1st October

School Meal Promotion 'Space Day'. If your child is already having school meals, they will automatically be included in this event. The meal served will be Meteor Meatball Marinara or Solar Spaghetti with Galactic Garlic Bread or Cosmic Cheese & Onion Roll with Planet Potato Wedges and Lunar Peas or Jupiter Jacket Potato with Mixed Salad followed by Sonic Boom Rocket Ice Lolly or Super Moon Cookie with Frontier Fruit Wedges.

If you would like your child to have a school meal on this date, please complete the slip below and return to school no later than Tuesday 29th

September.

Thursday 1st October

Final match of Y5/Y6 football tournament at Penwortham Priory Academy, 3.40pm – 5pm.

**Monday 5th October or
Friday 9th October**

Phonics Workshop for Reception parents in the Reception Classroom 2-3pm. Mrs Stone will be teaching a phonics lesson while you learn all about the importance of early reading and phonics. Let us know which session you can attend by returning the slip attached. Due to limited space, please can we ask that only **1** parent attends and no children. Thank you.

Tuesday 6th October

PTFA Meeting 6.30pm in school. Please come along to discuss this year's events. It would be lovely to see any of our new Reception parents.

Thursday 8th October

1st match of Y5/Y6 Girls football tournament at Penwortham Priory Academy, 3.40pm – 5pm (letter to be sent home to the team shortly).

Friday 9th October

Y6 Taster Day at All Hallows (letter to be sent home Friday 18th September).

Monday 12th October

The Lancashire Evening Post photographer will be coming into school to take a photograph of the Reception pupils. This photograph will appear in the 'School Starters 2026' supplement of the newspaper. **IF YOU DO NOT WISH FOR YOUR CHILD TO BE IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH, PLEASE LET US KNOW IN WRITING BY EMAIL OR LETTER.** Thank you.

Thursday 15th October

2nd match of Y5/Y6 Girls football tournament at Penwortham Priory Academy, 3.40pm – 5pm.

Monday 19th October

Last Netball session.

Wednesday 21st October

Last Football session.

Tuesday 20th October

Reception visit to Longton Library (details to follow).

Thursday 22nd October

Open Morning 9.15am – 10.15am for any prospective parents who have a child wishing to start school in September 2027.

Thursday 22nd October

SAVE THE DATE!!! The first PTFA event this year is our 'Autumn Pumpkin Disco':
6.15pm-7pm for Reception, Y1 and Y2 (a parent needs to accompany their Reception child)
7.15pm-8.15pm for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6
Further details regarding tickets to follow.

Thursday 22nd October

Final match of Y5/Y6 Girls football tournament at Penwortham Priory Academy, 3.405pm – 5pm

Friday 23rd October

INSET Day – school closed.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE: MOBILE PHONES, INC SMART WATCHES

National safeguarding guidance has changed significantly. The Department for Education's Mobile Phones in Schools guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026, with schools expected to begin implementing it from 1 September 2026.



The guidance states:

"All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default (including smart watches); anything other than this should be by exception only."

This is straightforward for us at St Oswald's, where mobile phones have never been permitted. However, we recognise that phones may be needed in certain circumstances, such as when a child is walking home independently (Y5/Y6).

In these cases, phones should be handed in at the school office on arrival and will be returned to the child at the end of the school day. We strongly encourage children to enjoy a phone-free childhood, whilst recognising that there are occasions when a mobile phone may be necessary. National safeguarding guidance also requires schools to treat smart watches in the same way as mobile phones. Last year, some smart watches worn in school were capable of taking photographs, recording audio and accessing the internet, which is neither appropriate nor necessary during the school day. It is difficult and time-consuming for staff to verify the functions available on different models of watch, so our policy must be clear and consistent. Children should therefore only wear watches that tell the time. All classrooms have clocks, and children are supported to be in the right place at the right time throughout the day, so watches are not essential in school. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for all children.

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.

PTFA School Calendar 2027:

Any businesses that would like to be included in the School Calendar for 2027, please contact the school office. The price of the adverts are £40.00 a month (1 month to 5 months) or £36 a month (6 months or more). The closing date for sponsors is Monday 12th October.

Final Reminder - Safeguarding – End of Day Arrangements:

Please return the 'End of School Day' arrangements form. A paper copy was sent home with your child at the beginning of term. 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.

Heads up from Health Protection:

The Health Protection Team at Lancashire County Council has asked us to share the valuable information to help you and your families stay healthy and safe throughout the following months. Please click on the link below.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/6Sq70KIT7jU3CQvK>

Face Family Advice: In response to parental demand, FACE has released a parent support app called ADHD and so much more! The app is **FREE** to download and the talk is completely **FREE**. No subscription is needed to watch this talk. It is currently available for iPhones; the Android version is coming soon. See flyer attached.

Community News:

Longton Winter Wonderland: Longton Carnival Committee are holding a Winter Wonderland in Longton on Sunday 29th November from 11am-5pm. See flyer attached.

New Longton Brownies: 2nd New Longton Brownies are looking for girls aged 7-10 to join. They meet at Hope Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, New Longton on Wednesdays from 6pm-7.30pm. Register your interest by visiting www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus or you can ring Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901.

First Strokes Swimming School: Register your child for Swimming Lessons via the Registration form and someone will be in touch as soon as possible. 🐡 🐡 <https://firststrokesswimming.co.uk/>
Alternatively use the following contact information below for all other enquiries:
Email: firststrokes@outlook.com Tel: 07809 429911

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firststrokesswimminglessons/>

Pool Based on Gill Lane- Longton

Level 2 and 3 coaches have been teaching for over 20 years. They are a dedicated crew who can help bring fun and confidence to swimming and refine the technique of confident swimmers 🏊 🏊

Lessons are suitable for swimmers from 6 months

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

RECEPTION PHONICS WORKSHOP

Please tick which day you can attend. Sessions are from 2pm – 3pm.

I would like to attend the 'Phonics Workshop' session on **Monday 5th October**

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I would like to attend the 'Phonics Workshop' session on **Friday 9th October**

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Name of child:

Signed by parent/carer:.....

SCHOOL MEAL PROMOTION –CODING DAY – TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2026

I would like my child to have a school meal on Tuesday 22nd September. I will ensure payment of £3.00 is made in advance through ParentPay (children Y3-Y6).

Name of child: Year group:

Signature of parent/carer:

SCHOOL MEAL PROMOTION –SPACE DAY – THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER

I would like my child to have a school meal on Thursday 1st October. I will ensure payment of £3.00 is made in advance through ParentPay (children Y3-Y6).

Name of child: Year group:

Signature of parent/carer: