



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 **Autumn term no. 7– 15th October 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' enemies are plotting his downfall and try to trick him with a devious question about paying taxes.

If Jesus says they should pay, it means that he accepts the Roman Emperor, and not God, as his ultimate boss. If he says they shouldn't pay, he can be attacked for being disloyal to the Roman Empire. But then Jesus follows up with a real clincher: 'Pay to the Emperor what is due to the Emperor and pay to God what is due to God!'

This Gospel story also asks us: 'What is due to God in our own lives?' Surely 'our gratitude' would be a good answer to this question. Being grateful to God brings great joy. There are many blessings in life – let's not just take them for granted.

Being more grateful for our blessings can make a real difference to our lives!

Update since the last newsletter:

- Well done to Y5/Y6 Girls Football Team who played their first match at Priory on Thursday. The team played five matches, winning one, drawing two and two friendlies.
- Y6 had a great day at their Taster Day at All Hallows on Friday. They enjoyed using bunsen burners to find which crisps had the most energy, coding to send robots around a track and made some amazing self portraits in a RE reflection. They finished off with a big quiz and enjoyed sampling the school lunches.
- If your child is in Reception, a proof/order form has been sent home on Wednesday. If you wish to purchase the photograph, please complete the order form and payment and return to school by Wednesday 21st October. This photograph will be printed in the Lancashire Evening Post First Class Special. We will let you know the date of publication, once they have informed us.
- Thank you to parents that came along to the THASP workshop (The Happy at School Project) on Tuesday evening with Christina Mitchell. We hope you found the workshop really helpful.
- Reception children came home with a parent induction questionnaire this week. Please take the time to complete and return back to school. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Coming up:

Monday 19th October - Final session of Right Start Road Safety Programme for Reception.

Monday 19th October - Last Netball session until Spring.

Tuesday 20th October - Reception visit to Longton Library. Please remember to send your child in with a waterproof coat.

Tuesday 20th October- PTFA Cake Sale on 3.15pm on the school playground.

Wednesday 21st October- Last Football session until Spring.

Thursday 22nd October - Open Morning 9.15am – 10.15am for any prospective parents who have a child wishing to start school in September 2027. If you are unable to make this and wish to have a tour around the school with Mr Hough, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Thursday 22nd October - Final match of Y5/Y6 Girls football tournament at Penwortham Priory Academy, 2.15pm – 3.30pm

Thursday 22nd October - PTFA 'Autumn Pumpkin Disco' Tickets are on sale £3.50.

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

The playground will be open for parking for this event as it does get very busy. As part of our safeguarding procedures for this event, please come into the hall to collect your child at the end of the disco.

Friday 23rd October INSET Day– school closed.

November Dates so far...

Monday 2nd November Y6 visit to Museum of Lancashire, Preston (letter issued Friday 2nd October).

Tuesday 3rd November Y6 to attend Mass 9.30am in church – everyone invited to come along.

Wednesday 4th November /

Wednesday 11th November: Parents Evening 3.40pm -6pm in the school classrooms from 3.40pm – 6.00pm. Thank you to all the parents who have booked their parents' evening slot so quickly! Over 86% of appointments have already been taken. If you haven't had chance yet, please secure your slot as soon as possible to get your preferred time. Bookings are via the School Spider app.

Thursday 5th November School Meal Promotion 'Bonfire Lunch' for anyone who doesn't normally have a school lunch. The menu is Firecracker Sausage in a Bun or Catherine Wheel Pizza Whirl served with Smokey Ridge Fries, Garden Peas or Baked Beans or Oven Baked Jacket Potato served with Choice of filling & Salad Selection followed by Sparkling Toffee Cake. If your child would like a school meal on this date, please complete the attached slip and return to school by Tuesday 3rd November and make the payment of £3.00 on ParentPay (Years 3-6).

Friday 6th November Y5 visit to Rock & River Centre, Mawdesley for a day of outdoor adventure. Please ensure that Personal Information Forms and medical 3B Forms are returned asap. Full balance to be paid by Friday 30th October. Thank you.

Tuesday 10th November Freddy Fit will be in school all day to work with every class promoting fitness and healthy eating. The day is funded from the Sport Premium budget.

Friday 13th November Children in Need Fundraising Day. The School Council are busy organising the day. They have asked if all the children could come to school either in their pyjamas or wearing something spotty in return for a donation of £1.

Friday 13th November Y5 Parent Assembly in the hall at 2.40pm. Y5 will be presenting their assembly on the theme of 'Friendship' as part of National Anti -Bullying Week. Parents are welcome at 2.40pm.

Monday 16th November Y4 Sacramental Programme meeting for parents at 6.30pm **in church** to discuss the programme and the commitment that it will mean over the coming months until your child makes their First Holy Communion in May.
It is important that you attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Fr. Michael on 01772 612136.

Wednesday 18th November Flu Immunisation Vaccination Programme by Intrahealth on for children (Reception – Y6). Further information to follow.

Thursday 25th November	Y4 visit to Lancaster City Museum (letter issued Wednesday 14 th October).
Friday 27th November	Reception visit to British Commercial Vehicle Museum (letter issued Wednesday 14 th October)
Friday 27th November	Y3 will be presenting their assembly for parents on the theme of Advent at 2.40pm in the school hall

Journey of Faith:

Fr Michael has asked if I could pass on to you details of a forthcoming programme which is for adults interested in becoming a Catholic.

Do you know someone who would be interested in becoming a Catholic?

As a Family of Parishes, we are delighted to confirm that we will again be offering a **Journey in Faith (RCIA) course** for anyone who may be interested in joining our Catholic family of faith.

Our first course leading up to Easter 2027, proved very helpful to the 15 adults who were baptised or received into the Church and then confirmed and made their first Communion.

This year's course, which begins on 4th November 2026, and which will be run at St Oswald's Parish Centre, is a wonderful opportunity for those who want to explore the Catholic faith to do so in an informal and welcoming environment. The sessions will start at 7pm and last for 1 hour. Refreshments available from 6.45pm.

A team of parishioners across our Family of Parishes will host the sessions and together with our clergy we will be following the excellent resources provided by the Sycamore course.

The sessions will run weekly (with breaks over holiday periods) until Easter 2027 and include topics such as The Search for Happiness, Who is Jesus? and the Power of Prayer.

There are information leaflets at the back of our churches providing more details and contact information. Please do reflect whether you might pass on a leaflet to someone you know who may just be looking for an invitation to take the next step on their Journey of Faith.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

Right Start Road Safety Programme – Stage 1:

This week, Reception children have taken part in the first session of Lancashire County Councils' Stage 1 Right Start Child Pedestrian Training Programme. The next session is on Monday 19th October. This programme teaches your child how to keep themselves safe when out and about in the traffic environment and to apply the rules of the Green Cross Code every time they cross a road. They have been taught how important it is that they:

- **Think** – is this the safest place to cross the road?
- **Stop** - with their feet back from the kerb, which gives them time to Look and Listen.
- **Look** - for any vehicles that might be coming on the road – remember, children of this age are unable to judge speed and distance.
- **Listen** - for vehicles. They may hear something before they can see it – remind them though, that electric cars make very little noise.
- **Think again** – have they followed the rules, and will they keep Looking and Listening the whole time they are crossing the road?

They have also been reminded to play in a safe place away from traffic and to wear or carry something bright so they can be seen at the roadside by other road users.

Please can you continue to reinforce these messages when out and about with your children.

School Choir:

The School Choir will be performing at Longton's Winter Wonderland on Sunday 29th November (further details to follow). KTB Music will be supporting the choir in their preparation for the event, holding practices in school after half term. The first session is Wednesday 4th November then for the next 3 weeks, 11th, 18th and 25th November. If your child is in the choir, please drop them off at **8am** on those dates only. Thank you.

Reminders:

Nut Allergies: After several reminders, some children are still coming into school with food items that contain nuts. St Oswald's is a Nut-Free School. Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

As a school we have a responsibility to keep all pupils, staff and visitors safe reducing any risk of harm. Pupils, staff and visitors should not bring products containing nuts in to school either in their lunch boxes or as snacks.

Our "Nut-Free Policy" means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Nutella
- Chocolate Crepes (contain hazelnut spread)
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely. No items containing nuts are prepared in the school kitchen. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Packed lunch guidelines: To ensure the safety and well-being of all children during lunch, we ask that you do not send hot food or items requiring heating or thermal flasks, including soup. Hot foods and liquids carry a high risk of accidental spills, which can cause burns to children or staff in a busy dining room. While school-provided hot meals are also warm, they are served by adults at regulated, safe temperatures and children only have to carry a tray. If your child prefers a warm meal, you may wish to swap to school meals for the winter months or have the option of a school meal on a Monday / Friday or both. Thank you for your understanding.

Hair: Hair must be left its natural colour and severe haircuts are not allowed, no tram lines please. **Long hair is to be tied back** and hair ornaments are not considered uniform, e.g. large clips, ornamental headbands, etc. and children will be asked to move them.

Community News:

Gentle Friday Movement & Reset: Starting Friday 6th November, Gentle Friday Movement & Reset. Shake off the week and ease yourself into your weekend with this accessible, gentle-paced class. We combine soft movement, mindful breathing and yoga inspired postures to help you unwind. Contact Donatella on 07542017953 for more information or to book on. Please see flyer attached.

Winter Wonderland: Longton Carnival are holding their annual Winter Wonderland Event on Sunday 29TH November. See flyer attached.

And finally...

Mr Hough is currently away from school due to illness. We are hoping he will be back soon. In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns; please drop us an email to bursar@longton-st-oswalds.lancs.sch.uk or call the school office. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

J. Campbell
Assistant Headteacher