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.12 – 26th November 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

***This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and prayer. It's a special time to pause and reflect on the real reason and true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to the world.***

***In this Sunday's Gospel, the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. The message from the Gospel is very clear: we are to 'stay awake!'***

***A little extra daily prayer throughout Advent is a great way to do this – to be alert to Jesus' presence around us. Prayer brings us not only closer to God but also closer to one another.***

**Update since the last newsletter:**

- Please find attached the pastoral letter from Bishop Sherrington that was shared at mass on Sunday.
- We are asking for donation of bottles, chocolates, biscuits etc to make some luxury hampers as prizes for the Grand Christmas Raffle. Boxes will be in the office area for you to drop any items off from Monday 30th November. If any local business can kindly donate a raffle prize, this would be really appreciated. Thank you.
- Thank you to parents/grandparents that took part in the Reception Math's workshop on Friday. We hope you found it very useful.
- Each class took part in a Dance Festival Day on Monday delivered by Active Sports, South Ribble Borough Council. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and performed high energy dance moves.
  Y1 have completed the Stage 1 Right Start Child Pedestrian Training Programme. 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 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.
- Thank you to the children in the choir who attended the rehearsal ready for Sunday's Winter Wonderland Event. A big thank you also to Katy from KTB Choir who has been working with the children over the last 4 weeks. Katy mentioned how impressed she was by the children's manners and wonderful behaviour at Monday's rehearsal! The school choir will be performing at St Andrew's Church in Longton on Sunday 29th November . Please arrive at 3.30pm ready for the performance at 4pm. Own clothes can be worn. Thank you.
- The Y4 Dodgeball team represented the school brilliantly on Tuesday, well done!
- Y4 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Lancaster Museum. The children had a great day learning about Romans and feedback from the Museum staff was very positive about the whole class.

**Coming up:**

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| **Friday 27th November** | Reception visit to British Commercial Vehicle Museum as part of their History studies. Please ensure that the permission slip is returned back to school and payment is made on ParentPay. |
| **Friday 27th November** | Y3 will be presenting their assembly for parents on the theme of 'Advent' at 2.40pm in the school hall. |
| **Monday 30th November** | Y4 Reconciliation Day with Fr Michael. Y4 Parents invited to church at 2pm for the |

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| | Service of Reconciliation**.** |
| **Tuesday 1st December** | Annual PTFA Sponsored Santa Dash at 2.45pm; all the children and staff will be joining in. The children can bring a Christmas hat, Santa beard or the full Santa outfit to wear for the event if they wish to. Sponsor forms have been sent home with your child this week. The event is always great fun, gets us fit and raises some money! Parents can come along to spectate or even join in. There will be carols and a cake sale too after the event.<br><br>PTFA Cake Stall 3.15pm on the playground. |
| **Thursday 3rd December** | Final brass/wind lesson for this term (extended due to the cancellation of lesson on Thursday 12th November). Brass lessons to start for the Spring Term on Thursday 14th January (letter sent home to children in Y3-Y6.). |
| **Tuesday 8th December** | Infant Nativity starring Reception, Y1 and Y2 in church at 2pm and 6.00pm. School will provide every child with a costume. |
| **Wednesday 9th December** | Y1 walk to Longton Library in the morning for a Christmas story session. This has been moved from Tuesday 1st December. Please ensure your child has a warm coat.<br><br>Y3 last swimming lesson.<br><br>Reception Christmas 'Stay & Play' 2-3pm. Wear your Christmas jumper if you are coming along! Please return the slip below to indicate if you are attending. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING IN ADVANCE (by Tuesday 8th December) as the staff need to plan. 1 adult only at this event. Thank you.** |
| **Friday 11th December** | 'Rock Steady Band' Christmas Performance 2.00pm in the school hall. Parents of Children who take part in the sessions are invited to come along and watch the children perform in their bands! This will finish by 3pm.<br>Parish Christmas Bingo 6.30pm in the Parish Centre. Further details to follow. |
| **Monday 14th December** | Y3 walk to Longton Library in the morning for a Christmas story session (letter to be sent home today). |
| **Tuesday 15th December** | Christmas Jumper Day! Children can replace their school jumper or cardigan for a Christmas jumper or make their school jumper look Christmassy! A donation of £1 will be collected at the gate on the day by the School Council. The proceeds will be sent to Alder Hey Children's Hospital.<br><br>Grand Christmas Post Day! Today is the day that children can bring their Christmas cards to school for their friends if they wish.<br><br>Christmas Lunch Day. The meal served will be Roast Chicken with Chipolata Sausage or Cranberry Root Roast, Vegetarian Sausage served with Sage & Onion Stuffing, Gravy, Roast & Creamed Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy followed by Festive Dessert. If you would like your child to have a school meal on this day, please complete the slip below and return to school by **TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER** as the kitchen needs to place their order 2 weeks before. **WE CANNOT ALLOW ANY LATE ORDERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH.** If your child is already having school meals, they will automatically be included in this event. Payment of £3.00 should be made through ParentPay for children in Y3-Y6. If your child is on a packed lunch, please make it a festive one. Every child in the school will be given a Christmas cracker! |
| **Wednesday 16th December** | All Hallows will be here with their Christmas Roadshow for the whole school. Details to follow. |

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| **Friday 18th December** | Y6 will be leading the Christingle Service in church 2pm. Everyone invited to come along. |
| **Friday 18th December** | PTFA Cake Stall 3.15pm on the playground. |
| **Tuesday 22nd December** | School closes 1.30pm for Christmas. |

**FLU VACCINATIONS BY INTRAHEALTH:**

If your child did not have the flu vaccination in school and you wish for them to have it, Intrahealth are holding a clinic on Saturday 28th November in Leyland. Please contact them on 03333 583 397 option 2 to make an appointment. The team will be back in school shortly but we have not yet received a date.

**Food and Nutrition Policy:**

Reminder of our Food and Nutrition Policy which outlines our commitment to providing healthy food, establishing guidelines for both school-provided meals and packed lunches. If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please can it be a healthy lunch and avoid sugary items like sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks.

**Tips for preparing a healthy lunchbox:**

- **Vary the contents:** Try to include a mix of foods from the different food groups to ensure a balanced diet across the week.
- **Make it a habit:** Include fruit and vegetables in every packed lunch.
- **Include protein:** Protein helps children feel fuller for longer.
- **Choose wholegrains:** Wholegrain bread, pasta, and rice have more fibre to keep children satisfied.
- **Be mindful of snacks:** Snacks should be healthier options, with treats like crisps, cookies, and sweets saved for occasional treats.
- **Healthy snack alternatives:** Fruit, vegetable sticks with hummus, or a plain yoghurt.
- **Get creative with fruit and vegetables:** Make fruit salads or vegetable sticks with a dip like hummus to make them more appealing.

**We are a nut-free school. <u>NO</u> nut products are to be brought in to school** (including Breakfast Club).
For example:

- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Chocolate / hazelnut spreads e.g Nutella
- Cereal bars
- Some granola bars
- Cakes that contain nuts
- Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts
- Peanut butter cakes
- Some Asian food, including satay
- Sauces that contain nuts




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

**Reminder - Car Park safety:**

Please **<u>DO NOT</u>** park on the yellow hatchings on the car park. These spaces need to be kept clear to allow vehicles to turn safely without obstruction. Parking in these hatched zones can obstruct the view of traffic and pedestrians and is dangerous.

**Reminder- Primary School Admissions 2027**:

The closing date for Primary School Admissions for September 2027 is Friday 15th January 2027. Please remember to return the Supplementary Faith Form with a copy of your child's baptism certificate. Don't forget!

**Community News:**

**Preston Hockey Club**: Preston Hockey Club (PHC) are delighted to invite any children to experience the excitement of hockey with a **FREE taster session.** They are keen to introduce more children to the sport of hockey, giving them the opportunity to try something new, develop their skills, build confidence and, most importantly, have fun in a friendly and welcoming environment. Their free introductory session is a great way for pupils to discover what hockey is all about, regardless of their previous experience or ability (see flyer attached).

**FUNDA Holiday Camps:** At FUNDA, we're passionate about getting children **ACTIVE, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED**, providing exciting, Ofsted-registered holiday childcare packed with giant inflatables, multi-sports, team games and plenty of FUNDA Fun! We run Holiday Camps at venues across the local area, giving parents access to fun, affordable and reliable childcare during the school holidays (see flyer attached).

**SEND Support:** Family Hub & Wellbeing Services are offering support sessions throughout Lancashire over the next few weeks (see flyers attached).

**Longton Winter Wonderland**: (see flyer attached).

And finally…

Booths are running their annual Christmas colouring competition to colour snowflakes that they would like to display in their cafe on the festive tree. A printed snowflake sheet will be sent home with your child tomorrow (Friday 27th November). If your child would like to take part, please return the decorated snowflake sheet to school **by Friday 4th December with your child's full name and year group on the back of the picture.** Two winners from each key stage group will be picked before the end of term. Good luck!

Finally, congratulations to Mr/s Dean on the arrival of their baby girl, Robin Rose Dean born last week. Mrs Dean and baby are doing well. We send her all our best wishes!

As always, get in touch if you have a concern or query. We will try to help as best we can.

Yours sincerely

C.J. Hough
Headteacher

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**RECEPTION CHRISTMAS 'STAY & PLAY' – WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2026**

I am able to come along to the 'Stay and Play' session on Wednesday 9th December.

**Name of child: ..... Signature of parent/carer: .....**

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**SCHOOL MEAL PROMOTION – 'CHRISTMAS LUNCH' – TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2026**

I would like my child to have a school meal on Tuesday 15th December. I will ensure payment of £3.00 is made in advance through ParentPay (Year 3 – Year 6 children).

Name of child: ……Year…… Signed……

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