

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the October half term break! We have a busy half term ahead with lots of fun activities planned and a number of Christmas events coming in December. The children had a wonderful first half term in school so now we will be building on those experiences. This half term we will be exploring the environment and how it changes during the Autumn, having fun in our little house in the woods and creating cards and decorations for Christmas. This overview will outline what the children will cover in the different areas of the curriculum, which is driven through their interests. During this half term, you will be invited to an informal meeting to chat about how you think your child has settled into life at St. Oswald's. If you have any concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to come in and see me at the end of the school day.

Kind regards. Miss Morris.

Reading

This year, your child will begin to learn more about books and how to read. Most children will begin by using the illustrations in books to help them retell a story, which often they do quite enthusiastically using their imagination! As the year progresses and the children learn key words and letter sounds, they will begin to recognise words and use their letter sounds to build words as they read.



In line with our school policy, the children will develop their reading in class throughout the week through shared whole class reading and guided group reading sessions. You will receive a reading record for you to record your child's reading at home. Please share your child's school book with them every night and write in the reading record about how you feel they have coped with the book/s. If your child reads any other reading material as well as their reading book from school, please also make a note of it in their reading record.

When sharing a book with your child, try to talk with them about what the book might be about, just from looking at the front cover. Share ideas about their thoughts and feelings after a few pages and see if they can make predictions about what might happen next. These little tips will help you to see if your child is understanding what they are reading.

St Oswald's runs an early doors reading club each morning during the week from 8am - 8:45am (£2 per day), which your child is welcome to join at any time. If you would like further information, come and see me at the end of the day or contact the school office.

Water bottles and snacks

As part of the healthy school initiative, we ask the children to bring water to school everyday (please no juice or flavoured water) in a bottle with a sports top to prevent any unnecessary spillage.

The children need a healthy snack each day of the week as we have now successfully moved to healthy snacks Monday to Friday. The children can bring fruit or cereal bars for their snack and will be given the opportunity to eat their snacks during morning playtimes.



Book bags

Your child will need their book bags in school in each day with their reading book and reading record inside.

PE

This half term, we will be doing PE on a Tuesday. These sessions may be outdoors so please ensure that your child has an outdoor kit (dark blue jogging pants, and a plain dark blue jumper. If your child wears earrings, they will need to come to school without them in or plasters will need to be put over their earrings before coming into school.



Labelling

Please ensure that all uniforms, PE kits, book bags and shoes are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Also, morning snacks need to be labelled so your child receives the correct snack and doesn't become distressed if they can't remember what they have brought in.

Come and See

Each week the children will take part in RE lessons taught from the 'Come and See' Religious Education programme which all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool follow.

This half term we will be continuing with the topic 'Welcome'. The children will explore what it means to welcome and they will learn about Baptism, a welcome into God's family.

In December we will be exploring 'Birthdays'. We will be looking at what a birthday is and then learning about Advent and the birthday of Jesus.

Collective Worship

In class the children will take part in Collective Worship on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Collective Worship is a time when we reflect on a given theme together (e.g. my family, friends, Jesus) and share our thoughts and feelings in different ways.

They will also take part in a whole school Collective Worship every Monday to start the week and end the week with a Key Stage assembly.



Catholic life of the school

This half term we will be performing our Nativity story for families and the local community. Further information will follow in the weekly newsletter.

On a Monday, we start the week by gathering together to reflect on the week ahead and pray together. Each Thursday at 9am, we hold a Celebration Assembly, when we celebrate the achievements of children from each class with parents.

The Wednesday Word is available for every child to take home every Wednesday. Please look out for this and share it with your child. Additional copies are available at the school office.



How you can help your child



Below are a few little tips that you can help to support your child in school this half term:

- Read with them each night and share lots of different kinds of books with them.
- Encourage them to talk about the books they read with you and the books you share with them.
- Help them to learn their key words (located in the back of Reading Records). Use the flashcards that were sent out before half term.
- Talk to them about what they are learning in school using the topic web on page 3.
- Encourage them to dress/undress themselves and organise their own things when they arrive at school in the morning.

Thank you for your support in helping to settle the children into their new school. Any extra help you can give is very much appreciated.



Literacy

- To continue a rhyming string.
- To identify and say the initial sound in words.
- To segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together and know which letters represent some of them.
- To use vocabulary and forms of speech that are influenced by their experiences of books.
- To continue to enjoy a range of books—Winnie the Witch, We're going on a bear hunt, Whatever next.
- To use the illustrations in books to retell the story/facts and read some simple key words.
- To continue to learn phase 2 Letters and Sounds (e.g. letter sounds s, a, t etc.).
- To give meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint.
- To write labels and captions.

Mathematics

- To count out up to six objects from a larger group.
- To select the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects.
- To count an irregular arrangement of up to ten objects.
- To find the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them.
- To use mathematical names for 2D shapes, describe them and use them to create patterns .
- To measure length/height and order items.
- To use everyday language related to time, order and sequence familiar events.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- To talk about how they feel in the dark.
- To form positive relationships with other children when working together to build a den and play in role.
- To develop ways to solve problems when they arise.

Light and dark



Understanding of the world

- To explore the changes in the environment from light to dark.
- To talk about nocturnal animals and their behaviour in the dark.
- To explore sources of light.
- To share family customs and routines at Christmas.

Physical Development

- To negotiate space successfully when playing, adjusting speed or changing direction to avoid obstacles.
- To handle tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control.
- To use anticlockwise movement and retrace vertical lines.
- To begin to form recognisable letters.

Communication and Language

- To develop new light and dark vocabulary through grouping and naming, and exploring the meaning and sounds of these words.
- To use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations.
- To talk about stories/events in sequence and to say why events have happened.
- To listen to instructions and follow them.

Expressive Arts and Design

- To explore the different sounds of instruments to create day and night sounds.
- To explore what happens when they mix colours.
- To use simple tools and techniques competently and appropriately.
- To use movement and gesture to express ideas and experiences in a Diwali dance.
- To play alongside other children who are engaged in the same theme.