



ST OSWALD'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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The weekly newsletter aimed at keeping you up to date with life at

St Oswald's school.

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Advent Reflection

This week we lit the third candle representing 'Joy' on the Advent Wreath.

**Gracious God,
We thank you for your gifts.
Teach us to trust you
More than possessions or
wealth.
Give us generous hearts.
Inspire us to share what we
have,
And work for justice,
So that all people may
flourish and live in dignity.**

Amen

Cafod



Dear Parents,

As we close our autumn term today, we reflect on our busy and successful term.

In September it was wonderful to reopen the school and have the children working back together as a school, instead of working within the restrictions of class bubbles that we had experienced in the previous school year due to the pandemic.

As the term progressed we were able to reopen the dining room, welcome back our assemblies, restart whole school prayer time and enjoy singing again.

Staff have worked hard to further develop our 'Touch the Future' curriculum which reminds the children that everything they are learning today will help them not only today, but tomorrow, next week, next year and beyond into the future. As staff we reflect on the words of Christa McAuliffe, her words remind every teacher of the privilege we hold.... 'I touch the future...I teach.'

I really hope the children have enjoyed the exciting curriculum the Teachers have covered this term. The children have grown in their knowledge and skills and we can't wait to see how they continue to learn more, understand more and remember more next term.

The good weather this term has helped us to really draw on the richness of our school grounds to help support the children's learning. The children have had great fun working in our outdoor classroom, in the school gardens and on the new outdoor apparatus. In the spring term, to enhance the children's learning, we will continue to make the very best of the school grounds we are so blessed to have.

This term, it has been a delight to work alongside two professional artists, who have worked with children in Key Stage 2 developing their Art, DT and Literacy skills. We seek every opportunity to keep the 'Arts' alive at St Oswald's. Next term we will be taking part in the Warrington Arts Festival and will be displaying the children's Art once again at the Gateway Centre. We will also be working with professional Theatre staff from the Liverpool Empire and National Theatre for our Y4 performance project.

Our professional sports coach Matty has continued to work with our children and staff this term as we continue to promote an active and healthy lifestyle at every opportunity. The daily mile is going from strength to strength and we look to start a new extra-curricular running club starting next term.

As a Parish we have been delighted to welcome back to St Oswald's Church past pupil Bishop Tom Neylon. Bishop Tom confirmed past pupils in the church this autumn and celebrated Mass at a special welcome home Mass this Advent. Bishop Tom is looking forward to visiting the school in the New Year and talking to the children about his time as a pupil at St Oswald's. We very much look forward to welcoming him back to the classroom!

There really has been so much happening this term, from new approaches to teaching early reading in the classroom to Christmas plays performed in the church (which we just managed to fit in in time before the fast growth and spread in the last week of the Omicron Virus). Too many events to mention in this message. However I cannot close without a special word of thanks to our amazing children who have been such outstanding ambassadors for our school this term. Their learning behaviour, enthusiasm, manners, hard work, positive attitudes, kindness and care have been an absolute joy to experience. They have all, from our youngest in Reception to our oldest in Year 6 made us all very, very proud to work with them and be part of St Oswald's School. I thank all parents and carers for supporting the children so well in their learning journey through school. Your help and support for your child and our school has been very, very much appreciated this term... I thank you most sincerely for all you do to help our school to be a great place for the children.

My very best wishes to you all for a peaceful, safe and God filled Christmas.

H T Lennon—Head Teacher

Christmas Performances

We were so lucky to manage to fit our 7 Christmas performances in last week before the Omicron variant really started to spread.... if we had planned them for a week later they wouldn't have been able to happen.

Thank you to Ian Jones our Technical support for filming all 7 class performances which can now be viewed on our school YouTube channel via the links below.

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

We hope you enjoy watching the performances again and sharing them with family and friends who were unable to attend the live performances.

Christmas Lunches

This week the children have enjoyed a festive feast as Mrs Brocklehurst and Ms O'Keefe prepared a delicious Christmas Lunch.

Thank you also to our wonderful Midday Assistants who looked after our children so well during the festive fun! A special thank you to Fr Dave, Parish Priest and Chair of Governors who came along to join in the fun in the dining room. He was a huge help supervising lunches, giving out the cutlery and helping to clear away after the children. He said he had a great time and it was so lovely to share the fun and food with the children. He did such a good job we've booked him in again for next year!

There were over 180 delicious Christmas lunches cooked and served this week which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Well done to all involved!



SUPER SWIMMER SWIMS TO SUCCESS

We are so proud to hear the success of Kianna in Year 5 who has been busy in the pool over the last three months competing and winning medals. She has taken part in 3 major swimming competition in October, November and in December and found fantastic success winning Gold and Silver across all three competitions.

The competition results were summarised as follows:

Liverpool District SWPA 2021 Championships

23rd-24th Oct

9 Years Age Group
100m Freestyle 1st Place
200m Freestyle 1st Place
50m Breaststroke 1st Place
100m Breaststroke 1st Place
200m Breaststroke 1st Place
100m Backstroke 1st Place

Wirral Metro Xmas Meet 2021

9 Years Age Group
50m Breaststroke 1st Place
100m Breaststroke 1st Place
200m Breaststroke 1st Place
100m Freestyle 1st Place
200m Freestyle 1st Place
100m Backstroke 1st Place

Wigan Best Future Stars

26th-28th Nov

9 Years Age Group
50m Freestyle 2nd Place
200m Freestyle 2nd Place
200m Backstroke 2nd Place
200m Medley 1st Place



We are so proud of you Kianna, congratulations and well done! We look forward to hearing more of your super swimming successes in 2022.

We are always interested to hear of children's achievements outside of school so we can congratulate the children, share their news and share in their joy! So please children and parents please let us know of the great things being achieved outside of school hours!

Santa Dash

To round off their term of Daily Mile running, on Wednesday 15 December the children took part in a Santa Dash, running their usual Daily Mile with Santa hats, hair bands and tinsel!

As a special treat for achieving their target, the children were rewarded with hot chocolate, marshmallows and chocolate coins to enjoy in the school garden.

Well done children....keep running!



Get Animated!

Educraft are working with Warrington Borough Council this December in supporting the Government's Holiday Activities and food Programme and will be holding 2-day Get Animated! coding and activity workshops at Orford Hub between Monday 20th and Thursday 23rd December. Workshops are available to children who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals and children attending the workshops will also receive a healthy meal. For more information or to book a place, visit the [Educraft Get Animated!](#) web page.



Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) over Christmas

DfE funds have been made available to every local authority in England to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enrichment activities. This is for all children across Warrington who are eligible for free school meals, also in addition a small percentage has been awarded to vulnerable children who are not in receipt of free school meals.

The HAF programme for Warrington is inclusive and working parents can also pay to attend HAF provisions. Warrington have different HAF provision across Warrington from 20th December through to 6th January, families can book their child/children on to these provisions directly with a HAF provider or on the booking system as follows: [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme | warrington.gov.uk](#)

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ON ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

The Children's Commissioner has this week launched [a guide for parents and carers on online sexual harassment and how they can support children to stay safe online](#).

"The things I wish my parents had known" draws together advice from 16 to 21 year olds on how parents should manage tricky conversations around sexual harassment and access to inappropriate content, including pornography.

The Commissioner's office began a programme of work focussing on peer-on-peer abuse following the avalanche of testimonies on the [Everyone's Invited](#) website, which laid bare an epidemic of sexual violence among teens. This was picked up in [Ofsted's June 2021 review of sexual harassment in schools and colleges](#).

A surprising but overriding message from young people is that parents should start these challenging conversations early. They suggest broaching topics before a child is given a phone or a social media account, which is often around the age of 9 or 10.

The Children's Commissioner has asked all schools to help in disseminating this guide to as many parents and carers as possible. She hopes that her guide will serve as a useful starting point to raise awareness and understanding of online harassment, and to complement key messages on the new relationships and sex education curriculum.

Household Support Fund – for benefits related FSM children

The Household Support Fund is the next tranche of government funding to support vulnerable families with food costs and utility bills between October 2021 and March 2022 (previously known as the Local Support Grant, and prior to that the Winter Grant Fund). Everyone who was in receipt of the previous grant funding will automatically be notified about the new household support fund, and if still on benefits will be paid £40 per child to cover the Christmas and New Year period for meals and towards their general household bills. Please note that these families **do not** need to apply again.

For any new benefits related FSM children, families can make their first claim via the following application form: [Household Support Fund | warrington.gov.uk](#) As previously done, families will receive a payment for each child either direct into their bank account or they can request post office vouchers.

There will be further payments made to cover February half term. If you have any questions regarding the application form or the household support fund please contact: HouseholdSupportFund@warrington.gov.uk or you can contact the education team education@warrington.gov.uk

STARS OF THE WEEK

- ★ Rec Kayleb Howard
- ★ Year 1 Isobel Caswell & Jayden Cheung
- ★ Year 2 Evie Dewis & Rosie Reid
- ★ Year 3 Matthew O'Garra
- ★ Year 4 Ted Buchanan
- ★ Year 5 Vania Li
- ★ Year 6 Ava Rowe
- ★ Spanish Dax Leung



Well done to all our stars!

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.



Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

Mary's Meals

This Advent, we are raising funds for the charity Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals provides a good meal each school day to some of the world's poorest children. A collection jar has been placed in each classroom for children to place any spare loose change they can bring into school.

Thank you for supporting this charity who help to transform the lives of many children.



Christmas Mass times at St Oswald's and St Benedict's

Christmas Eve
4.30pm & 6.30pm at St Oswald's

Christmas Day
10.00am & 12noon at St Benedict's



To attend one of the Masses, you will need to book a place to avoid unmanageable numbers in church. You can do this by completing a form in church or by calling the Parish office on 01925 630127.

Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. It is hoped that most requests will be accommodated.

The staff and Governors would like to wish our children, their families and all within our community a very happy, safe, holy and peaceful Christmas.

See you all in 2022!



Written by C Southern & Wendy Bluck Edited by H Lennon
HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE NEWS TEAM. WE WILL BE BACK IN 2022