



Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. It has been lovely to welcome the children back and see how quickly and happily they have settled into the new school year.

A particularly warm welcome to our new Reception children and families - we are delighted to have you as part of the St Oswald's family.

Free School Meals – Please check your eligibility

I would strongly encourage any families who think they may be eligible for Free School Meals to apply through the Newcastle City Council website using the link [HERE](#).

Although all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive free school meals, eligible families should still apply. This provides the school with additional Pupil Premium funding to support your child's education throughout their time at St Oswald's.

Applying is quick and confidential and can make a real difference to both your child and our school.

School Places

Unusually, a small number of places have become available across school. If you have friends, family or neighbours who may be looking for a school place in Reception, Year 3 or Year 6, we would be delighted to welcome them to our St Oswald's community. Please feel free to spread the word and encourage them to contact the school office or Newcastle Local Authority for further information.

New School Meals Service

As you may know, alongside other schools across Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, we have recently moved our catering service from Newcastle City Council to Aspens.

Our new three-week menu is available on the school website by following the link [HERE](#). All meals are freshly prepared from scratch, and children now have a wider range of choices. In addition to the meals listed on the main menu each day, children can also choose a sandwich or pasta with tomato sauce as an alternative.

Please note that, for next week only, the meals listed for Monday and Tuesday will be swapped around. After this, the menu will run as published.

As with any change, it may take a little time for children to get used to some of the new meals and choices, but I'm sure they will soon discover their favourites!

We are very pleased that our cook, Clare, and her assistant, Sarah, are still with us in the kitchen, so we hope it will very quickly feel like business as usual. Thank you for your patience and understanding while everyone gets used to the new arrangements.

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Curriculum Evenings

As you will see in the Dates for Diaries at the end of this newsletter, our Curriculum Evenings will take place at the end of this month. These provide an opportunity to find out more about what your child will be learning and experiencing in their new class this year.

Dates and times have been staggered to help families with children in different year groups attend more than one session. Mrs Wills will be leading a Reading Workshop for Reception parents, while Miss Gray will provide an overview of the KS2 SATs during the Year 6 evening.

If you are unable to attend, all presentations will be uploaded to the school website shortly afterwards.

Nut Allergies

As we begin the new school year, I would like to remind families that we have children in school with severe nut allergies. Please help us to keep everyone safe by ensuring that no snacks or packed lunches containing nuts are brought into school. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and support.

Wellbeing Information

As children settle back into school, it is important that we continue to support their wellbeing and help them manage any worries or stress they may experience. I've attached a helpful guide for parents and carers, which includes practical advice on recognising signs of stress, supporting healthy sleep routines and simple ways to help children feel calm and in control. I hope you find it useful.

Reminder of PE days

Children will have PE on the following days this half term:

Reception: Monday & Thursday (no PE kit required during the first half term)

Year 1: Monday & Friday

Year 2: Thursday & Friday

Year 3: Wednesday & Friday

Year 4: Monday & Tuesday

Year 5: Tuesday & Thursday

Year 6: Monday & Wednesday

Term Dates 2026-27

For those who are new to St Oswald's, I've attached a copy of this year's term dates to the email accompanying this newsletter.

Bikes and Scooters on School Grounds

For everyone's safety, please can I remind children and adults to dismount from bikes and scooters when entering the school grounds at drop-off and pick-up times. This helps us to keep our busy school site safe for everyone. Thank you for your support.

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Class Emails

A reminder that each year group has a dedicated class email address, which parents can use to contact their child's teacher with general queries or information. For anything important or urgent, please contact the school office directly so that we can respond as quickly as possible.

Please remember that pupil absences should not be reported via class email addresses. All absences should be reported directly to the school office by phone or email, as these are monitored regularly throughout the school day.

office@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk

reception@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk

year1@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk

year2@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk

year3@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk

year4@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk

year5@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk

year6@stoswaldsnewcastle.co.uk

Dates for Diaries

Please find below some key dates for the Autumn Term:

September

Monday 21st September – First Holy Communion meeting for parents at Sacred Heart Parish Hall 7pm

Friday 25th September – Year 2 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Monday 28th September – Reception Reading meeting for parents 4pm – 4:30pm

Monday 28th September – Year 1 Curriculum Evening 4:30pm – 5pm

Monday 28th September – Year 2 Curriculum Evening 5pm – 5:30pm

Wednesday 30th September – Year 3 Curriculum Evening 4:30pm – 5pm

Wednesday 30th September – Year 4 Curriculum Evening 5pm – 5:30pm

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October

Thursday 1st October – Year 5 Curriculum Evening 4:30pm – 5pm

Thursday 1st October – Year 6 Curriculum & SATs information Evening 5pm – 5:30pm

Friday 2nd October – Year 6 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Wednesday 7th October – Year 6 STEMfest trip to Newcastle Eagles Arena

Wednesday 7th October – Reception 2027 Open Evening for prospective parents 6pm

Thursday 8th – Tuesday 13th October – Book Fair 3pm-3:30pm in Dining Hall

Friday 9th October – Book Character Day (Children can dress up as a book character or wear non-uniform)

Tuesday 20th October – Parents' Evening in school 3:20pm – 6:00pm

Thursday 22nd October – Parents' Evening in school 3:20pm – 6:00pm

Friday 23rd October – Reception & Year 5 'Special Friends' Celebration for parents from both classes 9am

Friday 23rd October – Break up for half term

November

Monday 2nd November – School re-opens for children

Friday 6th November – Year 3 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Wednesday 11th November – Year 4 Youth Village Residential Parents' meeting (in-school) 5pm

Friday 13th November – Children in Need

Friday 13th November – Year 4 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

w/c Monday 16th November – Anti-bullying Week ('Break the Silence')

Monday 16th November – Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 17th November – Year 5 Keswick Residential Parents' meeting (online) 5-5:45pm

Tuesday 17th November – Year 6 Borrowdale Residential Parents' meeting (online) 5:45-6:30pm

Friday 27th November – Year 1 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

December

Tuesday 1st December – Annual Nasal Flu Vaccination for all classes in school

Sunday 6th December – Choir singing in Sacred Heart Church hall after 10:30am Mass

Tuesday 8th December – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity in school 9am

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Wednesday 9th December – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity in school 9am

Thursday 10th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 10th December - Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity in school 9am

Friday 11th December - Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity in school 9am

Friday 11th December – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Storytime with Santa at the Gosforth Civic Theatre

Monday 14th December – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Party in school

Tuesday 15th December – KS2 Christmas Party in school

Wednesday 16th December – Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Production at Sacred Heart church 7pm

Thursday 17th December – Advent Reflection for families in school 8:20am

Friday 18th December – Christmas Carols/Songs on the KS2 yard (Reception - Year 6) 2:30pm

Friday 18th December – Break up for Christmas

Other important dates:

Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th March – Year 4 Residential Retreat to the Youth Village, Consett

Monday 10th - Thursday 13th May 2027 – Year 6 SATs week (please do not book holidays during this week)

Friday 28th May 2027 - Staff Training Day (School closed to children)

Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd June 2027 – Year 5 residential to Keswick

Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th June 2027 – Year 6 residential to Borrowdale

With my very best wishes,



Mr P Marley