



11th April 2025

Dear families,

I hope you are all well.

Easter at St Oswald's

Even though we are not in school during Holy Week this year, the children have been given many opportunities to reflect and engage in different activities to acknowledge this very important time of the year.

We started Lent back in March when some of our Faith in Action team, along with Gerard and Jo Shepherd from the parish, led a reflective Ash Wednesday service for the whole school. It was a beautiful way to begin our Lenten journey.

On the 26th March, Year 4 joined children from other Newcastle Catholic Primary Schools to take part in a Stations of the Cross service at St. Mary's Cathedral.

The following week, families were invited into school for a 'Stay and Pray' session ahead of a day of reflection, during which every class visited the Lenten Prayer Stations in the hall.



On Tuesday, all the children in school took part in the Big Lent Walk, with the theme "Walk with Kindness," in aid of CAFOD. During the walk, the children reflected on how they can make good choices, help others, and show kindness. It was a beautiful day, and everyone enjoyed getting outside and appreciating the wonderful scenery we are so lucky to have so close to our school. Collectively, we walked over 400 miles and raised over £200! Thank you to everyone who donated.



PTO



On Wednesday evening, Year 4 and Year 5 performed their retelling of the Passion at Sacred Heart Church. It was an incredibly poignant and spiritual portrayal of Jesus' journey to the cross, told with great emotion through words, music, and dance. Staff, families, and members of the parish were all so proud of them.



Today, the children in Reception class shared their very joyful version of the Easter story with families and friends. The children sang, danced, and prayed beautifully – it was such a pleasure to see!



Easter Egg Competition

On Monday, the children showcased their amazing talents and imaginations with some beautifully decorated Easter eggs! As always, we were overwhelmed by the fantastic range of entries. Judging them was a very difficult task, but votes from staff were counted, and the winners were chosen.



PTO



PTA Golden Ticket Draw

Last Friday, Easter came early for many of our children who took part in the PTA 'Golden Ticket Chocolate Bar' giveaway. There was lots of excitement and happy faces when this ever-popular annual event returned, where everyone is a winner! It was a lovely way to end the week and another great way to bring the school community together. A big thank you to the PTA, everyone who helped, and to all who bought a ticket!



Dance Festival

After lots of hard work at lunchtimes and after school, children from our Year 4 Dance Club lit up the stage at Whitley Bay Playhouse, performing alongside schools from across the city at the Newcastle PE Sport Service Dance Festival. They saved their best performance for the big day and were absolutely amazing! Everyone was so proud of them.



Catholic Life Questionnaire

The Catholic Life of a Catholic school should be reflected in its mission statement and how it is lived.

St Oswald's School Mission Statement:

*'At St Oswald's, we aim to promote a learning community based on the Gospel values of love, trust and respect where the achievements of everyone are recognised and celebrated. **Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ!***

Please could I ask that you complete the short survey by following the link [HERE](#) so that we can reflect on the Catholic Life of the school at St Oswald's.

PTO

Changes to PE days:

After Easter, many classes will have PE on different days once again due to external coaches working with the children in school. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause but unfortunately, this change is unavoidable.

Children will have PE on the following days (classes whose days have changed are highlighted):

Reception: Monday & Friday (Except for the first week back when it will be Thursday & Friday)

Year 1: Thursday & Friday

Year 2: Tuesday & Friday

Year 3: Tuesday & Friday

Year 4: Monday & Thursday

Year 5: Monday & Wednesday

Year 6: Wednesday & Thursday

Goodbye, Mr Luke!

Finally, as you know, after 37 years of dedicated service, our caretaker, Mr Luke, is retiring today and will be hanging up his broom for the final time. David has been a significant part of the school community throughout these years, not only as a caretaker but also as a Lunchtime Supervisor, a volunteer on numerous residential visits to the Lake District, and a listener for young readers - among them Mrs Summersby, who attended St Oswald's as a child. He will be a huge miss to all but we wish him and his family all the very best for the future and a long, happy retirement.

When we return after the Easter holidays, we welcome Mr Murray, who will be taking over as caretaker. I know that everyone will quickly welcome him in to our school family.



Dates for Diaries

Please find below some updated key dates for the Summer term (details of Celebration of the Word and Sports Day dates to follow):

April

Friday 11th April – Break up for the Easter holidays

Monday 28th April – School re-opens for the Summer term

PTO

May

Tuesday 6th May – Year 5 trip to the Centre for Life

Wednesday 7th – School Nurse delivering a session on ‘Body Changes’ in Year 5 (Details to follow)

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May – Year 6 SATs week

Tuesday 13th May – Year 2 visit to the Rising Sun

Thursday 15th May – Reception visit to the Great North Museum

Sunday 18th May – Children’s Cancer Run at Newcastle Racecourse

Tuesday 20th May – Year 5 visit to the Northern Stage

Friday 23rd May - Staff Training Day (School Closed to children)

June

Thursday 5th June – Anti-bullying workshops for Year 5 & Year 6

Tuesday 10th June – Online Safety workshops for Year 5 & Year 6

Tuesday 10th June – Online Safety presentation for parents (virtual) at 5:30pm - details to follow

Saturday 14th June – Year 4 First Holy Communion Celebration at Sacred Heart Church

Thursday 19th June – Year 2 visit to the Laing Art Gallery

Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th June – Year 6 residential to Borrowdale

Wednesday 25th – Friday 27th June – Year 5 residential to Keswick

July

Thursday 3rd July – Year 6 Leavers’ Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral with other Newcastle Catholic schools

Thursday 3rd July - ‘Rock Pool School’ marine life Science session in Reception class

Friday 4th July – Year 5 Drama club’s performance of ‘Much Ado About Nothing’ at the Northern Stage

Wednesday 9th – Friday 11th July – Year 6 Catholic Feeder Secondary school transition days

Thursday 10th July – Year 4 Camping experience on the school field (details to follow)

Wednesday 16th July – Year 6 Leavers’ Mass in school 7pm (TBC)

Friday 18th July – Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly 9am

Friday 18th July – School closes for the Summer holidays

I hope you have a lovely Easter.

With my very best wishes,

Mr Marley

