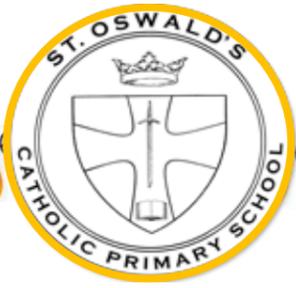


St Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Parents' / Carers' Newsletter

Autumn term 2020 - Christmas edition



<https://stoswaldsschool.com/>

@StOswaldsPriLiv

Weduc

Google Classroom

A Christmas message from Mrs Walsh



Thanks be unto God, for his unspeakable gift
2 Corinthians 9:15

As we come to the end of a long and challenging term we look back at all of the fabulous successes. With the help and co-operation of all children, staff, and families we have managed to stay open (mainly,) we have had no direct school infections and have managed to keep everyone safe and well. The children came back to school full of enthusiasm and have worked really hard to fill any gaps from lockdown. I have to thank all the school staff who have worked so hard under great pressures, to make school as interesting and fun as possible. St Oswald's is and always has been, a place of safety away from all the pressures of the outside world.

Our Christmas celebrations though different this year, have been as spiritual and joyful as ever, I hope that all the photos have helped you to feel included.

As we look forward to 2021, I hope all of you have a happy, healthy and Holy Christmas and pray that next year we can all get back to some form of normality please God!



Feliz Navidad

Congratulations to our winning attendance class... 1HH!



Winning house team is Roscoe! Well done!

ptfa

Merry Christmas from the ptfa, we'd love to have put on our usual events this term but unfortunately this wasn't possible. The ptfa provided all children in school with treats for the Christmas parties in class and donated £2000 towards new reading books to match the phonics ability of children in school! We look forward to being able to provide a range of events for pupils and families in the New Year.

Congratulations to our new Head boy and Head girl!



George



Maisie



Well done to all of our classes for raising money for CAFOD. With the money, which you have all kindly donated, the children from each class have selected gifts to send worldwide to help transform the lives of poor communities and families in developing countries!

Water for a family, teach someone to read and the net that protects, are just some of the amazing gifts we have sent this year!

If you would like to learn more about CAFOD and World Gifts, then please follow the link below:

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/frontpage?page=2>



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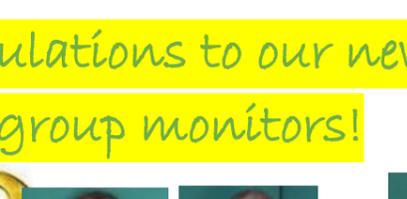
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Congratulations to our new year group monitors!



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Advent



An Advent message from Fr. Liam

"The people who walked in great darkness have seen a great light, upon those who dwell in the land of gloom, a light has shone ... For a child is born to us, a son is given us; and his name will be: wonderful, counsellor, Almighty God, prince of peace."

These words of the Prophet Isaiah seem all the more relevant this year, especially after everything that has happened. In a year when we have seen such changes, not only as a parish community, but as a world. Changes to our daily lives, our routines of work or school, and especially changes in how we interact with other people. Who could have thought last Christmas, as we awaited the new year of 2020, that we would be living it in a world full of fear, doubt, confusion, and isolation?

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have walked in gloom and darkness, and while there is hope on the horizon with vaccines becoming available, we still need to remember those who have no hope in their lives. People who are living in a different kind of gloom, fear, and isolation: those who are on the margins of society. We are called to keep them close to us, spiritually, mentally and, where possible, physically.

The light that shines for us this Christmas, isn't one that leads to a manger in Bethlehem, but to our own hearts. The call of the angels isn't to shepherds in fields, but directly to us. We are called to go and seek Christ in others, as well as prepare him a home in our hearts. The child born for us is waiting, not in a manger, but in the face of those who have nothing. We are called to be a voice crying in the wilderness, preparing a way for the Lord.

This coming Christmas, may we open our hearts and lives to Christ, may we see him in others, and may you always know his love in your hearts. May the coming of Christ, fill all your homes with light, happiness, and peace. God bless.

Nativity Performances

The way we usually celebrate and gather together may be different this year, but that has not stopped us from spreading the true meaning of Christmas! Whether it has been from individual class performances, to whole year group ones, or a reflective Advent Collective worship, the children have retold the Nativity story in their own way, remembering that Advent is a time when we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus.

To view more photos from the Nativity Story performances and to see what other Christmas celebrations we have been doing, then please follow the link below:

<https://stoswaldsschool.com/category/christmas-celebrations/>



Christmas Party day 2020

The Christmas festivities were in full swing on Christmas Party day, from talent shows to Santa dashes, and not to mention **FATHER CHRISTMAS!** All of the children enjoyed a disco and party food, but the best thing was that we managed to raise £432!

Thank you!

Christmas Dinner

Winner, winner, Christmas Dinner! All children and staff enjoyed a tasty Christmas dinner together, whilst singing Christmas carols and sharing Christmas crackers.



Church dates

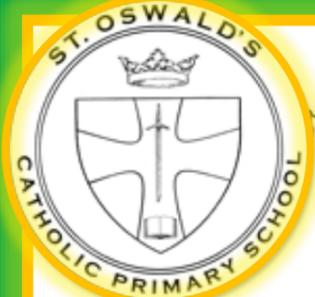
For Mass times, please see the parish website:

www.sebosw.org

Follow the link below for a Christmas blessing from Fr. Liam:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9UpKFxxRPI&feature=emb_logo





Helping in the community

It's no secret that our school children are generous and thoughtful, and this was certainly the case with Kendyl from 3LY, who during the last half term, collected food to donate to her local food bank! Well done again, Kendyl!

To find out more on your local food banks see:

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>



During October half term Me
Brother and my Cousins had an
idea. We thought about getting
Cereal boxes and tinned food
in our neighbourhoods and then
donated them to a local foodbank
We got lots of donations from
our neighbours and bought from
shops. We ended up filling the
car Boot full.
The Foodbanks were really
gladful and hope fully we help
lots of people who need it.

Hearts for homes

This Christmas, we have taken part in the wonderful Hearts for Homes campaign to help spread joy to our local care homes. All of the children from nursery to year 6 decorated hearts with pictures, messages and poems!



Art week

All of the children got creative during our second Art week with year 6 taking inspiration from Tim Burton! Year 3 created their own self-portraits which were inspired by Kandinsky, while year 1 mixed primary colours to make secondary ones for their Christmas card lights! Reception also created their own self-portraits by using different media.



D.T Week

D.T week has been a success with all children across the school catching up on vital skills. Year two learned about recyclable materials and made windmills. Year one made their own poppies and learned about healthy meals! Year 3 had fun designing their own emergency vehicle, were they had to research different ones and draft their designs. Once made, they tested them!



Remembrance Day

All of the children and staff paid their respects to the war veterans by making poppies, having a two-minute silence and raising money through buying poppy merchandise!



Other faiths

Nursery enjoyed listening to the story of Rama and Sita. They made Rangoli patterns outside and also salt dough diva lamps!



Diwali



The children in year 1 enjoyed exploring the artefacts of the Jewish faith, along with Nursery!

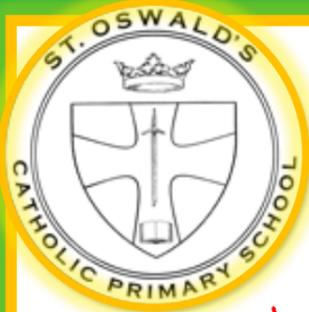
Judaism



History Day

For History day Reception thought about the seasons and how they change with time. Year 1 went on a timeline adventure learning about William Rosko, Hannah Lightbody and the slave trade, before going on a yellow submarine with the Beatles. They finished off at the Grand National with Red Rum





Covid-19 update



REMINDER! face masks MUST be worn on school grounds. If you have an exemption letter then please bring this into the school office to receive an exemption card.

If anyone in your household develop COVID symptoms, the entire household must isolate at home. Please inform school straight away and then book a test online through NHS testing. Alternatively, you can call NHS 119 to book if you are unable to access the internet.

Following these steps, you must also inform school immediately of the results of a test:

- If a pupil tests **negative** - return to school the following day if they are well.
- If a pupil tests **positive** - self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. The rest of the household must isolate for 10 days also.

Please email all positive results to positivecovid@stoswaldsschool.com

Remote Learning

If your child has been sent home to self-isolate due to their 'bubble' being burst, then there will be home learning available via our 'Google Classroom' platform.

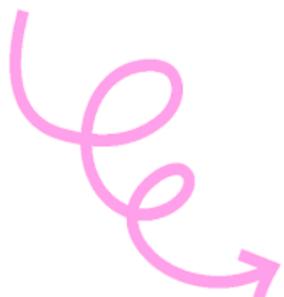
Children in years 1-6 have all been set up with a Google Classroom email address, one which can only be used to access google classroom, and NOT to receive/send emails. On here, they can access work set from their teacher, which they can complete, submit and have their teacher mark and return it to them.

EYFS-children will be able to access work set through Class Dojo.

If you do not have internet access, then there are home learning packs available which can be picked up from our school office.



Term Dates



Spring 2021 Term dates

Normal start times

Monday 4th January - Friday 12th February

HALF TERM- Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

INSET DAY- 22nd February

We hope you all have a happy, healthy and holy Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you all back for our first term of 2021!

