

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 5th February 2025

Attendance

Last year we had a huge drive to improve attendance. This is a shared objective in schools across the country and in Sefton, particularly in our cluster of schools in the STRAND group. (all local schools) We will be sharing good practice among our schools and a shared message. **'You can't teach an empty chair.'**

St. Oswald's own message is **'You have 190 days to come to school and 175 to do everything else!'**

Be in To Win

Last year we introduced Be in to Win which replaced the 100% attendance reward for the year. We appreciate that there were unavoidable absences and that some children were missing out when it was genuinely unavoidable that they were absent.

To ensure that **all** pupils were able to achieve, we reduced the 100% awards to a full month. To this end if they are absent for a genuine reason they will still be able to work towards the next full month to receive the award and a small prize. We hope that this will also build resilience and drive as they will be encouraged that if they haven't made it for this month then it is ok, because they can try again for next month. We feel it is important for children to know that not everything goes well all the time and that is how things go at times, however, there is always a new opportunity and other chances for success.

Date	Attendance last year	Attendance current year	Improvement
Summer Term	91.5% (22/23)	92.6% (23/24)	+1.1%
Overall for the year 2023/24	91.6%	93.6%	+2%
Autumn Term	93.6% (22/23)	94.45% (23/24)	+0.85%

Date	Attendance 2023/24 (last year)	Attendance 2024/2025 (this year)	Improvement
September	142 pupils /228	151 pupils/228	+ 9 pupils = 3.94%
October	116 pupils / 228	132 pupils /228	+ 16 pupils = 7%
November	142 pupils /228	100 pupils /228	- 42 pupils = -18.43%
December	126 out of 228	138 pupils/226	+ 12 pupils = 5.8%

Expert Support For Every Parenting Challenge

This is a free website that offers lots of parenting advice on a whole range of everyday topics and challenges such as friendships, screen time, school life and mental wellbeing. There are short videos and articles that you can access that offer you reassurance and strategies to use with your child/children. It is well worth a look. It is free to sign up to and you can unlock a wealth of parenting know how. <https://www.myfamilycoach.com/>

Mental Health Week

Please see the poster advertising an event for Children's mental health week ran by the Mental Health Support Team on 5/2/25.

Telephone Changes

On 11.02.25 we are changing phone provider, so there may be some disruption to the telephone lines in the morning for approximately 1 hour maximum.

CAMHS

The Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) put together a monthly newsletter for parents and professionals, signposting support such as groups, training and workshops. Click the [link](#) to have a look and see if there is anything of any interest. If you have any questions you can contact Mrs Keiley (SENDco and Mental Health lead) via the school office.

Costume Donations for World Book Day

As World Book Day approaches (6th March) we would appreciate any unwanted costumes that the children have out grown or no longer want, to sell at a much reduced cost on Friday 14th February. Please do bring any costumes you no longer need into school as soon as possible.

Costume sale will be held in the school hall the morning along with the pre-loved uniform sale.

Spectacle Recycling

Thanks to Ella in Year 4 who has asked if we can collect unwanted glasses/spectacles for the British Ironworks. The British Ironworks is the organisation that collected knives in the fight against knife crime and made them into the knife angel that was on display outside the Cathedral. This time they are hoping to collect 100,000 spectacles to make into a dragonfly sculpture. Aiming to educate everyone on the importance of dragonflies, this sculpture will be crafted from old and broken glasses. Please bring your glasses in to us here at the centre and you will be granted free entry!

https://www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/projects_item/ecology-dragonfly-sculpture/

Dates for 2025

For school term dates for the forthcoming academic year and upcoming events for this year, please see the school calendar on our [website](#).

Year 3 will be swimming every Wednesday afternoon.

Beth Tweddle Gymnastics coaches for Years 1 & 2 every Tuesday afternoon.

Upcoming Events in School

February

7th February Year 6 to Liverpool Cathedral for Eucharist event

11th February Year 5 to Jodrell Bank & Safer Internet Day

14th February 09.45AM Preloved uniform sale
Last day for this half term.

Half Term

24th February First day back
Year 5 swimming AM (Monday to Thursday for 2 weeks)

25th February Year 5 swimming AM
Away football match at Holy Spirit

26th February Year 5 swimming AM
1.15PM Year 3 EFC football event at Goals (Selected pupils)

27th February Year 5 swimming AM

28th February TT Rockstars competition for KS2.

Article 3 The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Our School Vision

Through valuing all individuals as children of God we believe in promoting an inclusive school community, rooted in mutual respect, understanding and kindness towards others. As God taught us:

'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life.' (Proverbs 22:6)

Our school's vision is to nurture a resilient community where the love of learning thrives. We foster an environment where every member feels supported in order to flourish, be empowered to overcome challenges, embrace growth and contribute positively to God's world.

'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

Christian Values This month's Christian Value is **Thankfulness**.

Thessalonians 5:18 'In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.' Thanksgiving is not just for the good times but in all things. Embracing this mindset can be challenging, especially during hardships, but it aligns us with God's will. It shapes our hearts to see the silver lining, promoting a spirit of resilience.

A Prayer for our School

*This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,
let peace begin with me.
Let the room be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of human kind, love of life itself
And love of God
Let us remember that as many hands build
a house,
Many hearts build a school.
Amen*



Yours sincerely,

Miss E Murtagh
Headteacher

