

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 pupils / 228	138 pupils/226	+ 12 pupils = 5.8%
January	126 pupils / 228	113 pupils/235	-13 pupils = 5.5%

### **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, is free to sign up to and you can unlock a wealth of parenting know how.

### **Costume Donations for World Book Day**

As World Book Day approaches (6<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> February. Please do bring any costumes you no longer need into school as soon as possible.

Costume sale will be held in the family room the morning along with the pre-loved uniform sale.

## Online Safety Mascot Competition

The winners for our design a mascot competition during online safety week were:  
First place- Ella Coggins Year 4 (her entry was Oswald the Online Safety Octopus)  
Second place- Adrianna Hunko Year 6 (her entry was Cyber Mouse)  
Third place- Jacob Evans Year 3 (his entry was Jam the Scam)

## Children's University Half Term Challenge

Please find attached the holiday challenge. As always please send your evidence by email to <mailto:Laura.Ashcroft@elevate-ebp.co.uk> with your child's name and school and the credits will be added.

## 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.

## 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 4 will be swimming every Wednesday afternoon.

## Upcoming Events in School

### February

14<sup>th</sup> February 09.45AM Preloved uniform sale  
Last day for this half term

### Half Term

24<sup>th</sup> February First day back  
Year 5 swimming AM (Monday to Thursday for 2 weeks)  
25<sup>th</sup> February Year 5 swimming AM  
Away football match at Holy Spirit  
26<sup>th</sup> February Year 5 swimming AM  
1.15PM Year 3 EFC football event at Goals (Selected pupils)  
27<sup>th</sup> February Year 5 swimming AM  
28<sup>th</sup> February TT Rockstars competition for KS2



**Article 12:** Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

## 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

