

# St Oswald's CE Primary School and Nursery



DECEMBER 2024

## Christmas Message

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that Christmas is upon us, and that we are coming to the end of 2024!

As we reflect on the year, we think of all the lovely things the children have been involved in. The children shone in their various performances and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas.

We sincerely hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and that the new year brings health and happiness.

Miss Taylor

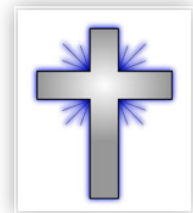
Our vision:

**Inspire Embrace Succeed**

"I came so that they may have life and life to its fullest" John 10:10

## Christian Values

Love and Hope



Jesus' birth is characterised by great joy. It brought together people from all walks of life who witnessed the Saviour's birth.



Time to reflect:

What do you think Jesus' birth means to Christian people?

What can you do over the Christmas period to bring joy to your home and family?

## Attendance and Attendance Awards

Our whole school attendance for the month of **93.7%**  
**DECEMBER 2024**

Our school target is 96%

Reception	91.7%
Year 1	92.4%
Year 2	92.7%
Year 3	92.7%
Year 4	95.4%
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>95.6%</b>
Year 6	94.5%



**Attendance winners: Well done to Year 5!**

## DEFINITION OF SPIRITUALITY

Spirituality at St Oswald's is about making meaningful connections. This can evoke positive emotions within us such as: **thankfulness**, **feeling at peace**, **feelings of awe and wonder**, **contentment** and **a sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves**.



# Diary Dates



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Event
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of the Autumn Term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	TED Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 8.40am	School Open to Pupils for Spring Term
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 12.30pm	Y4 Swimming
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 12.30pm-22.30pm	Young Voices - Y4 and Y5, plus the choir
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring Census – Special Menu on School Food United
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Book Fair
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half Term
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day

## TERM DATES and TED DAYS 2024-2025

### Autumn Term 2024

TED Day	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024
School reopens	8.40am Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
School Closes	3.15pm Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
TED Day	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Half Term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024
School reopens	8.40am Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
School Closes for Christmas	3.15pm Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Spring Term 2025

TED Day	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
School reopens	8.40am on Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
School Closes	3.15pm Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Half term	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025
School reopens	8.40am Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
School Closes for Easter	3.15pm Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

### Summer Term 2025

School reopens	8.40am Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
School closes	3.15pm Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
Half term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
School reopens	8.40am Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
TED Day	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
School closes	3.15pm Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
TED Day	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025

## Say 'Hi' to our newest staff member joining in the Spring Term



Hello, I'm Miss Ratcliffe. I am really looking forward to becoming part of the team at St Oswald's. I am passionate about helping children to learn and grow as individuals.

In my spare time I enjoy walking my dog, spending time with my friends and family and watching football.

Have a great festive break and I'll see you all in the new term.



## St Oswald's CE Primary School and Nursery

Sion Avenue, Kidderminster, DY10 2YL

w: [www.stoswalds.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.stoswalds.worcs.sch.uk)

t: 01562 751056

e: [office@st-oswalds.dowmat.education](mailto:office@st-oswalds.dowmat.education)



# CONGRATULATIONS!

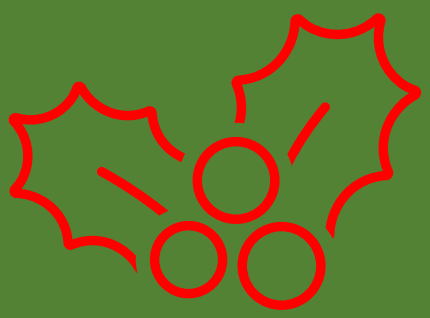
St Oswald's CE Primary School

By taking part in **Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day**, you have helped give the world's forgotten children a brighter future.

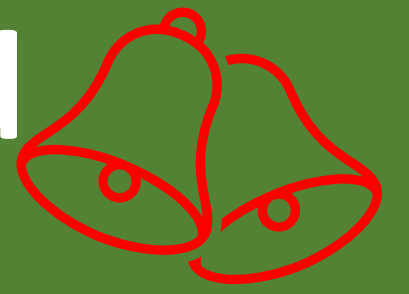
You have raised **£130.71**

THANK YOU





# Inspire Embrace Succeed



## Our Learning in Nursery

This month we have been in full swing ready for Christmas. We have had lots of Christmas surprises to make for our parents and carers as well as having our first Christmas fun week this week too. Some of our older nursery children got to watch the KS1 Christmas nativity last week and they loved it. The nursery children have been preparing for their own festive celebration and what a great performance they put on. It was lovely to see how so parents and carers in the nursery and to have them join in with our planned Christmas activities. Our stories throughout December have been 'stick man' by Julia Donaldson and 'The Nativity story'.

The nursery children have loved looking through our learning journey of all the activities and topics we have focused on so far this year and parents/carers are sending in lots more pictures from home, which is great.



Next month, our topic will be 'I wonder what is like? We have lots of activities planned around our 5 senses. One includes making scented playdoh, which I'm sure the children will love. Forest school will start again the first Thursday back and parents/carers will be notified if there is a change to our PE days.

## Our Learning in Reception Class

Children have been following Stickman and his adventures in woods and created their own ideas using a stick. We have also explored the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood in our Drawing Club sessions. After comparing both stories, children have created their own maps of the woods. They have plotted the wolf's house, and Grandma's house and considered routes and shortcuts. Children have painted or drawn their favourite character and read an alternative version where the wolf is sweet and kind. We have talked about safer strangers and obeying instructions that keep us safe.

Children have also been enjoying the festivities in and around the school too! We enjoyed our visit from the Open the Book team who taught us all about the Christingle and helped us all create one, as well as our delicious Christmas dinner and singing Christmas carols. In the classroom, children have been super busy; they have elf'ed themselves, explored melting when making chocolate Christmas trees and decorated their Christmas cards. Some children have been writing letters to Santa, the Innkeeper from the Nativity, the Wolf and Little Red...we've had a have a lot to say!



Next month we will be building on what we have learnt so far this term about our planet, by exploring how to save it and look after it. Children will be delving into our communities and how we can all play a part in helping reduce, reuse and recycle. Through Drawing Club, children will use texts such as 'Michael Recycle', 'Litterbug Doug' and 'Sharing a Shell' as well as enjoying cartoons from the past such as 'Super Ted'.

## Our Learning in Year 1

This month we have worked very hard on our singing and acting to put on our nativity performance. We really hope you enjoyed it! We have been completing our study of Rowland Hill by creating timelines of his life and thinking why he is such an important figure in history. In science we have continued to explore our senses. We enjoyed finding out if we need our sense of smell to taste. It was difficult to detect the flavour of a sweet whilst holding our noses! In our writing lessons, we have created our own poems linked to our senses. In maths, we have finished our unit on subtraction. We are getting much better at solving word and picture problems and we have enjoyed completing some festive maths challenges!.



We will begin the new year with our new geography theme of Australia. We will learn the continents and oceans of the world and use these to describe the location of Australia. Our lead text in English will be 'Wombat goes Walkabout' by Michael Morpurgo. In maths, our new unit of learning will be comparing and ordering numbers to 20. PE days will continue to be on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

## Our Learning in Year 2

This month we have worked alongside Reception and Year 1 to perfect our nativity performance. We hope you thoroughly enjoyed it. We are coming to the end of our Christmas themed narratives, and the children have worked very hard to think about exciting verbs and adverbs to make their stories sound more interesting. In science we have finished our topic on materials, where we investigated a materials suitability for different purposes. The class have enjoyed learning about historical figures and understand how important Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale are and the difference they have made to our lives, even today. Ask your child about the following picture:



In the new year, in science we will begin our new topic of plants. We will be conducting different investigations which the children will find exciting. In maths we will be starting to learn about fractions. Our new guided reading book will be called 'The Rainbow Bear', and in literacy we will be reading 'Little Red Reading Hood'. Our P.E days will continue to be Tuesdays and Thursdays.

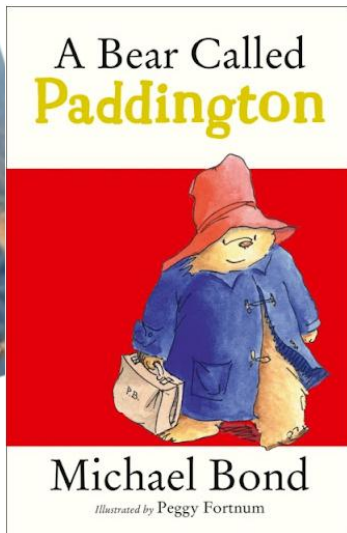


# Inspire Embrace Succeed



## Our Learning in Year 3

This month, we continued with our Stone Age topic by learning about Skara Brae in History, which will lead into a holiday brochure that we will write to convince others to visit the village, showcasing our writing skills and history knowledge simultaneously. We've continued with times tables in Maths, this time with focus on using tables to solve division problems. We've continued with ukulele in Music, with some of us mastering the C major and F major chords. Our musical talents were fully on display in our Christmas concert this month, as we sang some classic carols at St. John's in Wolverley. Thanks for coming along to watch!



In the new year, PE days from January will be on a Monday and a Friday. History will change back to Geography, with our topic changing to Rivers, Mountains, and Coasts. We will be continuing with our historical theme however, as we will continue and finish our Skara Brae brochures. We are coming to the end of Paddington in Guided Reading, and will therefore move on to Iron Man. This will help us bridge the topical themes as we will start Iron Age after we've finished with the Stone Age. Ukulele will continue with Mrs Harding every Thursday, and our study of Spanish will take on a music focus.

## Our Learning in Year 4

This month we have been working hard to complete two independent writes in English. The children have really shown an interest in the landmarks they chose to write about. In maths we have been continuing with our multiplication and just moved on to division. They have completed their unit on Europe and the children were blown away when we looked at time zones! We also finished our unit on incarnation in RE and our science unit of sound. The children loved exploring the wall bars in our PE lessons and have LOVED their time in forest school. We have ended our term by carrying out some lovely Christmas activities.



In the new year, we will be going swimming on a Monday afternoon and our PE slot will be on a Tuesday afternoon. Our focus in history will be the Ancient Egyptians and our English lessons and guided reading sessions will be linked to this. In maths we will continue with division and our times tables practice. We will also be continuing to practice our songs for Young Voices! There is still time for children to sign up. We will also be doing a unit in D&T with a focus on cooking.

## Our Learning in Year 5

During December we have worked hard to finish off lots of our units across the curriculum whilst still enjoying the festivities. In English we have written non-chronological reports about emperor penguins and then used the skills we learnt to write about an animal found in the Amazon Rainforest. During maths lessons we have tackled multi-step word problems using multiplication and division. Our DT project has involved sewing a Christmas decoration, adding details onto the front and using padding. Therefore, we have had to create a seam, allowing extra material for this during our preparation stage.



After Christmas we will be completing final preparations for Young Voices on the 14th January. We will be starting our new guided reading text, Boy at the Back of the Class and linking this to our English speech about refugees. In maths we will build on our fractions, decimals and percentages knowledge from Year 4, including learning how to multiply fractions.

## Our Learning in Year 6

During December, we have finished our curriculum topics whilst also preparing for Christmas. In maths, we completed our unit about fractions. In English, we have written festive narratives, using John Lewis adverts as inspiration. We have completed Key Assessment tasks in geography and science, demonstrating what we have learned about freshwater biomes and electricity. We also completed our RE topic 'Why do some people not believe in God?' As well as all this, we have carried out some lovely Christmas activities, including drama activities inspired by A Christmas Carol and craft activities using salt dough.



Next month, we will start our new topic in English, which will have a non-fiction focus and be inspired by David Attenborough. We will also move on to our new guided reading text, 'Dead Man's Cove'. In maths, we will learn about decimals and percentages. In history, we will start our topic about the Victorians and learn about the significant events of this era.



# Inspire Embrace Succeed



## Santa Dash

On Friday 6th December the whole school participated in this year's Santa Dash on the playground. There was lots of laughter and chatter as children in different year groups encouraged each other to run, walk, trot or skip around the playground as many times as they could. There was also lots of fantastic festive headgear on display!



## KS1 Nativity



## Carol Service

On Tuesday 3rd December KS2 visited St John the Baptist Church in Wolverley for our annual Carol Service. The children sang a number of different traditional carols and shared the story of Christmas with parents, carers and grandparents. It was a lovely event to start Advent. Thank you to the staff who organised the event, particularly to Mr Dibble who played the piano and the guitar to accompany the carols.



## RockSteady Concert



# Early Help Offer

Knowing where to start or what to ask for can sometimes be a challenge. The **Virtual Family Hub** offers a range of different types of resources that are available to online, on the phone or face to face.

WORCESTERSHIRE  
**VIRTUAL FAMILY HUB**



<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/virtual-family-hub>



The **Foodbank** is there to help local people in crisis. Please contact them if you need support.

<https://kidderminster.foodbank.org.uk/>



**Starting Well Partnership**  
EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE

Starting Well offers support for families, parents and children across Worcestershire to lead happy, healthy lives.

<https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/>

## Safeguarding Contacts:

Family Front Door: 01905 822666

The Family Front Door (out of hours team): 01905 768020

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

Police call 999 if a child is in immediate risk of danger

**DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION**

**St. Oswald's**  
CE Primary School. Inspire. Embrace. Succeed.



# School Events



## St Oswald's CE Primary School And Nursery

School Places Available  
01562 751 056



[www.stoswalds.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.stoswalds.worcs.sch.uk)

Email: [office@st-oswalds.dowmat.education](mailto:office@st-oswalds.dowmat.education)



# Community Information



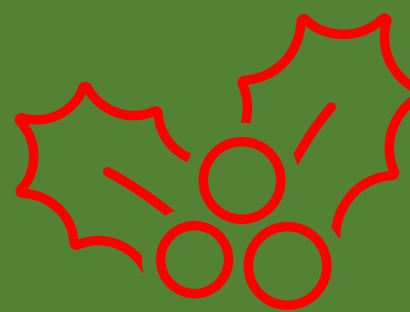
# SWIMMING LESSONS



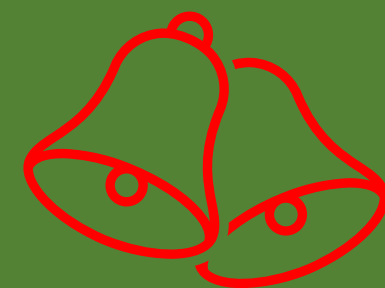
- • Our highly skilled swimming teachers make lessons fun • •
- • and progressive allowing every participant to be the • •
- • best swimmer they can be! • •

**REGISTER NOW**

<https://www.swimwithstyle.co.uk/>  
[kidderminster@swimwithstyle.co.uk](mailto:kidderminster@swimwithstyle.co.uk)



# Community Information



## Technology – how to get the balance right

Knowing the challenges and benefits of technology will help you give your child the best opportunities of learning to listen and to interact

**Manage screen time.** Treat technology as you would any other environment a child spends time in. Adults should be in charge of how long children spend looking at a screen

**Be a good model.** Children learn best through imitation so make sure you show them what you want them to do. When they talk to you make sure you look up from your phone or laptop so they know you are listening



**Join in!** You can help them learn much more effectively by joining in with what they play. Look for interactive games that you can both play and talk about what you are watching together

**No-screen bedrooms.** Tired children find it hard to listen and learn. You can help get a better night's sleep by making bedrooms a no-screen zone and making the last hour before bed time a time for listening to stories and talking rather than watching a screen.

**Be aware of background noise.** Noise from the television, radio or electronic games can really get in the way. If you are not watching it or listening to devices then turning them off will help make it a better environment for children to learn to listen



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**For the kids**

**JUNIOR HOCKEY COACHING**

Youth Academy  
-WFHC-  
Wyre Forest Hockey Club

**9-10AM SATURDAYS**

Winterfold House School  
Winterfold Lane  
Chaddesley Corbett  
DY10 4PW

11 Jan - 08 Feb  
22 Feb - 05 Apr

Sophia  
07836 230229

per session  
First Child **£5**  
Additional Child **£3**  
Family Discounts Available\*

**JUNIOR HOCKEY COACHING**

Ages 6-16  
Free taster session  
Beginners welcome  
Equipment available to borrow

**OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES AND BACKGROUNDS**

SPORT ENGLAND

Youth Academy  
-WFHC-  
Wyre Forest Hockey Club

**YOGA**

**For the adults**

**YOGA**

Oaks Community Hall  
Sam Spencer Court  
Harvington  
DY10 4NS

Saturdays 9-10am  
25 Jan - 08 Feb  
22 Feb - 05 Apr

Sophia  
07836 230229

Session Cost **£10**  
Family Discounts Available\*

\* At least one adult at yoga and one child at hockey.