

St Oswald's Primary School



NEWSLETTER

19th May 2026

Inclusive, creative, aspirational, experiencing life in all its fullness

Diary Dates

Tuesday 19th May

Class 3 Stone Age Camp - overnight

Wednesday 20th May

Stone Age Camp day 2

Friday 22nd May

Life Education Visit

Breakup for Half Term (normal time)

Monday 1st June

Summer 2 Term Begins

Multiplication Check Begins (Year 4)

Monday 8th June

Class 4—Liverpool Day 1

Class 2—Phonics Screening Test Begins

Tuesday 9th June

Class 4 return from Liverpool

Tuesday 16th June

Class 4 Cricket Competition

Wednesday 17th June

Class 4 Open Water Swimming

Tuesday 7th July

Sports Day (14th July as reserve)

School Money

Please could we ask all parents to ensure that School Money accounts are up to date.



WELL DONE YEAR 6!

A huge well done to all our Year 6 pupils who completed their SATs recently. They showed fantastic focus and determination throughout the week and should be very proud of themselves.

As a special treat, they also received their leavers' hoodies — they look fab and have been paraded with pride around school!



Ofsted Inspection

As you know, we recently welcomed Ofsted into school for our latest inspection. Although we are not yet permitted to share the outcome we want to reassure you that we continue to be incredibly proud of the wonderful school community we have—our children, staff, families, and the supportive ethos that shines through every day.

We know families may have questions about how inspections work, especially with the new Ofsted framework and the updated colour coding system now in place. Further information about these changes can be found in the letter attached at the end of this newsletter, which provides a clear overview for parents and carers.



Lost Property Reminder

Lost property is no longer kept in the front porch. All items are now stored in the individual classrooms, making it much easier for children to check for anything they've misplaced. Please ensure your child's uniform, especially jumpers and cardigans, is clearly labelled. This simple step makes it far easier for staff to return items quickly and prevents things from building up in classrooms.



Cake Sale

The Friends of St Oswald's will be hosting a cake and uniform sale on Thursday 21st May in the School Hall at 3.20pm.

If you're able to donate cakes or bakes, please bring them to the school office on the morning of the 21st. All pre-loved uniform will be available for £1 per item, so it's a great chance to top up on spares and grab a bargain.

Church Display

Class 1's colourful self-portraits are now proudly displayed in the church. A joyful celebration of creativity and individuality. Huge thanks to Mrs Walton for her hard work and guidance in bringing this lovely project to life.



SCARF—Life Education Visit

On Friday 22nd May, the Coram Life Education team are visiting us to give each class an RSE session;

Class 1— All About Me

Class 2— My Wonderful Body

Class 3— Meet the Brain

Class 4— Friends

Parents are invited into school between 9:00 and 9:15am to meet the Life Education Educator for a short session to find out more about the content of your child's programme and to ask any questions you may have. Please feel free to attend.

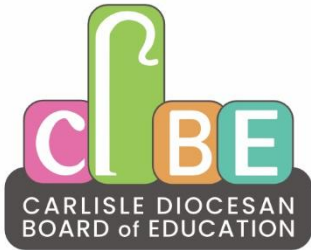
Scratch art bookmarks are also available for children to purchase for £1. Each pack contains 2 bookmarks, 2 ribbons and a wooden stylus. If your child is interested in buying one, please send the money with your child on Friday.

A letter with more information about what your child can expect on the day will be sent via email separately.



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12th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

NEW OFSTED FRAMEWORK

I am writing to share some information about the current Ofsted inspection framework, as I am aware that many parents have found recent inspection outcomes across the country confusing or surprising. My hope is that this explanation will help you understand what sits behind the judgements schools receive, both now and whenever your child's school is inspected in future. Whilst all schools welcome scrutiny and accountability the updated Inspection Framework is still in its infancy and the transition from one accountability model to another inevitably takes adjustment for all concerned.

Shift in Expectations:

Ofsted has made a number of changes to how schools are inspected. One of the biggest is that the grade "Expected" (green) is now much harder to achieve than the previous grade of "Good." If a school receives "Expected", this is something to celebrate—it means the school is meeting a very high bar.

This rise in challenge is partly due to a move away from a "best fit" approach (where inspectors looked at the overall picture) to a "secure fit" model, which means that schools are expected to meet all parts of the criteria in full. As a result, no comparison can be made between a previous "Good" and a current "Expected" judgement; they are based on different criteria, different expectations, and a higher standard of evidence.

"Needs Attention" (Amber) judgements:

Ofsted is clear in its guidance that:

- "Needs Attention" is not a fail; and
- it is entirely normal for schools to have areas that require further development.

One Senior HMI described these judgements as the equivalent of an "advisory" on a car's MOT. Areas that "need attention" are usually those where practice still needs time to be embedded or where additional focus is needed. Many schools—no matter how strong—will have such areas, particularly during a period in which the inspection framework has changed so significantly. Often, these will be relatively quickly rectified and the report card updated to change them to green.

You can view Ofsted's own explanation [here](#).

New Criteria and Embedded Practice

Another significant change is that schools are being judged on new areas of practice that were not part of the inspection expectations last year. These new elements are expected to be fully embedded, even though they are still very new. Naturally, this will take time for all schools to implement well.



A Stronger Emphasis on Data:

Although Ofsted previously spoke positively about taking school context into account, this is no longer as clear.

Outcomes now place a much stronger emphasis on achievement data, including:

- Overall attainment, not just progress
- Attendance, which has become a major focus.

As a result, schools doing excellent day-to-day work with children may nevertheless receive outcomes that feel harsh if their data does not align closely with national expectations—sometimes despite all their best efforts and the particular needs of their pupils.

Greater Scrutiny of Headteachers and Leaders:

This inspection framework was introduced with the intention of supporting the wellbeing of school leaders and reducing pressure. Sadly, many leaders are experiencing the opposite. Inspections now involve greater scrutiny, with more inspectors on site and higher expectations across all areas. As a result, the demands placed on headteachers and senior staff have increased significantly.

As someone who visits schools across the diocese regularly, I see first-hand the dedication and compassion with which our headteachers and staff serve your children. They work tirelessly—often in challenging circumstances— and continue to lead with integrity and care.

I want to thank you for the support, understanding, and kindness you already show to our school leaders, particularly during inspection weeks. Your encouragement makes a real difference, and it is deeply appreciated by those who work so hard for the good of your children and the life of our schools.

What Matters Most

Our schools, and all those professionals within them, understand the need for external scrutiny and the role Ofsted plays in ensuring that the children within their care are given the very best opportunities.

Even with these national changes, our commitment remains the same:

- We want every child, regardless of background, to reach their full potential.
- High expectations matter because our children deserve the very best.
- Everything our schools do is rooted in helping pupils flourish academically, personally, and spiritually.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership, your encouragement, and the trust you place in our schools every day.

With my best regards

Charlotte Tudway

CHARLOTTE TUDWAY