

SS OSMUND & ANDREW'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOLTON

NEWSLETTER: Thursday 28th March 2024



Headteacher: Mr J Graves
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S Doyle
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs J Devine
School Business Manager: Mrs S Paterson-Faye

Tel: 01204 333070
www.ssoarc.co.uk
Email: office@ss-osands.bolton.sch.uk

Our Next Break:

We break up today for the Easter holiday.
School closes at 3.15pm on Thursday 28th March and re-opens at 8.45am on Monday 15th April.
Happy Easter from everyone at SSOA!



Thought for the Week:

Please chat through at home with your child(ren) the school's Thought for the Week which on Monday will be:
I know that on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead.

Class Honours

Golden Bin – **Year 5A** – What a tidy classroom all last week!
Top Class for Attendance – **Year 2O** – 98%!

Roll of Honour – Half Term Awards

The Roll of Honour will return in the first Thursday Newsletter after the Easter break.

Holy Week Services at St Osmund's Church

Maundy Thursday: Mass at 7.00pm (at St. Teresa's Church).
Good Friday: Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions at 11.00am.
Good Friday: Passion of the Lord at 3.00pm.
Easter Sunday: Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm and Mass on Sunday at 11.00am.
Happy Easter

Easter Play

Thank you to our Year 3 & 4 pupils who have performed their Easter play this week. They all did a fantastic job! Thank you to everyone who has supported the children and all those who came to watch.

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Morning Break Time Snacks

Please note that we ask that children do not bring in processed snacks such as crisps, biscuits, chocolate, sweets, etc. Please note that we are being vigilant as some children are attempting to eat these snacks at breaktime – if caught, children are being asked to put the snack away, so that they are not going hungry in the afternoon because they've eaten some of their packed lunch at 10.30am!

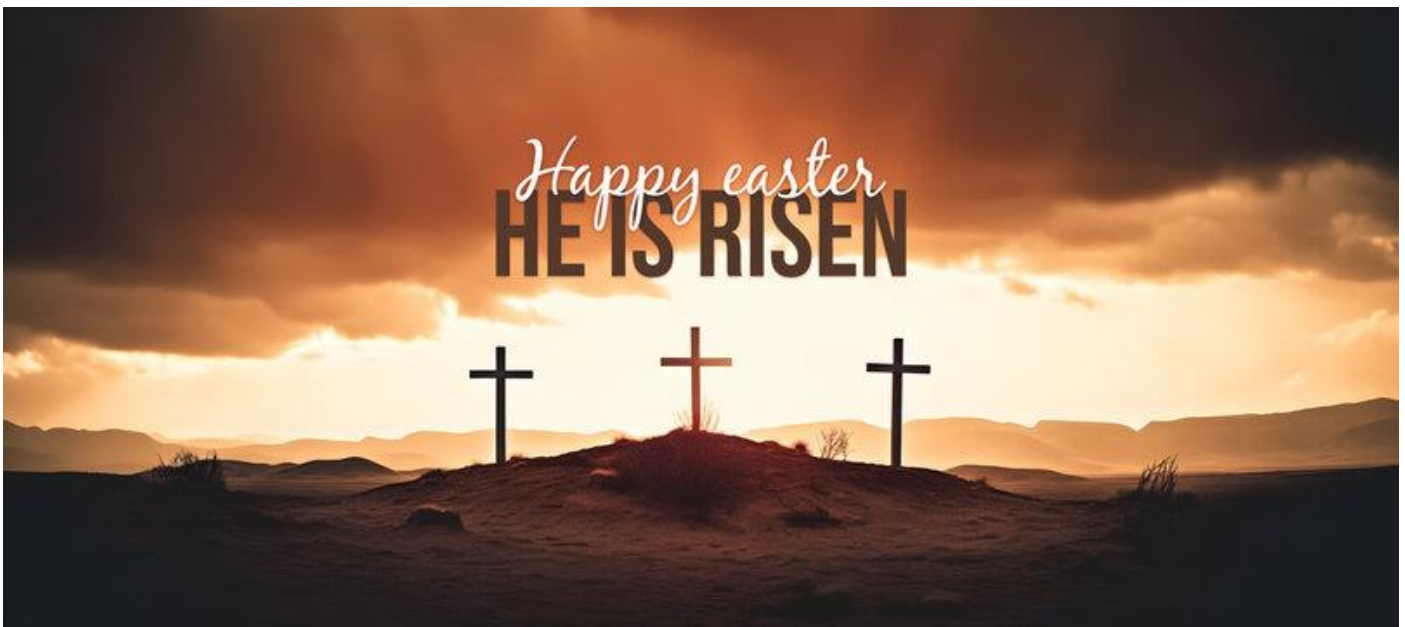
At breaktime children are permitted fresh fruit, veg, crackers, bread stick (but not with dippers for obvious reasons) and some children have toast which can either be provided by school or home.

Snapchat

There have been a few incidents recently involving children communicating via the Snapchat APP outside of school. Children are at risk of bullying and other dangers due to the APP's 'disappearing' message feature and therefore has an user age restriction of 13 years and over.

So, during your regular checks on your child's internet devices, we ask you if you would please ensure that they are not using this messaging/social media APP.

You will find a Parent/Carer Guide to help with some further important safety information later on in this newsletter.. Thank you for your continued support.



St Joseph's Penny Boxes

Last week our wonderful GIFT Team distributed St. Joseph's Penny boxes to classes. Every year boxes are sent out to schools across Salford Diocese, to help raise money for various Caritas projects, providing urgent and practical help to those in need. If you are able to, please pop any change you can spare into your box and return it to school by **Friday 28th June.**

World Art Day – Monday 15th April

We are having a non-uniform day on the first day back at school after the Easter break (Monday 15th April – No donations required). This is to celebrate 'World Art Day' and we invite the children to wear something bold, bright and colourful or if they wish they can come dressed as an artist of their choice. The theme is 'See Art, Do Art, Be Art' through "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art".

Thank you (Mrs. Davis - Art Subject Lead)

i-Thrive

The National i-THRIVE Programme is a national programme of innovation and improvement in child and adolescent mental health that is being implemented in sites, including Bolton, across the country.

For more information, please click on: <https://implementingthrive.org>

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Parking

Please do not park on Falkirk Drive. Thank you for parking respectfully for our neighbours. For the safety of our families and staff, the school car park is not to be used by parents. Thank you.

Holidays in Term Time

Please note that our school does not have the power in law to authorise absences for family holidays.



Own Risk – Valuables and Money

Please remember that school does not take any responsibility for loss or damage to valuable items including money, and thus we ask children not to bring them into school.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Class Assemblies

Parents are welcome to come along to see their child in the following assemblies:

Nursery Assembly Thursday 4th July (9am) – PLEASE NOTE THIS HAS CHANGED TO A DAY EARLIER
Reception Assembly Thursday 20th June (9am) – PLEASE NOTE THIS HAS CHANGED TO A DAY EARLIER
Y3 Assembly Friday, 24th May (9am)
Y6 Assembly Thursday, 18th July (Leavers' Assembly 2pm)

Other Dates

World Art Day – Monday 15th April – Non-Uniform Day (No donations)
Y5 Mass at St Osmund's Church – Tuesday 7th May, 1.30pm ****NEW DATE**** all welcome
Ascension Thursday Mass in school – Thursday 9th May, 9.30am, all welcome.
Y4 Mass at 1.30pm at St Osmund's Church – 11th June at 1.30pm, all welcome
Y3 Mass at 1.30pm at St Osmund's Church – 2nd July at 1.30pm, all welcome
Afternoon Summer Play Performance (Y5/6) - Tuesday 9th July 1pm
Evening Summer Play Performance (Y5/6) - Wednesday 10th July 6pm

Please note these forthcoming dates, which can also be found on the [calendar on the school website](#)

Prayers

Sometimes we all need that extra support and as a school we come together every day to say prayers.

If you would like the school community to pray for you, your family, friends or any other intentions please email the office (office@ss-osands.bolton.sch.uk), speak to the office or write a little note and send it in with your child.

You do not need to write a prayer if you don't wish to, just your intention. For example: please pray for my friend who is having difficulties at this time; please pray for my grandma who is in hospital; please pray for the people of Ukraine

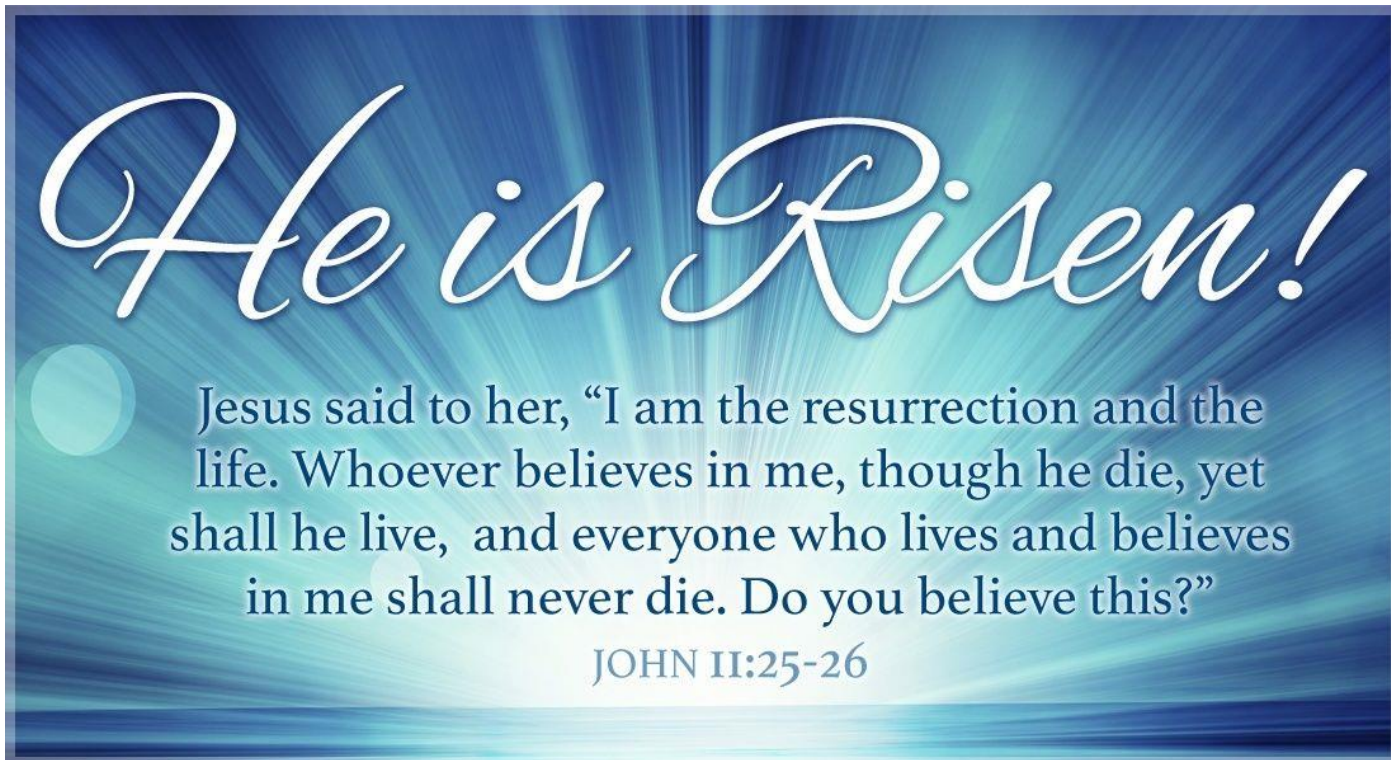
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etc. We will not mention your name or other names if you do not wish us to but we can add your prayer intentions to our prayers in class and in assembly.



First Holy Communion

The dates that you need are as follows...

| EVENT | VENUE | DATE & TIME |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| Sunday Liturgies | Church | 21 April 2024 @ 11:00am 19 May 2024 @ 11:00am |
| Second Parents' Meeting | Church | Wednesday, 15 May 2024, 6pm |
| <i>First Holy Communion</i> | <i>Church</i> | <i>Saturday, 8 June 2024, 11am</i> |

Code of Conduct: Parents & Visitors

Thank you for:

- Respecting the school's caring ethos.
- Working with teachers for the benefit of children.
- Always remaining calm and respectful.
- Always resolving issues through school.
- Always correcting your child's behaviour when you need to.

A more detailed version of the Code is on our school [website](#).

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As National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that you should turn off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sullivan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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