

SS OSMUND & ANDREW'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOLTON

NEWSLETTER: Wednesday 18th March 2026

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



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

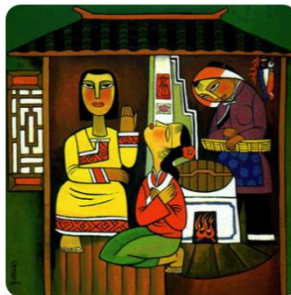
Our Next Break:

School closes at 3.15pm on Thursday 2nd April 2026.
We reopen at 8.45am on Monday 20th April 2026

Thought for the Week:

Please chat through at home with your child(ren) the school's Thought for the Week which is:

In Lent I try to give something up or do something extra.



Weeks 1 & 2

The Unexpected Teacher

"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born from above."

- John 3:3



Weeks 3 & 4

The Unexpected Healer

"God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."

- John 4:24



Weeks 5 & 6

The Unexpected Savior

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.'"

- John 11:25

The Sacramental Programme

The next date is to attend is:

Sunday 26th April 11am Mass at St Osmund's Church.

All dates for the Sacramental Programme can be found [here](#)

Easter Raffle

Due to the restrictions which are currently in place until Easter, we will no longer be able to hold our annual Easter Bingo. Instead, we will be holding a raffle for Easter Egg hampers. This week, children will be bringing home 5 pairs of raffle tickets each. If you would like to buy any of the raffle tickets, please send the money, for however many you would

like to buy, along with one copy of the tickets you're buying, back to school. Keep the matching tickets safe until the draw which will take place on **Tuesday 31st March**. We will email home all the winning raffle numbers. If you have any of the winning tickets, please bring them to the school office to claim your prize. Additional tickets will also be available to buy from the school office.

Update regarding Group A Strep – Temporary changes to school activities

Further to our correspondence yesterday regarding the small number of Group A Strep infections within the school, I am writing to update you on further precautionary measures we are implementing.

Following updated guidance from the community infection control team, we have been advised to limit large gatherings and internal mixing to further reduce the risk of transmission before the Easter break.

Changes to school events and daily routines As a result, the following measures will be in place with immediate effect:

- Social Gatherings: All large-scale events, including school assemblies, Mass, and our Easter production, are postponed or cancelled.
- Parents' Evening & Reception Stay & Play Sessions: Postponed until a future date. We will be in touch shortly regarding alternative arrangements for both these events.
- After-School Clubs: All school clubs are suspended until further notice (this does NOT include Little Ozzies After-School Club)
- Year 6 Boosters: These sessions will continue; however, pupils will no longer mix between groups. Children will remain in their distinct 6O and 6A classes for these sessions.
- Class 'Bubbles': During breaktimes and lunchtimes, children will remain within their own class groups. We will ensure they still have access to outdoor space and fresh air, but they will not be able to mix with children from other year groups or classes at this time.

We understand that these changes are disappointing, particularly as we look forward to our Easter celebrations. However, our priority remains the health and well-being of our pupils, staff, and the wider school community.

We continue to encourage the infection control measures mentioned in our previous letter, such as regular handwashing and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes.

Thank you for your continued patience, cooperation, and understanding during this time. We will keep you updated should the situation change.

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March

On **Friday 20th March**, we will be supporting **RED NOSE DAY**. Children can come to school in their own clothes, preferably something **RED**. Donations can be made online using this [link](#)

World Art Day – Friday 27th March

On **Friday 27th March** we will be celebrating World Art Day. Children can come to school in their own clothes on this day. The theme this year is "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art." This year the children can come dressed in anything that promotes creative activity worldwide, honour Leonardo de Vinci, symbolising PEACE, Freedom of Expression and Multiculturalism, or just bright and colourful clothes.

Sustainable Easter Garden Competition

We are asking children to make a **sustainable** Easter Garden this year. The competition is open to all year groups with prizes given to the winner of each year class. An information leaflet has been emailed home with a 'How To Guide'.

Ideas of what you may need:

- An old plant pot
- Two twigs/sticks to make a cross
- Twine or wool to hold the cross together
- Soil or compost
- Stones
- Cress or any other seed/living plant
- Water



Please bring in your pots on **Tuesday 31st March** with judging happening on **Wednesday 1st April** and prizes given to the winning Easter Gardens on **Thursday 2nd April**.

DATES FOR DIARY

Below are important Dates for Diary for the next few weeks.

20.3.26 – Red Nose Day.
Wear something **red**. [Online donations](#)

27.3.26 – World Art Day – Own Clothes – see additional information

31.3.26 – Deadline for Easter Garden Competition.

More dates for diaries can be found [here](#).

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

All parents and Carers invited into school to watch their children: 9am start

- **Foundation** – Friday 1st May
- **Year 3** - Friday 22nd May
- **Year 4** – Friday 19th June
- **Year 6 (Leavers)** Assembly Thursday 16th July

EdStart, who provide our PE lessons each Monday and our very successful Sports After School Clubs on Mondays and Tuesdays, are holding an Easter Holiday club at St Maxentius Primary School which you can book at <https://edstart.org.uk/franchise-areas/bolton>

ROLL OF HONOUR

Class Awards

Attendance Award goes to the class with the best attendance – **Class 3A 100%, you get the biscuit time again this week. What a score!**

Caritas Award for the Class of the Week, for politeness and showing Love, Faith and Hope – **30**

Golden Bin for the class who have kept their classroom the tidiest – **40**

House Points – well done to **Green House** for winning this week!

Roll of Honour

There will be no certificate assemblies until we return after the Easter Holidays. Thank you

The Gospel Reading of the Week - Please share this with your child.



John 9: 1-38

One day Jesus saw a blind man begging by the roadside. The man had never been able to see. Jesus turned to his disciples and said, “I am the light of the world.” Then he bent down and made a paste with some spittle and a little mud.

He put this on the man’s eyes and said to him, “Go and wash your eyes.”

The man did this and to his amazement, found that he could see! The people of the town could not believe it. “Is this really the blind beggar?” they asked, “It is me!” he answered and he explained what Jesus had done. “But who is this man?” the crowd asked. “I do not know where he came from, or who he is, but I know that he made me see. Unless this man was sent by God he could not have done such a marvellous thing.”

The crowd grew angry with the man and chased him away. Later Jesus found him sitting alone. “Do you believe in the Son of god?” he asked. “Yes sir, I believe in him, but I do not know him,” He answered. Jesus said, “You can see him for he is speaking to you.” At once, the man fell to his knees and said, “Lord, I believe in you!”

Jubilee Pledge

We are making the Jubilee Pledge!

As part of the Jubilee Year, we are called to make the Jubilee Pledge this summer. With an invitation that came from Pope Francis to be ‘Pilgrims of Hope’, we are joining together with all Catholic schools and committing to be a ‘sign of hope’. Together with all Catholic schools, we are promising to put faith into action, be agents of change and work for the good of all.

The Jubilee Pledge:

We are pilgrims of hope. We walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers worldwide, sharing challenges and celebrating joys. We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally. We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish.

Wednesday Word

The latest edition of the Wednesday Word can be found [here](#).



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.

Parent Support

Parent / Family Support

At school, we receive lots of information about various support / family groups which are held within our community. We have created a dedicated page on our website where parents can access this information [SS Osmund & Andrew's RCP School - Community Groups](#)

Mental Health

Please see Bolton Council's website on Mental Health for support and ideas on how to look after ourselves. Please go to <https://www.bekindtomymind.co.uk>

Woodbridge SEND Parent Workshops

Woodbridge SEND Service are running various parent workshops, for example 'Supporting Your Child's Self-Regulation' and 'Neurodiversity Family Support'. Please use the following link to search and book these or future courses: [Training | Woodbridge SEND](#)

Bolton Family Hub

Bolton Family Hub are running a Free Workshop for Parents/Carers of Children Under 5 – Supporting Early Language Development [SS Osmund & Andrew's RCP School - Community Groups](#)

ATTENDANCE

Well done to **Class 3A** who had the highest attendance last week. Their attendance was **100% for a second week** running!

Whole school attendance last week was as follows:

Foundation	91.06%
Class 1	93.04%
Class 1/2	77.67%
Class 2	96.67%
3O	95.19%
3A	100%
4O	96.67%
4A	96.68%
5O	92.58%
5A	90.34%
6O	93.60%
6A	90.34%
Whole School	91.93%



PARISH INFORMATION

Mass Times this Weekend

- Saturday: 5.30pm at St Osmund's
- Sunday: 9.30am at St Teresa's
- Sunday: 11.00am at St Osmund's

The latest Parish Newsletter and further Parish information, please visit the Parish [website](#).

Our Mission Statement

Together in **Love**, Growing in **Faith**, A journey of **Hope**.
Together in **Love**, **Faith** and **Hope**.

St Osmund was a bishop. In **Faith**, he inspires us to pray.
St Andrew was an apostle. In **Love**, he inspires us to serve.

Blessed Dominic Barberi was a student. In **Hope**, he inspires us to work hard to become the best we can be.

This Week's Reminders:

Inhalers

If your child has an inhaler, please ensure that the inhaler is kept in school, and that it is not out of date. Thank you.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is where all schools receive timely information about incidents of domestic violence that the police have attended. Schools can then support all children who have witnessed domestic abuse. For more information, please click on: www.operationencompass.org

Unavoidable Closure

If it is felt necessary to close the school due to weather or building problems, this information will be sent out by text as soon as we possibly can. Please ensure you have the correct number. If you haven't received a text for a significant amount of time (say, a week or more), please check that we have the correct number. Thank you.

Phone Numbers

It is very important that school has an up to date phone number so that we can contact you in the case of an emergency. Please ensure that if you have changed your mobile number, that the office has been informed. Thank you.

Safeguarding Lead team at SSOA

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Graves, and Mrs Doyle is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead. In addition to this, Mrs Kenyon-Kellett is also fully trained to be safeguarding lead. Please note that the obligation to inform social care regarding child protection is part of the role of all members of the Safeguarding Lead Team.

Water

Please note that only plain water (not flavoured water) is allowed in lessons.

Drinking water and brain function are integrally linked. Lack of water to the brain can cause numerous symptoms including problems with focus, memory, brain fatigue and brain fog, as well as headaches, sleep issues, anger, depression, and many more. The brain is one of the most important organs in the body to keep fuelled. It is approximately 85 percent water and brain function depends on having abundant access to water.

Flavoured water and soft drinks are limited in school to packed lunches (and not lessons) because of the potential health problems associated with high intake of sweetened drinks which are 1) overweight or obesity attributable to additional calories in the diet; 2) displacement of milk consumption, resulting in calcium deficiency with an attendant risk of osteoporosis and fractures; and 3) dental caries and potential enamel erosion.

Water bottles should come into school with your child's name on and taken home each evening. We cannot accept any responsibility for water bottles left in school overnight.

Valuable Items

We ask that children do not bring in valuable items, including branded clothing. School cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.

Parents Code of Conduct

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.

Mobile Phones

Please note that only Year 6 children are allowed mobile phones in school without prior agreement and this is under the strict conditions of the phones not being switched on when in school, and that they must be handed in when children arrive and collected at hometime. This includes all events such as discos, etc. Any child breaking this rule will not be allowed to bring their mobile phone into school.

Please note specifically:

- That the phone is switched off AT ALL TIMES on the school premises (in the building or in the outdoor areas). It cannot be switched on again until the child has left through the gate.
- The phone is stored in school – it goes in a box in Y6 that is sent to the office.
- No-one is to touch, or be allowed to touch a phone that belongs to someone else.
- That the phone is brought into school at the child's own risk – school cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss which may occur as a result of the child bringing the phone into school.

If a child breaches these rules, restrictions will be put in place. These include, the phone being confiscated, a parent will be asked to arrange the collection of the phone from school and the child will not be allowed to bring a phone to school.

Facebook

I would like to think that we have demonstrated that as a school that we respond effectively to issues that parents bring to our attention. However, from time to time there are a small number of comments that have been posted by members of our school community on social media, including Facebook. This is unfair as social media is not a forum that the school can respond on. It is also not very productive as it is not a forum where the problem can be solved.

Furthermore, negative comments on social media about our school that come to our attention will be checked to see if they are breaches of the Parents and Visitors Code of Conduct, and if they are, action will be taken by the school.

Thank you to all our parents who use choose to address our school directly to solve problems that have arisen.

Leverhulme Park

We regularly receive reports of incidents from Leverhulme Park which include bicycles being stolen, hats being taken, mobiles phones being taken, threats being made, fights, intimidation, children being forced to try cigarettes or vapes, children being assaulted by other children – and some of the other children involved are older. Our strong advice, and also that of our local police, is that children should not go to Leverhulme Park without an adult to accompany them to ensure that they are safe.

All of our reminders and important information can be found on our [website](#).