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Own Clothes Day

Congratulations to Blue House and Green House have won the House Points this half term and had an own clothes day today.

The three pillars of Lent, as we prepare for Easter are: Prayer, fasting and alms giving. In view of this, we will be holding a Non-Uniform Day this **THURSDAY** to raise awareness and funds for a charity called Once Upon A Smile who provide practical and emotional support to bereaved families to enable them to adjust to a new life without their loved one. Once Upon a Smile have lots of creative programmes where children and young people remember their loved ones and express their thoughts and feelings in a fun and safe environment. If you wish to make a donation, please click on:

<https://onceuponasmile.org.uk>

Thank you.

Our Next Break:

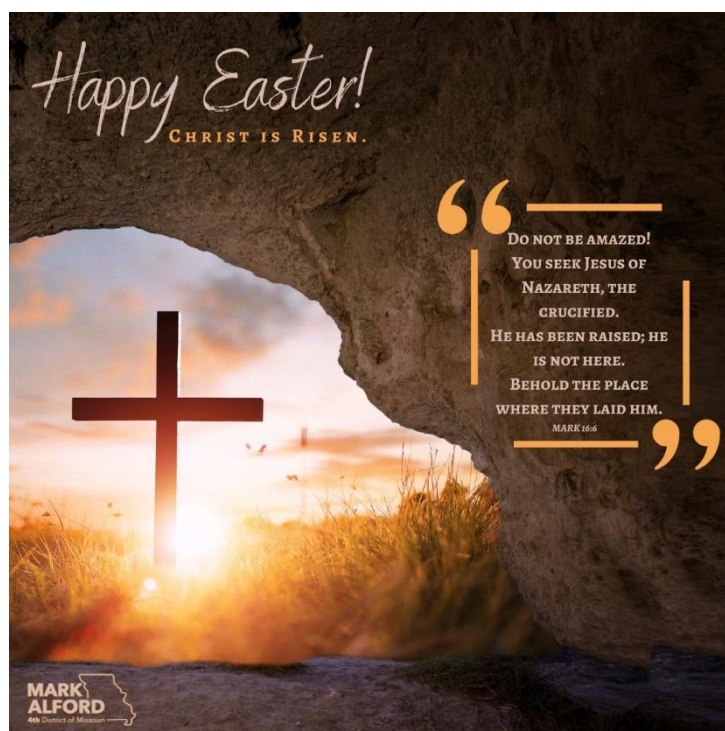
School closes at 3.15pm tomorrow, Thursday 2nd April 2026.

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:

I remember on Eater Sunday Jesus rose from the dead.



Thank You!

On behalf of everyone at SSOA, I'd like to thank all those who have given us messages of support over the measures we have been advised to take to try and contain Strep A. Whilst we can't wait to return to normal after Easter, we have very much enjoyed your support over this difficult time. Thank you so much.

School Uniform – Changes from September 2026

Following our recent uniform consultation, we would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to share their views. We received a wide range of feedback, which has been carefully considered by the Governing Body.

After reviewing all responses, governors have agreed to introduce a change to the school uniform. From September 2027, pupils from Year 1 upwards will move to a uniform that includes a shirt and tie instead of a polo shirt.

We recognise that families need time to prepare for any changes, and this extended notice period ensures that parents and carers can plan ahead and make the transition in a manageable and cost-effective way.

We intend to sell school ties from the office, and these will also be available to purchase from Smart Clothing. Further details will be provided in due course.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Sustainable Easter Garden Competition

A huge thank you to everyone who has entered the Sustainable Easter Garden competition. We have been blown away by all the beautiful entries that have been brought into school. We will be announcing the winners tomorrow. Thank you again for the time and effort which has been put into all the entries.

Strep A: Setting the Record Straight

You may have seen our school mentioned recently in the *Bolton News*, the *Bury Times*, and the *Manchester Evening News*. Unfortunately, some online comments have suggested that SS Osmund & Andrew's has "cancelled" Easter or is following an "other agenda."

I would like to address these misconceptions directly. As a Catholic school, Easter is the most important feast in the Christian calendar. It is the heart of our faith, it is not optional, and it has **not** been cancelled.

Our only "agenda" is the health and well-being of our community. Following professional advice regarding Strep A, we have made sensible, reasonable, temporary adjustments to our celebrations to keep our children safe. These measures have been welcomed by our parents and carers—thank you for your incredible support.

To the online community, please let me be clear on how we are observing Holy Week and Easter:

- **Stations of the Cross:** This is being observed as class-based worship in classrooms rather than in the hall. It has **not** been cancelled.
- **Holy Week Assembly and Service of Reconciliation:** These have been replaced by **six daily "Celebrations of the Word"** via Zoom, following the story of Christ's passion from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection, giving our children an opportunity to reflect each day to reconcile themselves with God.
- **Easter Mass:** Rescheduled to **Thursday 23rd April** (St George's Day). All parents are welcome to join us as normal. This remains within the 50 days of Eastertide.
- **The Easter Play:** Rescheduled to **Thursday 7th May**, also within the Easter season.
- **Easter Egg Bingo:** This has been replaced by an **Easter Egg Raffle**.
- **Parents Evening** is still going ahead, but online.

Our identity is firmly Catholic and as a result, we are a school that welcomes families of all faiths and none. Our commitment to the health and safety of our pupils is an extension of our Christian values—values of care and respect that we apply to every single child in our diverse school family.

Looking after the health of our community is a duty, not a compromise of our faith. We are moving forward with common sense and a deep commitment to our liturgical traditions.

Thank you again to our wonderful parents for standing by us, wishing you a Happy and Holy Easter.

DATES FOR DIARY

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

2.4.26 – School closes at the normal time of 3:15pm

20.4.26 – School opens at 8:45am for Summer Term

27.4.26 – Whole school class photographs

29/30.4.26 – Class 5O Bikeability

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

A Vital Request: Road Safety and Parent Conduct – Please ‘Park and Stride’

We must address the ongoing issue of parking around the school. For the safety of our pupils, please park well away from the school gates and, crucially, **completely clear of the school crossing patrol**. We are a school, not a policing agency; it is not the responsibility of school leadership to manage traffic on public roads.

In the past, when staff have attempted to request safer parking, they have been met with unacceptable verbal abuse and a refusal to comply. As adults, we must lead by example. Aggressive behaviour at the school gates is witnessed by our children, and reckless parking puts their lives at risk. I ask that you act with the maturity and care our community deserves before a child is seriously injured.

EDSTART – Easter Holiday Club

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

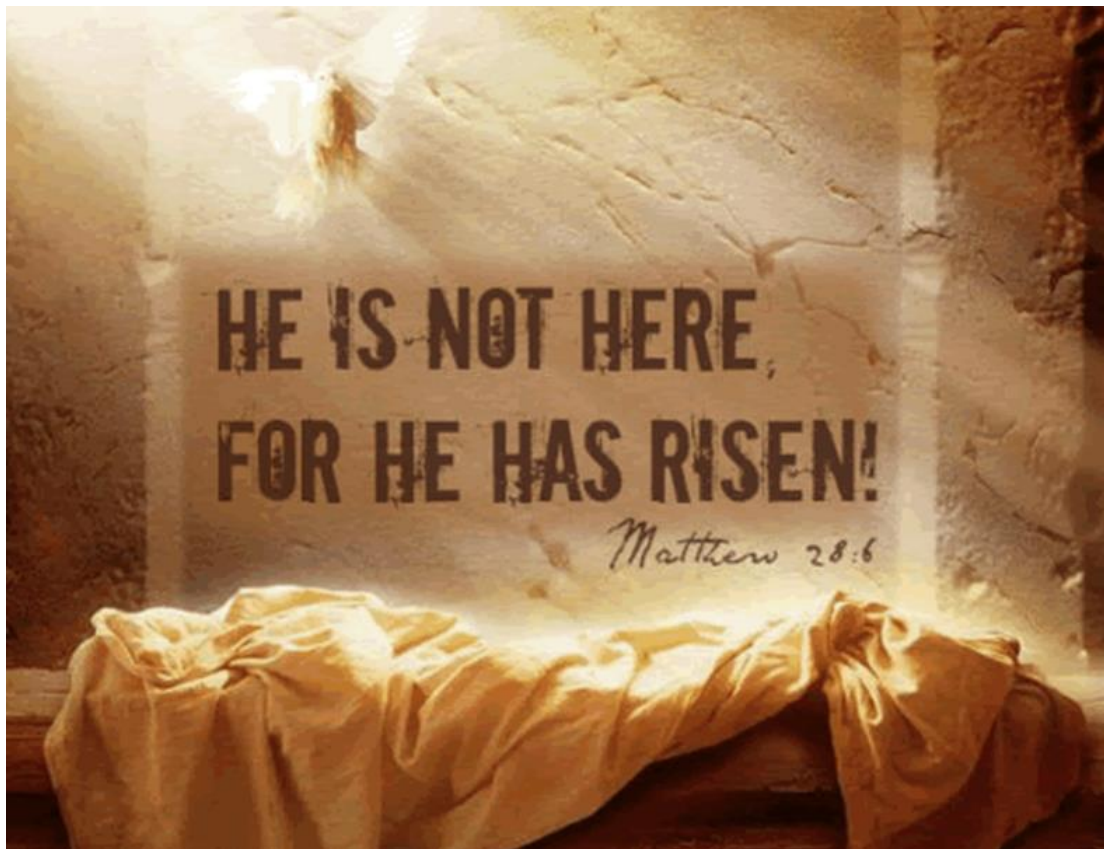
Attendance Award Winners – Year 1 you get the biscuit tin this week! What a score!!

Golden Bin – 5A you have the Golden Bin as your paper bin all week!

Caritas Award – 6O, you get an extra break for being the class of the week!

House Points – Blue House are this week's winners!

Each week the parents of all children on the Roll of Honour are warmly invited to our school assembly on Monday at 9am to see their child receive their award. We will return after the Easter break, please keep your eye on the Newsletter.



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

On Sunday morning, very early, just as the sun was beginning to shine, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary, the mother of James, went to the cave where Jesus was buried.

When they got there, they found the great boulder had been rolled away from the door, and when they went inside. They found a young man there, dressed all in white. At first they were afraid, when they saw him. He said, 'Don't be frightened! You want Jesus who was killed, don't you? Well, you can see where they put him, but he's not here now. He is alive! Go and tell Peter and the others they will see him in Galilee!' Then the women came out of the cave, but they were so frightened, they ran away as fast as they could without saying a word to anybody!



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.

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](#)

ATTENDANCE

Well done to **Class 1** who had the highest attendance last week. Their attendance was 97.39%

Whole school attendance last week was as follows:

Foundation	93.12%
Class 1	97.39%
Class 1/2	85.27%
Class 2	96%
3O	93.33%
3A	94.54%
4O	96%
4A	94.33%
5O	90.97%
5A	92.61%
6O	92.40%
6A	91.38%
Whole School	92.28%



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.

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](#)

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