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### Welcome Back!

On behalf of everyone at SS Osmund and Andrew's, I would like to welcome everyone back to the new term. I hope that you all had a lovely break and managed to get some quality family time over the break.



### Our Next Break:

School closes at 3.15pm on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**  
We reopen at 8.45am on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

### Thought for the Week:

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

**I try to use words that make the world a better place.**

### Reception September 2026

Primary school offer day for Reception class 2026 was 16<sup>th</sup> April. If you have been offered a place for Reception 2026, remember you need to accept the place by contacting school by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. We look forward to welcoming pupils and families over the coming months.

### 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.

## Rescheduled Easter Events

We will be holding our rescheduled Easter Mass tomorrow, Thursday 23rd April (St George's Day). All parents are welcome to join us as normal.

**The Easter Play:** Rescheduled to **Thursday 7th May at 2pm & 6pm**. Parents of children in Year 3 & 4 can reserve tickets via TryBooking.com using the links on the letter emailed home before the holidays.

## Class Photographs

Whole school class photographs are being taken on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April**. Please can all children come in full school uniform on this day. Please can children in Year 5 & 6 bring their PE kit in a bag to change into school with them.



## 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.

## The School Council: Staying Safe

The School Council have been discussing how we stay safe at school. This is what they have come up with:

“We learn about staying safe when playing games online.” – Narvel, 5O

“If something bad happens on the yard, my friends and teachers will come to help.” – Lincoln, 5A

“If something bad happens to someone in my class, like a tray falls on them, friends help them put the tray back and clean up the mess” – Samuel, 3A

“We stay safe by doing evacuation practices.” – Luna, 3O

“On the playground we all have two people to go and see if someone is sad or hurt and we sit down and talk about what happened.” – Scarlet, 3A

“When we are on school trips we have more than one staff member to keep us safe so that we don't lose any of the children.” – Summer, 6O

“Whenever you're sad in school you can talk to teachers, Peer mediators or you parents and carers at home.” – Willow, 6A.

## DATES FOR DIARY

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

**27.4.26** – Whole school class photographs

**29/30.4.26** – Class 5O Bikeability

**7.5.26** – Rescheduled Easter Plays **2pm & 6pm**

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

# ROLL OF HONOUR

## Class Awards

**Attendance Award Winners** – **3O 97.2%** you get the biscuit tin this week! What a score!!

**Golden Bin** – **4A** you have the Golden Bin as your paper bin all week!

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

**House Points** – **Red 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.

**Foundation: Jacob D** for following instructions and joining in during carpet time.

**Myla R-H** for great improvement in her reading.

**Year 1: Meyiwa O** for fantastic progress throughout the half term and effort in the presentation of her work!

**Year 1/2 : Ellie-Mae S** for working so hard on her reading and phonics, both in school and at home.

**Year 2: Aria G** for always trying her best and making a big effort to improve her handwriting this term!

**3O: Duchess A** for always trying her best in all of her work and for being a polite and courteous member of the class. Well done, Duchess

**3A: Lucy J** for always being an excellent role model to others and striving to do her best in all that he she does. Well done

**4O: Charlotte W** for putting 100% effort into every lesson. It has been wonderful to see her confidence grow this year!

**4A: Freddie McC** for his kind nature and for always being ready, respectful and safe

**5O: Scarlett S** for her determination to achieve and for making excellent progress! Well done!

**5A: Oscar R** for showing great determination in his work and participating actively in all lessons!! Superb effort!

**6O: David F** for sheer determination in all interventions and lessons! Well done, David!

**6A: Zuza S** for her determination to improve, the effort she puts into every task and finishing 162 reading assignments on Reading Plus!

**Artist of the Half Term: Carter B (Class 1)** for a wonderful piece of artwork in the style of Clarice Cliff. Well done, Carter.

**Guitarist of the week: Luna Rae C (3O)** with lovely playing in the lesson today keep it up

## Sustainable Easter Garden Competition Winners

All the staff were amazed by the beautiful Easter Gardens that were brought into school for the competition.

All the children who entered received a magic bookmark with the winners receiving an Easter egg and bookmark.

The winners were as follows:

**Foundation - Layla and Freya**

**Year 1 – Iona**

**Year 1/2 – Isla**

**Year 2 – Arthur**

**Year 3O – Felicity**

**Year 3A – Lydia**

**Year 4O – Holly**

**Year 4A – Annie**

**Year 5O - Ella May**

**Year 5A – Teddie**

**Year 6O – Frankie**

**Year 6A – Aaron**

Congratulations to all our winners and a huge thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who helped to create the gardens.

## Attendance Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our Spring Term attendance raffle:

1<sup>st</sup> – **Peggy A (5O):** £50 Amazon voucher

2<sup>nd</sup> – **Iona C (Y1):** £30 Amazon voucher

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Savannah C (6A):** £20 Amazon voucher

Our next raffle will be for this Summer Term. All children who have **98%** attendance or above for the term will be entered into the draw.

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

The disciples who had met Jesus on the road to Emmaus were telling the others what had happened, when suddenly Jesus appeared among them. At first, they were terrified because they had thought they had seen a ghost! Then Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you," and seeing they were still scared, he added, "Do not be afraid. Why do you doubt what you can see? Please, look at my wounds and see that I am not a ghost. Touch me, a ghost has no flesh or bones as I have!"

They were overjoyed but still filled with disbelief. Then Jesus asked them for something to eat and they watched as he ate some grilled fish. Then he began to explain the scriptures to them, so that finally they understood what scripture had said about the Messiah suffering and rising after three days. Jesus said to them, "You are my witnesses because you have seen all these things happen."

**Luke 24: 36-48**



### 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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> April 11am Mass at St Osmund's Church.**

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

## 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.

## ATTENDANCE

Well done to **Class 30** who had the highest attendance before the holidays. Their attendance was 97.22%

Whole school attendance last week was as follows:

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Foundation   | 88.59% |
| Class 1      | 88.59% |
| Class 1/2    | 79.46% |
| Class 2      | 92.92% |
| 30           | 97.22% |
| 3A           | 87.50% |
| 40           | 84.17% |
| 4A           | 94.58% |
| 50           | 86.69% |
| 5A           | 94.20% |
| 60           | 92%    |
| 6A           | 90.52% |
| Whole School | 89.2%  |



## 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](#).

## Year 6

As well as the Y6 Leavers Party which has been organised by school and will take place on Tuesday 14th July after the Leavers Mass, a second party will also be arranged by parents for Friday 10th July. The below flyer has been emailed home to all Year 6 parents and is also available to view on our Facebook page.



## 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](#)

# This Week's Reminders

## Park and Stride

We kindly ask that, where possible, you **"Park and Stride."** By parking even just five minutes away from the school gates, you help reduce congestion, keep our children visible to drivers, and—ironically—usually enjoy a much quicker and less stressful exit than those caught in the bottleneck.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

## Jewellery

Jewellery, including earrings, should not be brought into school or be worn by the children on the grounds that it can be dangerous to self and others in many school activities, in particular playtimes and PE. Earrings should not be worn and children will be asked to remove them. The school cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to personal property. If your child is thinking of having their ears pierced, please can this happen in the first week of the summer holidays. This way, you will have plenty of time to allow earrings to be worn over the summer so that the holes do not heal up. This will avoid your child and school placed in the awkward position of an individual being asked to remove their earrings which are stopping their newly pierced ears from healing up!

Thank you for your support with this issue.

The Association for Physical Education state:

*"Schools have a duty of care to ensure students are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them. A clear and consistently applied policy for the removal of personal effects should be in place. The Association for Physical Education (afPE) strongly recommends the practice of removing all personal effects at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings."*

The Football Association (The FA)

Law 4 of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game states: *"A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player, including any kind of jewellery."*

**Furthermore, the rule around earrings shares a principle with the rules around trainers, PE kits and make-up: Specifically, that there are some families in our community who cannot afford for their children to wear earrings and to keep the children from those families feeling included, the wearing of earrings and jewellery is not permitted.**

## Reading at Home – It Improves Achievement!

Thank you to those parents who, despite having to juggle all the home tasks in an evening such as making a meal, getting uniforms ready for morning and putting children to bed, they are still able to ensure that their child reads every night at home.

A landmark study by the **OECD** found that reading enjoyment is a more important indicator of a child's future academic success than their background.

- **The Findings:** Children from lower-income families who read for pleasure regularly often perform better in school than children from higher-income families who do not read.
- **Life Impact:** This suggests that reading is the single most effective tool for **social mobility**, helping to level the playing field regardless of a child's starting point in life.

The evidence is clear... children reading at home perform much better than those who do not!

## Items not permitted in school

Please note the following are not permitted in school:

- Toys, however small, unless a teacher has requested them to be brought in. If toys are seen, they will be kept in a teacher's drawer until the end of the day whereby a parent/carer may collect it
- Pencil cases
- Keyrings or keyrings with lip gloss
- Make up
- Mobile phones unless in Year 6 who are walking home on their own, with permission from a parent/carer. Mobile phones in school are at the parent/carer's own risk
- Toys / dolls
- Jewellery
- Please do not bring in rucksacks or extra-large water bottles as they both take up a lot of room

## Every day is a learning day

Please do not think that on the last few days of the term the children are learning nothing – every day is a learning day at SSOA. Each day missed is 5 lessons missed. Each week is 25 lessons missed. Please ensure your child attends every day of school – even the last day! Please note that if your child has 91% attendance for the whole year, he/she will have missed over 85 lessons, and this will obviously hold up their progress. Thank you.

## Holidays in Term Time

Please note that our school does not have the power in law to authorise absences for family holidays. We are now obliged to issue a fine when there are 10 unauthorised sessions (5 days). Please do not put school in the awkward position by taking holidays in term time as they cannot be classed as exceptional circumstances and thus cannot be authorised. Please note that the government regulations mean that a fine will be issued by Bolton Council for unauthorised absences such as holidays taken in term time.

## Thank you

Thank you to our school community that recognise the job our staff do for our children. We are a partnership with yourselves as parents who are the first educators of the children. Furthermore, we greatly value what you do to support us as a school. We know there are other schools in the area so we are honoured that you have chosen SS Osmund & Andrew's as the school for your children.

Unfortunately, we have had several incidents in the last half term where a very, very small number of parents have been rude or aggressive towards members of our staff. This behaviour is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The following document from the Department for Education should be noted: "Controlling Access To School Premises." Within this document, it states:

*"Schools can bar someone from the premises if they feel that their aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language is a risk to staff or pupils. It's enough for a member of staff or a pupil to feel threatened."*

The full document can be read by clicking <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlling-access-to-school-premises/controlling-access-to-school-premises>

## Year 2 Children

If your child is in Year 2 is a baptised Catholic and you wish them to make their First Holy Communion in Year 3, details of all the dates you need to attend will come out in September. If your child is not baptised and you wish your child to make their First Holy Communion, please contact Fr Emmanuel on **01204 522770** as soon as possible to arrange a baptism that will also allow them to go on the First Holy Communion Programme. Thank you.

## Uniform

Please can you ensure that your child's name is in their uniform. We seem to accumulate a lot of lost property and without names, it is very difficult to return the items to their owner. Please note that all lost property will be disposed of regularly. Thank you.

## Vaping

Please can I remind our parents that smoking and vaping are banned on our school premises to support our message to children to not partake in vaping and smoking. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

## Arrival in school after 9.30am

*If a child is late after 9.30am (When the electronic registers have closed and sent to Bolton Council), although they are in school (and are signed in so they are accounted for in the event of an emergency), the session actually counts as absent.*

*The DfE's Document: "Working together to improve attendance (August 2024)" can be found here:*

*[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working\\_together\\_to\\_improve\\_school\\_attendance\\_-\\_August\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf) states the following:*

*"Where a pupil has arrived late after the register has closed but before the end of session:*

*Schools should actively discourage late arrival, be alert to patterns of late arrival and seek an explanation from the parent. All schools are expected to set out in their attendance policy the length of time the register will be open, **after which a pupil will be recorded as absent.** This should be the same for every session and not longer than 30 minutes."*

*Our registers close at 9.30am. Please note that your child will be marked absent if they arrive after this time (and the registers have been submitted). The absence will be unauthorised, unless the circumstances fall under the circumstances which can be authorised which are set out from page 80 of the DfE's regulations.*

*Our school's Attendance Policy has to follow this guidance and can be found here:*

*<https://www.ssoarc.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=454&type=pdf>*