



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:

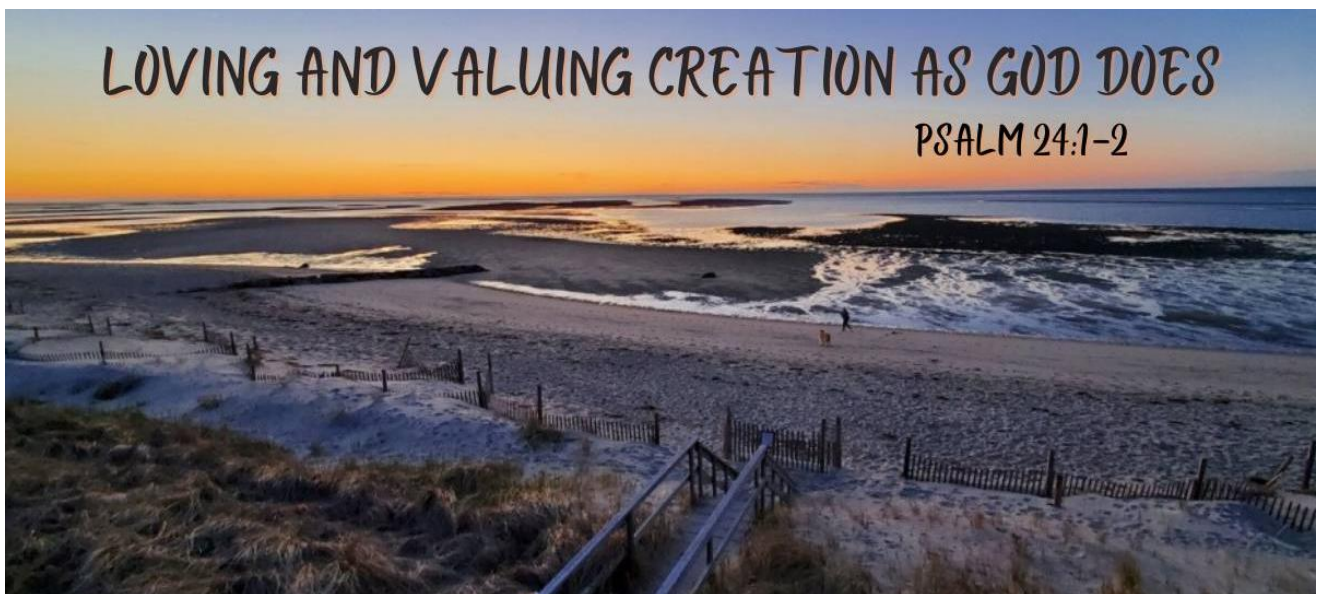
Reminder: Next Monday is a Bank Holiday.

School closes at 3.15pm on **Friday 22nd May**

We reopen at 8.45am on **Tuesday 2nd June**

School will close at **2pm** on **17th July 2026**.

The term dates can be found on our [website](#)



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 appreciate the beauty and wonder in the world around me.

Reception September 2026

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

Foundation Class Assembly

Children in Foundation are looking forward to welcoming parents / carers and families to their class assembly this **Friday at 9am**.

Crowning of Our Lady

On **Friday 1st May** we will be crowning Our Lady. Please, if you are able, send your child in with one flower to present to Our Lady during the assembly.

Our Lady will be on display with the flowers in the main entrance hall for you to see if you are popping in! We will also post a photograph online.

The Sacramental Programme

The next date is to attend is:

Sunday 17th May 11am Mass at St Osmund's Church.

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

School Meals Menu

Please look through the menu with your child before school and discuss with them what choice they would like. The menu for Summer term can be found [here](#)

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. Please contact the office if you need a copy of the letter.

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.

Parent Governor

A letter was emailed home last week regarding a position which has come available to serve on our Governing Board. Becoming a governor is a very rewarding and worthwhile experience. Effective governors do not need educational expertise but do need to be committed to their school, willing to ask questions and offer appropriate challenge and support. If you would like to apply for the position of Parent Governor, please complete the electronic form which was sent home. The closing date for applications is this Friday, 1st May at 4pm. Following receipt of all nominations by the stated closing date and time, if there are the same numbers of nominations as positions available, those parents will be duly elected. If, however there are more nominations than positions available, a secret ballot will be held. Therefore, all nominees are asked to provide a personal statement about themselves to assist with the voting process.

Walsingham Pilgrimage

On Saturday 2nd May, Mrs Doyle will be travelling down to Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham.

If you have any prayers you would like her to take, please send them in an email or in a sealed envelope if you prefer, (we have envelopes and paper if you do not have this) into school by Friday 1st May. Mrs Doyle will then light a candle for you and post your prayer in the box in the chapel where your intentions will be prayed for.

Your prayers could be for a loved one, a friend, an intention for yourself, to give thanks or for anything that may be troubling you at this moment in time and you would like some spiritual support.

Thank you and God Bless

DATES FOR DIARY

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

29/30.4.26 – Class 50 Bikeability

1.5.26 - Reception Class Assembly 9am.

1.5.26 – Crowning of Our Lady – children can bring a flower

1.5.26 - Parent Governor application deadline 4pm

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

ROLL OF HONOUR

Class Awards

Attendance Award Winners – **5A 100%** 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 – **Class 2**, you get an extra break for being the class of the week!
House Points – **Yellow 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.

Foundation: **Isabella H** for fantastic work during phonics.
Dexter G for working well in a team to build a rocket to the moon!

Year 1: **Kamsi M** for trying hard throwing and catching in PE.
Year 1/2 : **Ashton B** for a great first 2 weeks in Year 1/2 at SS Osmund & Andrew's!
Year 2: **Ava H** for her enthusiasm and determination when learning how to divide!

3O: **Jess S-H** for gaining confidence in his own ability during lessons and for producing some great independent work in Maths about Capacity and Volume. Well done Jess!
3A: **Bobby L** for a superb Kenny poem which includes alliteration, rhyming couplets and clever clues to guess his animal – well done!

4O: **Tiana K** for always trying her best in every aspect of school life. Well done!
4A: **Poppy M** for her confidence when delivering her lines in the Easter play!

5O: **Matilda G-M** for always producing beautiful art work to accompany her very creative writing. Well done!
5A: **Duriel A** for fantastic work on angles in maths.

6O: **Riley D** for fantastic contribution in lessons and for working hard in his interventions!
6A: **Chester B** for being a supportive role model – demonstrating maturity and determination to succeed.

Guitarist of the week: **Oliver D (5O)** – His enthusiasm has been infectious and has shown in his guitar playing. Well done!

Handwriting and Presentation Award: **Chloe B (6O)**

Reading Award: **George E (5A)**

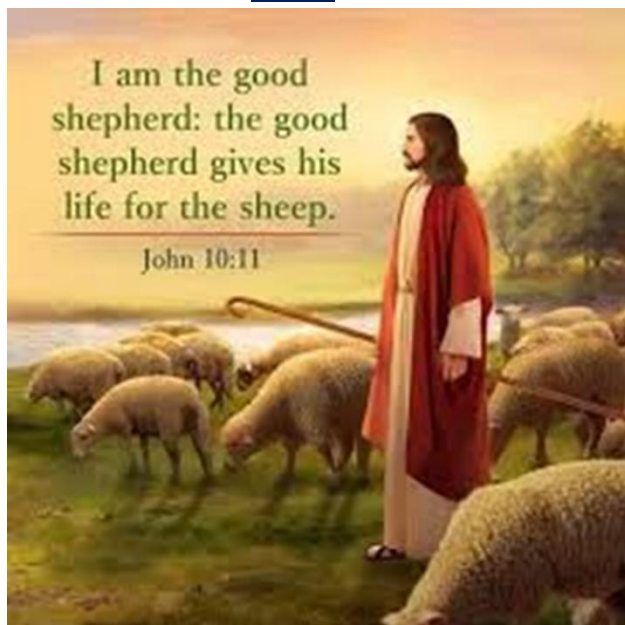
Assistant Head Teacher Award: **Lyla B (6O)** for showing great maturity and kindness towards others.

Deputy Head Teacher Award: **Marcella G (5A)** for great sportsmanship during her PE lesson. Well done Marcella!

Head Teacher Award: **Max H (3O)** for writing a fantastic poem about a lion!

'But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded'

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



John 10: 2-5, 9-11

One day, Jesus said to the crowds, "A shepherd knows his sheep, and his sheep know him. When he calls their names, they know his voice and they follow him, one by one, through the gate of the sheepfold. The shepherd walks ahead of them showing the way. He guides and protects them from danger and harm. The flock will not follow a stranger, instead they scatter and run away because they do not know his voice. Then Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. If anyone follows me I will lead them safely on their journey to the fullness of everlasting life."

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.

ATTENDANCE

Well done to **Class 5A** who had the highest attendance before the holidays. Their attendance was 100%

Whole school attendance last week was as follows:

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Foundation | 96.08% |
| Class 1 | 93.45% |
| Class 1/2 | 95% |
| Class 2 | 95.67% |
| 3O | 98.52% |
| 3A | 98.75% |
| 4O | 92.47% |
| 4A | 94% |
| 5O | 96.03% |
| 5A | 100% |
| 6O | 97.6% |
| 6A | 88.28% |
| Whole School | 95.49% |



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.

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

Cycling to School (Y5/6)

Children will only be allowed to cycle to school if:

- Children dismount at the school gate and walk their bikes on school grounds
- The child wears a helmet.
- The bicycle is in good working order making it safe (eg: the brakes work, the handlebars are on straight, etc)
- Children cycle outside the school grounds with care and attention, obeying traffic laws and not engaging in dangerous behaviour (there will be cycle patrols by staff).
- Children in Year 4 or below should be accompanied by an adult.

If a child fails to comply with these rules, permission to cycle to school will be withdrawn.

This action is to reduce the number of incidents where our children have put themselves at risk.

Lip balm

Children can be allergic to lip balm, and the worry is that if a child who is allergic uses their friend's lip balm.

Therefore, lip balm can only be used in school if a parent is able to come in and administer the lip balm (and take the lip balm off site with them when they leave). This can be arranged with the office. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Fidget Toys

Only fidget toys (and [popping mats) supplied by school are the only ones that can be used in school. This is because they are assigned to certain children who our team feel their use will help them concentrate. If your child has not been identified, then their use will usually mean that they distract both themselves and those around them. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Mobile Phones

Please note that only Year 6 children are allowed mobile phones in school without a letter 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 home time. This includes all events such as discos, etc. Any child breaking this rule will not be allowed to bring their mobile phone into school.

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.

Sickness in school

Please note guidance of the Health Protection Agency that we follow which states that after a child vomits or has diarrhoea, the recommended period to be kept away from school is 48 hours. More information can be found at: https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

PE Kit

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct PE kit. Football shirts, hoodies and tracksuit tops are NOT school PE uniform and are not to be worn.

The PE kit is:

- White t-shirt (*The school polo shirt can be worn or a 'round neck' white t-shirt*)
- Blue shorts
- Black slip on pumps for indoor lessons
- Black pumps or trainers for outdoor lessons
- Black tracksuit bottoms for (winter) outdoor lessons
- School jumper for outdoor lessons (over the top of the t-shirt)

Sometimes children turn up in a kit for PE that includes branded (eg Nike, Adidas, Puma, etc) t-shirts and tops, hoodies, football shirts, and so on, often without their parents' knowledge.

When it is your child's PE day, please ensure that they come to school in the correct PE kit. If your child is unable to wear the correct kit, please send them with a letter so that we know that you are aware they are wearing something different.

We do not allow make up in school as the principle of other children not being able to afford make up / not being allowed to wear make up applies, as it does to trainers and branded PE kits.

We have said to the children that if they come in trainers, make up and branded tops, this may look bad if seen by the public, for example parents who visit Little Ozzie's who will have a good view of the playground when they enter their premises. Therefore, there is the possibility that we will not allow children onto the playground who are not wearing the correct uniform so that our reputation remains strong in the community.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Inclusion

As a Catholic school, it is only natural that we are committed to welcoming everyone at SSOA, regardless of race, colour, gender, circumstances, and it is our job to help everyone develop, no matter who they are. Our school community is fantastic at instilling these messages of tolerance into our children, and our community is wonderful at working with school when our children make mistakes, enabling our children to take responsibility which leads to their growth. **Instances of racism are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.** On behalf of all at our school, we say THANK YOU to all our parents for their support in these matters! ☺

Parking

As a school, we would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all parents who have parked a little further away from school and walked to drop off their child(ren), or to pick them up. We would ask all parents to park a little further away from school. **Please do not park on Falkirk Drive or any side of Brodick Drive where you are parallel to our green fence as this congests the road where families have to cross.**

This plea is made in the interests of the children, as we have near misses on a regular basis. The safety of our children is paramount, and by parking further away from school and walking we are all reducing the risk of one of our children being injured in a road accident.

We also thank our parents for parking with great consideration towards our neighbours. We would respectfully request all our school community to continue to park with consideration towards the residents who live around school. Thank you.

Scissors in Nursery & Reception

When your child is at home, please reinforce our Scissors rules which are:

- Only use scissors when you are sat on a chair.
- Only use scissors on card (not your hair, someone else's hair, their ribbon, etc)

The Early Years Curriculum that we are obliged to follow insists on children developing their fine motor skills and their independence. One way all Early Years settings do this (including our own at SSOA) is to have scissors available for children to choose as a resource. The scissors we use are safe, but strong enough to cut paper.

The children are shown how to use scissors and we would ask you to reinforce this at home, including using them on paper.

Many of the activities are not to be 'adult-led' in accordance with the curriculum, therefore children may not always be supervised with the scissors. Whilst we have enough adults in our classrooms to fulfil the legal ratios, we cannot guarantee that a child will not use scissors on their own hair.

The curriculum (called "Development Matters") states:

Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.

You can begin by showing children how to use one-handed tools (scissors and hammers, for example) and then guide them with hand-over-hand help. Gradually reduce the help you are giving and allow the child to use the tool independently. Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons.

Help children to learn to form their letters accurately. First, they need a wide-ranging programme of physical skills development, inside and outdoors. Include large-muscle co-ordination: whole body, leg, arm and foot. This can be through climbing, swinging, messy play and parachute games, etc. Plan for small muscle co-ordination: hands and fingers. This can be through using scissors, learning to sew, eating with cutlery, using small brushes for painting and pencils for drawing. Children also need to know the language of direction ('up', 'down', 'round', 'back', etc).

Please understand to remove scissors from our school or to make all scissor activities adult-led or supervised when the scissors we use are safe will put limits on what our children can learn. I believe that this stance is in line with other Early Years settings. It is certainly necessary to meet the expectations of the sample of the curriculum stated above.

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