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Our Next Break:

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

School will close for Summer 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 keep going when things are difficult and not give up hope.

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](#)

History Celebration Day – Thursday 21st May

As per the [letter](#) emailed home, we are delighted to announce a History Celebration Day on **Thursday 21st May**. This will be a day filled with historic enquiry, artefact handling and storytelling.

Dressing Up

We invite all children to come to school dressed as a person from the past. This could relate to our current class topics:

Year 1 & 2: [e.g., Victorians or Famous Explorers]

Year 3 & 4: [e.g., Romans, Stone Age, Ancient Egyptians, Vikings or Anglo-Saxons]

Year 5 & 6: [e.g., World War II or Ancient Greeks]

EYFS to come in sports clothes

Please see the [letter](#) emailed home for more costume information and ideas.

New Uniform Policy – September 2026

As we look forward to the next academic year, we would like to share an important update regarding our school uniform. From September, all children from Year 1 upwards will be moving to a new formal uniform consisting of a shirt and tie, replacing the previous polo shirt and no-tie policy.

This change comes after careful consideration and a joint decision between the children on the School Council and our Board of Governors. Our student representatives were keen to bring a sense of pride and a "grown-up" feel to our school attire, and the governors have fully supported this vision for our school identity.

Understanding the New Tie Options

To keep the morning routine as stress-free as possible, we have decided not to use manual (self-tie) ties. Instead, we have selected options that are easy for children to manage independently:

Infant Pupils: We have comfortable elasticated ties designed for smaller hands.

Junior Pupils: We have smart clip-on ties.

Parental Choice: While we recommend the clip-ons for older children, parents are more than welcome to choose the elasticated ties for their child all the way through their school years if they prefer.

Where to Buy

To make the transition easier, ties will be available through the following outlets:

In-School: We will be stocking ties directly at the school office.

Smart Clothing: You can also purchase them from Smart Clothing on Bolton Market, where they stock our full uniform range.

Supporting the Transition

We understand that any change can bring a bit of anxiety. Here are some tips to help your child get ready for September:

Practice Makes Perfect: During the summer break, have a few "dress rehearsals." Letting your child practice buttoning their shirt in a relaxed environment can build great confidence.

The "One-Finger Rule": Ensure collars are not too tight. You should be able to fit one or two fingers comfortably between the collar and the neck.

Sensory Advice

For children with sensory sensitivities, we want to ensure they remain comfortable while looking smart:

Soft Fabrics: Look for "easy-iron" or "soft-touch" shirts, which often have softer seams than standard cotton.

Washing First: Washing new shirts a few times with a familiar fabric softener before September can help remove factory stiffness.

Tagless Options: If labels are a distraction, many retailers now offer tagless shirts. Alternatively, labels can be carefully trimmed away at home.

We are very proud of our School Council for leading this initiative and thank you for your continued support in helping our pupils look their best as they represent our school community.

DATES FOR DIARY

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

18.5.26 & 19.6.26 – Class 5A Bikeability

18.5.26 – Reception heights, weights and vision checks – Healthy Families Team.

21.5.26 – History Celebration Day

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

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

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

- **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 (97.12%) you get the biscuit tin this week! What a score!!

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: **Finn M** for applying his phonic skills when writing.
Tommy A for great number bond to 10 work.

Year 1: **Aiza E** for her improvement in Phonics and excellent writing of Handa's Surprise story

Year 1/2 : **Pennie C** for producing some beautiful artwork and drawings in her work. A super artist!

Year 2: **Oscar M** for his super understanding of characters emotions and being able to explain his thinking!

3O: **Renaë H** for a delightful draft of her Pink Planet setting description and for using alliteration. Well done Renaë.

3A: **Nelly McD** for independently working on her setting description of her "Purple Galaxy" planet. Well done!

4O: **Thomas T** for bravely stepping up as a narrator in the Easter play. We are so proud!

4A: **Freddie McC** for conquering his fear of performing and for showing bravery in the Easter play! Well done

5O: **Martin R** for demonstrating tremendous listening skills and making excellent progress during bikeability. Well done Martin!

Elara-Rose K for excellent effort in writing and Maths and for always trying her best!

5A: **Callen L** for being a helpful member of the class and working super hard in maths!

6O: **David F** - for putting 1000% effort into his SATs this week - well done!

6A: **Carter W** for his attitude and effort in his SATs this week!

Guitarist of the week: **Zuza S (6A)** for a making breakthrough on "Seven Nation Army"

Handwriting and Presentation Award: **Josie N (4O)**

Reading Award: **Caleb H Class 1**

Assistant Head Teacher Award: **David F (6O)** for being the living embodiment of tenacity and resilience.

Deputy Head Teacher Award: **Leo M (6A)** for a super effort in his SATs.

Head Teacher Award: **Jorge C (6A)** for a huge display of maturity all the time!

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

2 Chronicles 15:7

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



The Wedding at Cana

Jesus, his mother Mary, and his disciples were invited to a wedding in a village called Cana. Everyone was dancing and celebrating, but suddenly, a disaster happened:

The wine ran out.

In those days, running out of drinks at a wedding was a huge embarrassment for the family. Mary noticed the problem before anyone else did. She didn't make a scene; she simply went to Jesus and whispered, "They have no wine."

Jesus looked at her and said, "Mother, why are you telling me? My time has not yet come." It was as if he was saying, "I'm not ready to show the world my power yet."

But Mary knew her son. She didn't argue. She simply turned to the servants and said five very famous words: **"Do as he tells you."**

Because his mother asked, Jesus changed his mind. He told the servants to fill six giant stone jars with water. When they poured it out, the water had turned into the finest wine anyone had ever tasted! It was his very first miracle, performed all because his mum asked him for a favour.

The Interpretation

We believe this story shows us something amazing about Mary. Even when Jesus felt it wasn't the "right time" to start his miracles, he couldn't say no to his mother.

This is why we pray to **Our Lady**. We know because of what happened at Cana that if we tell Mary our worries, she goes to Jesus and whispers them in his ear for us. She is the ultimate "helper," and Jesus listens to her with so much love that he will do anything for her. If you have a big worry, you can always ask Mary to "nudge" Jesus for 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](#).



ATTENDANCE

Well done to **Class 5A** who had the highest attendance last week. Their attendance was 97.12%

Whole school attendance last week was as follows:

Foundation	90.76%
Class 1	93.25%
Class 1/2	93.75%
Class 2	92.92%
30	93.98%
3A	89.13%
40	92.24%
4A	91.38%
50	88.33%
5A	97.12%
60	95%
6A	91.81%
Whole School	91.67%



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 have also been 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

Packed Lunches

Eating behaviours and habits are formed in early life and good nutrition in childhood can help to prevent a variety of health problems, both in the short term and later in life. There is increasing concern that many children are consuming too much fat, sugar and salt and too little fibre, fruit and vegetables.

School meals which are provided by the school must adhere to the Government School Food Standards which have been in place since 2015. These standards ensure that children are offered healthy, nutritious meals. They state, for example, that:

- One or more portions of vegetables are to be on the menu every day
- There is an emphasis on wholegrain foods in place of refined carbohydrates (e.g. brown bread instead of white)
- No more than 2 portions of pastry products are to be served each week
- One or more portions of fruit are to be on the menu every day
- Drinking water is made available

Unfortunately, there are no such standards for packed lunches brought in from home. Packed lunches can contribute to almost a third of a child's weekly food intake, therefore we want to encourage healthy packed lunches for those children who bring them into school.

We would like to provide a reasonable suggestion for a healthy packed lunch which is:

- 1) A portion of bread (or similar), rice, potatoes or pasta
- 2) Plenty of fruit and vegetables
- 3) A portion of dairy or a calcium rich alternative such as cheese or yoghurt
- 4) Some protein eg boiled egg, chicken, Quorn, tuna, etc
- 5) A healthy drink such as milk or water. Advice is to try to avoid fruit juices and fizzy drinks – if necessary, switch to no-added sugar cordial instead.

Own Risk

Please note that all equipment required by the children is already in school and there is no need for children to bring in equipment unless we have specifically requested this. All equipment is brought in at the child's own risk and we can accept no responsibility for any items that are lost. We would recommend that items are NOT brought in from home. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Morning Hand Over

Please note that we have staff on the door for you to hand your children over to. We appreciate that Year 6 children will increasingly walk to school as the year goes on. However, the younger children will need to be walked to the entrance by the adult that brings them to school. Please avoid staying in your car or asking the children to run from the school gate. At any point between the car/gate and the school door, we will not know the whereabouts of your child and cannot be held responsible for their safety. Therefore, we politely ask that you bring your child onto the school grounds and ensure that they safely make it through the school entrance doors before you set off for work, etc. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Internet Safety at Home

Please monitor your child's online use by not letting them use their phone/tablet in a room where they are not with an adult. Set up rules whereby you are allowed to check the phone/tablet at any time. If they see anything that they are not comfortable with, please set up a system where your child will report this to you straight away. If you are reporting something that is of a concern to school, please try to get a screenshot / photo of the screen to help us investigate. Most broadband providers operate a 'firewall' that you can switch on for your home broadband, that tries to stop all inappropriate material being displayed on any laptop, tablet, phone or device that connects to your home's wifi. For more details, contact your provider, Eg: Sky: 0800 151 2747 Talk Talk: 0345 454 1111 EE: 0800 079 5119

United Front

Anyone who works in a school will tell you that when children can see a difference of opinion between home and school, things can break down. I am pleased to say that at SSOA, our parents will always present a united front to the children – and we discuss any differences of opinions behind closed doors. The golden rule is that on the rare occasions that Home and School disagree, the children must never know! Thank you so much for your co-operation in this matter.

Pencil Cases

Please note that pencil cases are not allowed in class as they take up room on tables and easily get lost.

Nuts

Please remember that we have a number of children who are allergic to nuts. Therefore, please ensure that your child does not bring any products containing nuts into school.

School Uniform – Shoes

Shoes are part of the school uniform. If you are unable to send your child into school with shoes, please send a letter to your class teacher explaining this. This is because we have experienced a small number of instances where children have been wearing trainers and their parents knew nothing about this! Please also ensure that long hair is tied back. Thank you for your support.

Morning Break Time Snacks

Please note that we ask that children do not bring in processed snacks such as cereal bars, 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.

Social Media: Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, etc

In line with other schools, we would like to strongly recommend that children do not have access to social media (even under parent supervision) until they are old enough to have an email account, which we believe is 13.

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.