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Our Next Break:

School will close at **2pm** on **17th July 2026**.
We reopen at 8.45am on Wednesday 2nd September.
The term dates can be found on our [website](#)



June is a special time dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus—a beautiful reminder of how deeply and endlessly Jesus loves every single one of us.

Thought for the Week:

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

I know what humility means.

Sports Day

Sports Day will take place on Monday 29th June 2026 (weather permitting!)

AM – EYFS and KS1

PM – KS2

The Sacramental Programme

The next date is to attend is:

Tuesday 9th June 6pm – Parent Meeting at St Osmund's Church.

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

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.

Catholic Family Holidays in the Lake District

Castlerigg Manor in Keswick (heart of the Lake District) is offering budget-friendly holidays for Catholic families during August and early September. Breakfast and evening meal are included and there will be Mass on site. Guests have full use of the site including the grounds, games room chapel and lounges. Castlerigg is just a short walk from Keswick and Lake Derwentwater. Ideal for individuals, couples, families or groups. Contact via: www.castleriggmanor.com

DATES FOR DIARY

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

8th & 9th June – 6A
Bikeability. Please give consent using the link on the letter.

9.6.26 – Sacramental
Programme meeting in Church 6pm.

18.6.26 – Year 1 trip

18.6.26 – Welcome visit for Reception September 2026
parents 5.30pm-6pm

19.6.26 – Year 4 class assembly

22.6.26 – Year 3 swimming starts. Daily for 2 weeks.

22.6.26 – Year 2 Trip

23.6.26 – Year 4 Trip

24.6.26 – Year 3 Trip

25.6.26 – Year 6 Trip

29.6.26 – Sports Day – EYFS & KS1 am, KS2 pm.

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

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

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

- **Year 4 – Friday 19th June**
- **Year 6 (Leavers) Assembly Thursday 16th July**

ROLL OF HONOUR

Class Awards

Attendance Award Winners – 3A (97.27%) 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 Half Term Award.

Foundation: **Elliot D** for looking after our indoor and outdoor learning spaces so well. Well done, Elliot!
Chloe M for super phonics writing! Well done, Chloe!

Year 1: **Alaiyah S** for her amazing progress with Phonics we are so proud!

Year 1/2 : **Ryan W** for continued effort in improving the presentation of his work.

Year 2: **Eliza B** for always setting a brilliant example by following the school rules and always trying her best!

3O: **Elia R-H** for always following the school rules, always listening in class and for always working hard with everything she does. Well done, Elia.

3A: **Florence A** for always doing her homework every week, always reading every night, being a kind helpful member of the class and doing well in her recent English assessments - well done!

4O: **Amber-Rose B** for always putting 100% effort into her learning and growing in confidence with contributing in lessons

4A: **Carter R-D** for his mature approach to school life and his egg-cellent contribution to our science experiment ☺!

5O: **Oliver D** for his continuous contribution in all lessons and for always sharing his wealth of knowledge! Thank you!

5A: **Louie R** for working super hard and making superb progress.

6O: **Emily N** for always being an excellent role model and for always trying her best in everything that she does

6A: **Harry P** for working hard and showing how mature he is. He is definitely ready for High School!

'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.



Matthew 11: 28-30

Jesus said to the crowds: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my load upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my load is easy and my burden is light.”

The Interpretation

This Gospel shows us the true meaning of the Sacred Heart. When we feel Tired, worried or sad, Jesus invites us to rest in His gentle, humble and loving heart.

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 3A** who had the highest attendance during the last week in school. Their attendance was 97.27%

Whole school attendance during the last week before half term was as follows:

Foundation	92.67%
Class 1	91.74%
Class 1/2	92.14%
Class 2	92.67%
30	91.11%
3A	97.27%
40	95.86%
4A	90.34%
50	88.67%
5A	88.52%
60	92.40%
6A	90%
Whole School	92.22%



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 an apostle. 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](#)

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. This includes fidget toys from home. 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 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>

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