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OUR NEWSLETTER IS NOW EVERY MONDAY!!

Our Next Break:

School will close at **3.15pm** on **Friday 23rd October**
We reopen at **8.45am** on **Monday 2nd November**.

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

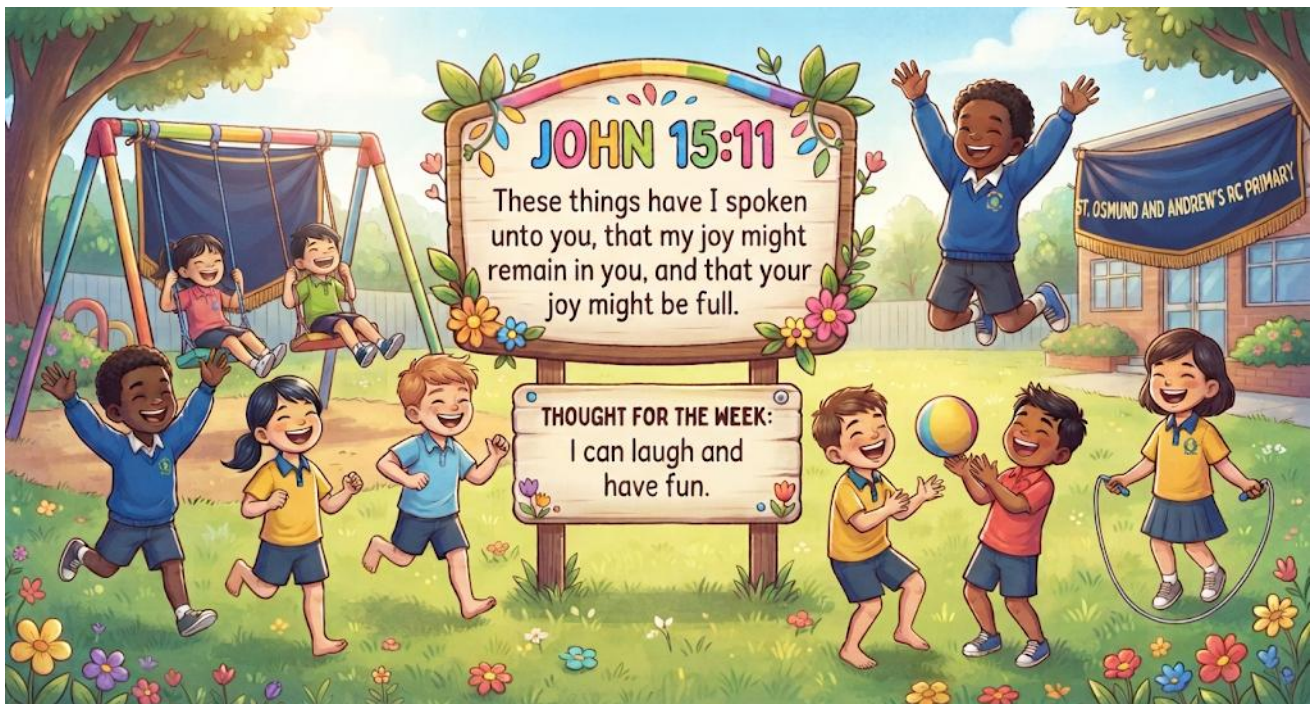
Roll of Honour

Each week the parents of all children on the Roll of Honour are warmly invited to our school assembly on **FRIDAY** at 9am to see their child receive their award.

Thought for the Week:

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

I can laugh and have fun.



Parking

Please do not park on Falkirk Drive. Thank you for parking respectfully for our neighbours. Thank you.

Sacramental Programme

The next Mass for children who are attending the Sacramental Programme is on Sunday 18th October at 11am.

Messages in the Morning.

Our staff stationed at the entrances in the morning are there to receive **quick messages only** (such as changes to pick-up arrangements). If you have a concern or complaint, we ask that you follow our communication pathway in the first instance by arranging a discussion with your child's **class teacher**. If you are unable to meet with the class teacher, then please put your concerns in an email and the office will pass them on to the teacher. If this does not lead to a satisfactory resolution, the matter should then be escalated to a member of the senior leadership team (Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, or Assistant Headteacher) via email. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our morning transitions smooth and our communication channels effective.

Harvest Collection – Thursday 1st October

We are collecting donations of non-perishable food item in aid of Urban Outreach. Please can any donations be brought into school by **Thursday 1st October**, ready for us to hand them over during assembly. Thank you in advance for your support.

Parent Information on School Avoidance – Free in School Thursday 8th October, 2pm.

Navigating morning routines can sometimes feel overwhelming, and we know that for some children, the journey to school can occasionally be a hurdle.

If your child sometimes finds it difficult to come to school in the morning—often referred to as Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)—we invite you to join us for an informative afternoon on the 8th of October at 2:00 pm.

This session is designed to offer a supportive, understanding space where we can share practical strategies, guidance, and information to help work together in making mornings a more positive experience for both you and your child. We look forward to welcoming you.

Open Day for School Admissions for September 2027

We are holding an Open Day on Thursday 15th October for children who are due to start in Reception in September 2027. There are 2 tours being held, one at 9:30am and one at 1:30pm. Appointments do not need to be made, parents are asked to arrive 5 minutes before their chosen appointment time. This is a great opportunity for parents of children who are due to start Reception in September 2027 (and Nursery) to come and have a look around our wonderful school.

Applications are now open for Reception places and the deadline is Friday 15th January. Further information can be found at www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions



Year 6 Secondary Applications

Letters have been sent to the home addresses of all Year 6 Bolton resident children regarding Secondary School applications. The deadline for applications is Sunday 31st October. Further information can be found at www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions

Monster Ball – Saturday 24th October in the Church Hall



A Monster Ball is being held at St Osmund's Church Hall on **Saturday 24th October, 7pm-10:30pm**. Tickets are available to buy via the School Office. Please send an envelope into school with your child's name and class, along with how many tickets you'd like to buy. Tickets are charged at £3.50 per person. There will be pumpkin competition, tuck shop, disco, spooky party games, hot dogs for sale and a bar. A spooky night of fun for all the family!

DATES FOR DIARY

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

1.10.26 – Donations for Harvest Collection to be gifted to Urban Outreach

8.10.26 – Free Parent Information session in school on EBSA. 2pm, everyone welcome.

15.10.26 – Open Day for Reception 2027 admissions. Tours at 9:30am and 1:30pm

18.10.26 Sacramental Programme Mass 11am Church

24.10.26 – Monster Ball in the Church Hall.

Further dates for Diary can be found [here](#)

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

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

Foundation Class – 26th May

Year 1 - 18th November

Year 1/2 - 2nd December

Year 2 - 20th January

Year 3 – 17th March

Year 3/ 4 - 21st October

Year 4 - 5th May

Year 5 - 7th July

ROLL OF HONOUR

Last Week's Class Awards

Attendance Award Winners – Year 2 (97.33%) you get the biscuit tin this week! What a score!!

Golden Bin – **Y4** had the tidiest classroom!

Caritas Award – **6A**

House Points – **Yellow House**

The parents of all children on the Roll of Honour for getting a certificate are warmly invited to our school assembly on **FRIDAY** at 9am to see their child receive their award.

Foundation: Evelyn T-B for amazing tidying and cleaning of our painting area!! Well done Evelyn!

Darla T for joining in so enthusiastically with our Talk for Writing story- The 3 Billy Goat's Gruff. Well done Darla!

Year 1: Heidi B for putting lots of effort into her writing and using her Phonics to help her spell the words!

Year 1/2 : Meyiwa O for excellent attention to detail when contributing to her RE lessons.

Year 2: Maisie R for her positive attitude to school life and for her fantastic ideas in English writing. Well done!

Year 3: Isla C for being a fantastic role model, showing a great work ethic, and writing an excellent diary entry in English. Well done, Isla!

Year 3/4: Bonnie O for excellent effort in the Tri Kids session!

Year 4: Samuel R for being an incredible friend to others and for always trying his best in his learning!

5O: Nathan Z for trying his very best in everything and for being such a pleasant boy! Thank you!

5A: Annie H for always being a helpful and kind member of the class.

6O: Sebastian C for his excellent contribution in lessons and showing amazing resilience!

6A: Duriel A for being a considerate member of our class team by being a great 'buddy' to those who need help!

Guitarist of the Week: Emily B (6A) good progress. Keep practicing!!

Handwriting & Presentation Award: Ruben V (Y3)

Reading Award: Lenny McD (5A)

Assistant Head Teacher Award: Jessica M (Y4) for showing beautiful manners

For being a fantastic role model

Headteacher Award – **Daniel D (Y2)** for being so enthusiastic and a fantastic role model in phonics

'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.



Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus told a story about a father who asked his two sons to go and work in his vineyard. The first son said, "No, I will not go!" But later, he changed his mind and went to help. The second son cheerfully said, "I will go, sir!" but he never actually turned up. Jesus asked the crowd: which of the two sons did what his father wanted? The first son did. Jesus explained that actions matter more than empty words.

Interpretation

This story teaches us that actions speak louder than words. It is easy to make promises, but true goodness is shown when we actually put our kind words into helpful deeds every single day.

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.



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.

ATTENDANCE

Well done to **Year 2** who had the highest attendance last week in school. They had attendance of 97.33%!

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

Foundation	95.43%
Year 1	95.25%
Year 1/2	96.24%
Year 2	97.33%
Year 3	94.47%
Year 3 /4	98.54%
Year 4	94.8%
50	97.06%
5A	93.95%
60	94.64%
6A	96.64%
Whole School	95.66%



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

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.

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 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>

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 and Other Aids

Only fidget toys (and [popping mats, ear defenders, chewllery, wobble cushions and other aids) 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.

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