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Our Next Break:

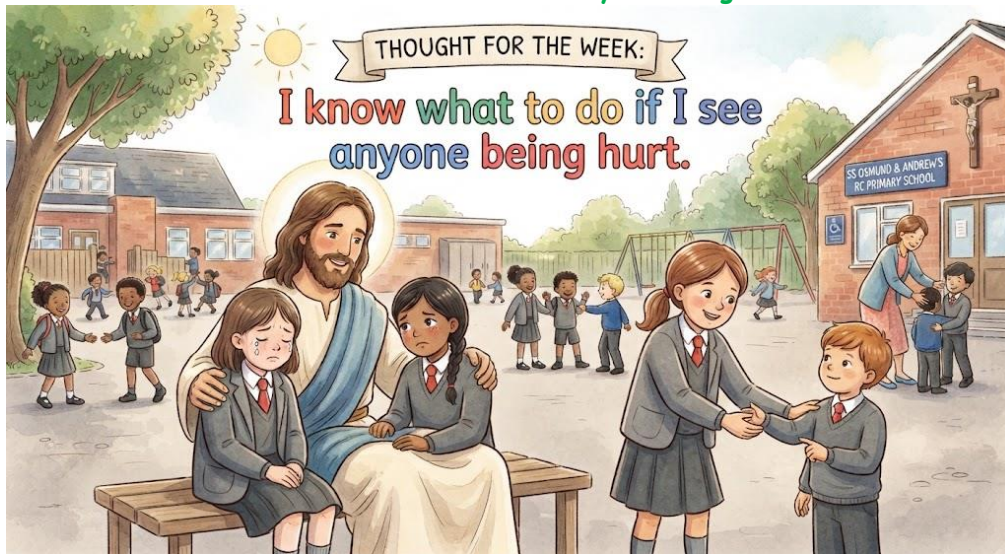
School will close at **3.15pm** on **Friday 23rd October**
We reopen at **8.45am** on **Monday 2nd November**.

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

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 to do if I see anyone being hurt.



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.

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 2027**. 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!



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! **If a child cannot remove their earrings, we will ask that they do not run around at breaktimes – they will be asked to sit on a bench to keep them safe, or to be inside with a book or a friend at the office, or doing a job. It will not be treated as a punishment.**

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.

DATES FOR DIARY

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

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

19.10.26 Y5 History Alive, please see letter emailed home and details on ParentPay

23.10.26 EYFS Autumn Craft Sessions.

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

Year 6 – 14th July

ROLL OF HONOUR

Last Week's Class Awards

Attendance Award Winners – Year 5O (98.33%) you get the biscuit tin this week! What a score!!

Caritas- Year 4

Golden Bin – Y1/2 had the tidiest classroom!

House Points – Yellow House

Parents / Carers of all children on the Roll of Honour who are receiving a certificate are warmly invited to our school assembly on **FRIDAY** at 9am to see their child receive their award.

Foundation: **Buddy B** for a great attitude towards his learning. Well done Buddy!
Juwayriya F for making a great start to Nursery.

Year 1: **Eliot D** for super understanding of the comparison symbol in maths

Year 1/2: **Aria Z**, for always working so independently and for pushing herself to achieve her best.

Year 2: **Conor R** for working extremely hard with his handwriting and in his interventions! You are a star!

Year 3: **Emily D** for her constant effort, kindness and beautiful Canticle she wrote in RE

Year 3/4: **Mason B** for displaying a mature attitude and focusing 100% on his work.

Year 4: **Bobby L** for fantastic use of space when defending in PE!

5O: **Esme H** for showing some excellent problem-solving skills in maths this week! Well done!

5A: **Oliver P** for always completing his work to a high standard and having exemplary behaviour. Well done Oliver!

6O: **Matilda P** for her true resilience during the cross-country competition!

6A: **Martin R** for his resilience in maths! He has been working hard and trying his best every lesson!

Handwriting & Presentation Award: **Ariana M (Y3/4)**

Reading Award: **Kaleb A (Y1)**

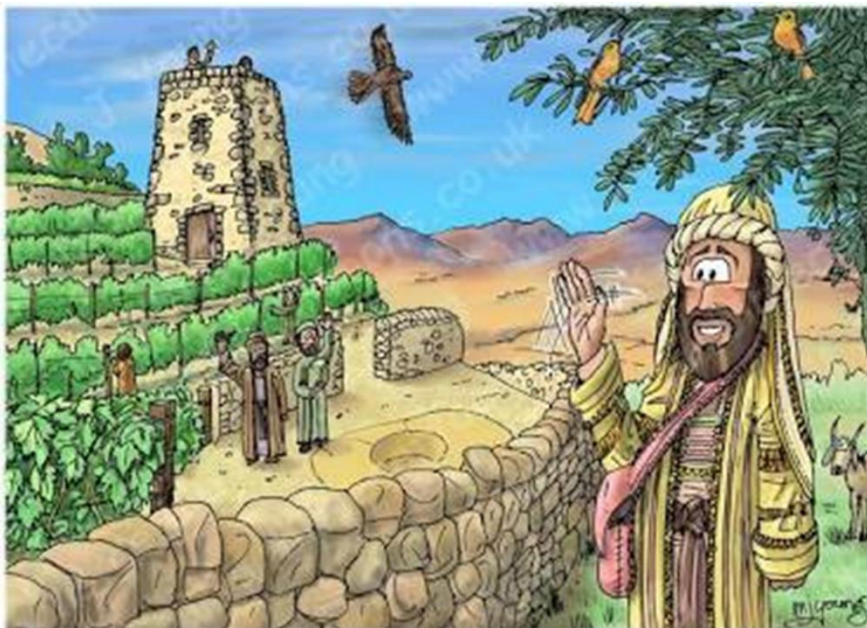
Assistant Head Teacher Award: **Noah G (Y2)** for being very brave and for his very positive attitude to learning!!

Headteacher Award – **Dottie P (5O)** for a great English lesson, great work this September and for being so grown up.

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

2 Chronicles 15:7

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



Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus told a story about a landowner who planted a beautiful vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a wine press, and built a watchtower. He leased it to some tenants and went on a journey. When harvest time came, he sent his servants to collect his fruit. But the tenants grabbed the servants, beat some, and sent them away empty-handed. Finally, the owner sent his own son, thinking they would respect him. But the tenants thought, "This is the heir, let us kill him and take his inheritance". Jesus asked the listeners what the owner would do to those wicked tenants.

Interpretation

Just like the vineyard owners, God gives us wonderful gifts to look after. This story reminds us to show love, fairness, and kindness, always honouring God's goodness in our daily lives.

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.



ATTENDANCE

Well done to **Year 5O** who had the highest attendance last week in school. They had attendance of 98.33%!

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

Foundation	88.6%
Year 1	96.33%
Year 1/2	97.14%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	90.33%
Year 3 /4	97.59%
Year 4	95.07%
5O	98.33%
5A	97.78%
6O	90.36%
6A	91.72%
Whole School	91.89%



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](#).

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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