St Osmund's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Love for God ~ Love for Each Other ~ Love for Learning

Happy New Year

Welcome back to school and the start of 2024 at St Osmund's! I hope you had a wonderfully restful time with your families and friends over Christmas, the children have certainly settled back in to life at school so early into the new year!

This term is a little quieter than the end of last term but keep your eye on the diary on the next page through the term as events and updates are added. We celebrate Epiphany (which is Sunday 7th January) with a Mass, led by Year 5, on Wednesday 10th January in Church. You are very welcome to join us for this service.

This Sunday saw us celebrate Epiphany – the coming of the three kings, led by the star, to pay homage to Jesus our Lord. The kings travelled from distant lands - far and wide - to join with other visitors, such as the shepherds, to celebrate Jesus' birth. This sets us an important example today and I feel is what St Osmund's does so well – the coming together of wonderful people in our Catholic community from many different cultures, to celebrate our faith in Jesus. Thank you all for making it such a wonderful place and may the star – the guiding light that is Jesus – continue to offer support and direction for you this coming year.

Last Call!
Apply for your Reception Place

Will your child be four years old before September 2024? You **MUST** apply for a primary school place. Apply online at https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1698/Applying-for-a-school-place or complete an application form, available from all Wiltshire Council offices. The deadline for applications is 15 January 2024. Remember to include proof of faith (baptismal certificate) with your application and let us know too.

New Start Time

Following on from our letter last term, please remember the new school starting time of 08:40am from Term 4 (Monday 19th Feb 2024). Your feedback was invaluable and we have heard what you have said about getting out on time at the end of the day. Children should be released to you at 3:15pm into the playground.

We are also in the process of consulting with staff about the length of lunchtimes. This week, the views of the school council will also be sought and we will update you as to the outcome in a future newsletter.

Road Safety

I have heard a report (and witnessed similar issues over time) of drivers going too fast in an around school. These are not necessarily school-related, but please exercise great care when driving around Carmelite Way and Friary Lane. Please also drive in and out of the car park very slowly. The safety of our school community is everyone's concern.

Star of the Week Awards

Stars of the week are back on Friday 12th!

Happy New Year!

Dates for your diary...

08.01.24 ~ YR, 1 & 2 ~ 5-min parents' phonics meeting ~ 3:05pm weekly on Mondays hall ~ just turn up!
09.01.24 ~ Year 5 swimming lessons start ~ Tuesdays
10.01.24 ~ Whole School Epiphany Mass ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 10am
16.01.24 ~ Reception Fire Brigade visit ~ 9:30am
16.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year 2 ~ Church ~ 10am
23.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year 1 ~ Church ~ 10am
30.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year R ~ Church ~ 10am
23.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year 1 ~ Church ~ 10am
09.02.24 ~ School breaks up end of Term 3 ~ 3:15pm
19.02.24 ~ School reopens for start of Term 4 ~ **08:40am**
19.02.24 ~ Whole school Mass (distribution of ashes) ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 1:30pm
04.03.24 ~ Parents Evening
05.03.24 ~ Parents Evening

Mr R Sanderson
Headteacher

Safeguarding Team
If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school safeguarding team:
Mr Sanderson – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Chapman – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Sambrook – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Father God,
You have chosen this time
for a new beginning.
This new beginning can
help us to begin afresh and
try harder.
This new beginning can
help us to do new things
and try out new skills.
This new beginning can
help us work together for
the good of everyone.
Help us all make the most
of this new beginning.
Amen

Safeguarding update

Welcome back to the new year at school. Let's take a moment to address the importance of safeguarding and ensuring a safe environment for all our children.

- Please remember to update the school office with any changes to your contact details. Ensuring we have up-to-date information is crucial in case of emergencies or important communication.
- Safety and wellbeing: it is vital that you inform the school of any concerns you may have regarding your child's wellbeing or safety, no matter how big or small they may seem. We have a dedicated team of staff who are here to support you and your child.
- Supporting Positive Mental Health: the return to school can be an emotionally challenging time for some children. It is essential to prioritise their mental health and well-being. Encourage open communication, let them know they can talk to you or a trusted adult if they are feeling overwhelmed, and remind them of the support services available at school.

See next page for a useful factsheet: What parents and carers need to know about sharing images online.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it *does* come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't *completely* control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to *always* meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

#backtoschool

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they *do* make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you *really* want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWiki.

NOS National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday