



St Osmund's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



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



This week we marked the beginning of Lent by hosting a belated Ash Wednesday Mass in Church. Father Joseph led us in a thought-provoking service to begin this period of reflection and reconciliation.

Lent is that time of repentance, where we think about giving more – making an extra special effort! We think about giving more to God, more sacrifice of our time, and giving more to others. The children's Lenten promises, now on display in the hall, show the whole community how the children are making that effort this Lent.

We have been particularly reflecting in our promises a desire to enrich the lives of others. To 'fast' not from sweets, or treats necessarily, but to fast from actions that are self-centred, instead thinking about replacing these with actions that are selfless. So, this year we have tried to help our children make Lenten promises that do not just benefit ourselves, but instead something that will benefit others.

Fast from hurting words, and saying kind words... Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.... Fast from anger and be filled with patience.... Fast from words and be silent, so you can listen... *Fast from worries and have trust in God.*

This brings us closer to God. Jesus, who gave his very self for each one of us. May you have a peaceful Lenten season.

Wellies

Thank you so much for the welly donations so far! Please keep them coming, we are looking for wellies of all sizes for our children to use in the woodland area.

Update Us!

Please remember to update us of any changes not only to phone numbers and email addresses but of home addresses too. If you have recently moved please check we have the correct postal address on our files. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Bedtime Stories

As part of our celebrations of World Book Day here at St Osmund's we hold Bedtime Stories. This year these will take place on Wednesday 28 February 2024. We will welcome children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at 5pm until 5.45pm and the children from years 3 to 6 at 5.45pm to 6.30pm for stories, hot chocolate and a biscuit. Come in your pyjamas and bring your favourite teddy!

School Gate

As polite as it is to hold the gate open for other users, may we ask that you ensure you close the gate behind you and indicate other users to buzz and announce their arrival. This is a safeguarding matter. Thank you!

Wristbands

We love giving out stars for wristbands in our Friday assembly. Please make sure your child always has theirs on as part of the uniform; displayed on the wristband is a simple summary of our behaviour policy.

Parents Evening

Have you booked your parents evening appointment? It is on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March. If you haven't signed up yet please contact the school office.

Lego at Army Flying Museum

The Army Flying Museum are having a lego event this weekend (24th and 25th February). There will be an anagram trail through the museum, lego built robot battles, mosaic building using Lego Dots and a selection of lego models on display. Go to www.thebrickpeople.co.uk to book tickets.

Star of the Week Awards

Rec: Mavy and Acelin
Year 1: Amy and Theresa
Year 2: Oliva Primrose and David
Year 3: Gabriel and Nidhi
Year 4: Ella and George
Year 5: Matteau and Jack
Year 6: Borys and Paulo



Dates for your diary...

[www.twitter.com
@St_OsmundsCP](https://www.twitter.com/@St_OsmundsCP)

28.02.24 ~ Bedtime Stories ~ EYFS & KS1 5pm, KS2 5.45pm

04.03.24 ~ Parents Evening

05.03.24 ~ Parents Evening

07.03.24 ~ World Book Day

13.03.24 ~ Reconciliation Service ~ in school

14.03.24 ~ Dolce Super Mario Lunch

20.03.24 ~ Modern Foreign Languages day

21.03.24 ~ Stations of the Cross – school hall

26.03.24 ~ Life Education Visits (PSHE)

28.03.24 ~ Break up end of Term 4 ~ 1:30pm

26.04.24 ~ Chocolate Bingo! ~ 6pm.

Mr R Sanderson
Headteacher

Dear God,

Thank you for blessing us!
Help me to be full of faith like Abraham.
Show me how I can bless others by sharing
your love.

Amen

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
Mrs Windsor – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Spotlight on... Speak Out, Stay Safe

This week, our children will enjoy some special assemblies and learning about 'Speak Out, Stay Safe', an initiative run by the NSPCC. You will have received a letter about this.

What the children will learn (source, NSPCC):

With the help of our mascot Buddy, our Speak out Stay safe programme covers topics like bullying and abuse - without using any scary words or adult language.

Children learn about the different types of abuse in a child-friendly and age appropriate way, so they can get help if or when they need it. We help them identify safe adults they can talk to if they're ever worried about themselves or a friend. And they learn about Childline, and how it can support them.

Messages to remember. We will help kids learn and remember that:

- Every child has the right to speak out and stay safe.
- Making a child feel sad, scared or worried is never OK and is never their fault.
- If they're ever worried they know who to talk to, so they can get help.
- Whatever their worry, they can always call Childline on 0800 1111 or visit childline.org.uk/kids.

And for parents, you can find out more about this, and the work of the NSPCC here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children->

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What Children & Young People Need to Know about **FREE VS HATE SPEECH**

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to others. Whether online or offline, communication attacking or discriminating against groups or individuals (because of protected characteristics like race or religion) is hate speech, not free speech.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's ideas were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin's theory today. Freely exchanging ideas promotes progress.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote or decent working conditions – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – which displays prejudice against someone's identity. Derogatory, demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes ...

Targeting people or groups because of who they are – including but not limited to aspects such as race, sexuality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on those same attributes: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way.

Making up or repeating insults about a person or group because something about their identity is different to the person who's posting.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the DEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The
National
College



National
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Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1/Part-1/Everyone%20has%20the%20right%20to%20freedom%20of%20expression>



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