



St Osmund's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

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

Attendance

Attending school regularly is not just a legal requirement; it is the key to unlocking a world of opportunities for your child. Did you know that a child who has an attendance rate of 90% misses 1 day per fortnight on average? And by the end of their time in primary school, if this is maintained, they will have missed the equivalent of 8 months of schooling.

We target 96% as a minimum which, at this point in the year, means that a child will have missed a maximum of 5 and a half days out of 137 since September. Research has shown a clear link between attendance and academic achievement. Pupils with high rates of attendance consistently perform better academically compared to those with irregular attendance. At the end of key stage 2, pupils who had the highest grades had higher rates of attendance throughout their school life. This highlights the importance of regular attendance in maximising your child's potential. Moreover, good attendance is essential for your child's wellbeing and social development. Regular attendance provides them with the opportunity to build strong relationships with teachers and friends, fostering a sense of belonging and community. It also allows them to take part fully in lessons, extra-curricular activities (clubs), and school trips, which are all vital enrichments to our curriculum. We have an attendance policy and an attendance statement on our website which you can access [here](#) for more information. As always, if you would like support or to know more about attendance matters, please do not hesitate to contact us.

At present, our school average attendance rate is 94.7%, which, while above the national average (94.3%), still leaves some to reach our target. With a renewed drive, **together we can** still achieve our target!

Miss White

We were informed this week of the sad news that our former, long-serving peripatetic Piano Teacher and friend of St Osmund's, Miss White (Mary), passed away on 13 April. Our condolences, thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends.

In over 30 years of involvement at St Osmund's and in the wider area, Mary helped hundreds of children learn to play the piano. She was dedicated to her work and only recently retired from delivering lessons at our school.

Mary was also an active member of the Salisbury Cathedral community, creating and sewing vestments for the clergy, some of which was being worn by the Canons leading her funeral yesterday; she was very talented, and she will be missed by us all. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

Absence

If your child is off school sick, please contact the school **each morning** they are off. The school office cannot assume that just because your child has been poorly that they still are. This is a Safeguarding matter.

Naming Possessions

Please remember to check that your child's possessions are clearly named. This includes water bottles, jumpers and cardigans, coats and sun hats (when the sun appears and your child wears them!) Sometimes the names wash off if they are written in pen. Thank you.

St Joseph's Open Event & Taster Day

St Joseph's are holding a taster day for our current year 5 pupils on Monday 24 June from 9 to 3.00pm. Parents can attend an open morning or evening on 28 September (09.30 – 12pm or 5.30 – 7.30pm) and on 10 October (9.30 – 12pm). To book a place for these events please click on the following link. <https://sjcs.org.uk/transition/>

Star of the Week Awards

Rec: Jasmine and Henry
Year 1: Imogen and Levi
Year 2: Kenshin and Clara
Year 3: Annie and Elissa
Year 4: Oliver and Nyomie
Year 5: Alona and Mudia
Year 6: Lucas and Erin



Dates for your diary...

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

30.04.24 ~ Y5 Class Mass ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 10am
01.05.24 ~ HCRG in School ~ Height and Weight Checks ~ Reception
09.05.24 ~ Whole School Mass ~ Feast of the Ascension ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 10am
07.05.24 ~ Yr 3 Swimming commences
13.05.24 ~ SATs Week, Year 6
16.05.24 ~ Dolce Dinosaur Lunch Day
22.05.24 ~ Whole School Mass ~ Pentecost ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 2pm
24.05.24 ~ Break up end of Term 5 ~ 3:15pm
03.06.24 ~ School reopens start of Term 6
04.06.24 ~ Y6 Class Mass ~ Church ~ 10am
11.06.24 ~ Y3 Class Mass ~ Church ~ 10am
18.06.24 ~ Y2 Class Mass ~ Church ~ 10am
01.07.24 ~ Class Photographs (**Change of date**)
27.06.24 ~ EYFS and KS1 Sports Day ~ 9am
28.06.24 ~ KS2 Sports Day ~ 9am
05.07.24 ~ International Day!
08-12.07.24 ~ Y6 Residential
19.07.24 ~ Break up end of Term 6 ~ 1:30pm
Term dates for 2024-25 are out and on the [school website](#).

Mr R Sanderson
Headteacher

Let us pray at this time for our friend
Mary, and all those loved ones we have
lost in our lives, as we say:



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

Online Shopping

Quality merchandise 🏠 Fair prices 👍 What's not to Love? 😊

The possibility of bagging a bargain and the ability to sell your own unwanted items have made online marketplaces into an attractive option for anyone looking to save money or make a little extra cash for themselves in these challenging economic times.

Unfortunately, however, online shopping services can still be misused by scammers, so it pays to remain vigilant for the risks associated with shopping apps.

Fortunately, this week's guide is on hand with some helpful pointers to protect young people (and yourself) from potential exploitation while doing business with others online.

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISSING ITEMS

Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed 'seller', it can be quite difficult to get back.

SCAMMERS AND PHISHING

Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include cancelling shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

DATA MISUSE

Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

FAKES OR REPLICAS

It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These disingenuous sales are sometimes touted by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of bagging a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outshine any suspicions they may have.

SLOW REFUNDS

While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

MISLEADING DESCRIPTION

Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practices even exist. While it's illegal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP

It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.

BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

CHECK REVIEWS

Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER

Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps

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