



October's Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to our October newsletter! It has been a really positive and successful start to the new school year, and it has been lovely to see our children settling happily into their new classes and routines. A particularly warm welcome to all of our new children and families — we hope you are already beginning to feel part of our St Oswald's family.

We had a wonderful House Afternoon on 21st September, with children working together in their Houses to create new animal characters using Adobe. Each House designed animals to represent our Christian Values, and we were incredibly impressed with the creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm shown by the children. We look forward to seeing our new House characters around school!

A few important reminders

We would also like to remind everyone of a few school rules which are not currently being followed consistently. We would really appreciate your support in talking to your children about these at home.

👂 Earrings - Children are permitted to wear one small stud in each ear only. Two studs in each ear and small hoops are not permitted as part of our school uniform and jewellery expectations. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing the correct earrings.

🧸 Toys from home - Children should not bring toys from home into school. At present, we have lots of football cards and squishy toys circulating in school. These can be distracting during the school day and can also cause disagreements between children. If these items are seen by an adult, they will be confiscated and returned in line with our school procedures.

👜 Keyrings on school bags - We have also noticed some very large bunches of chunky keyrings attached to children's school bags. Unfortunately, our cloakroom spaces are limited and these large collections take up valuable space. Children are welcome to have one keyring attached to their bag, but we kindly ask that multiple or oversized keyrings are left at home.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and cooperation. Working together helps us to maintain a safe, calm and welcoming environment where all of our children can learn, flourish and enjoy their time at St Oswald's.

We are looking forward to another busy and exciting month ahead!





IMPORTANT DATES



Monday, 5th October - Pets Assembly at 14:15 of the school day.

Thursday, 15th October - SHWMAE DAY. Children to come to school dressed in red, white and/or green.

Week beginning 19th October - Parent Evenings. Invitations to be sent out by class teachers in due course.

Week beginning 26th October - Half Term

Wednesday, 28th October - Halloween Party at the Snooty Fox (arranged by the Friends).

Monday, 2nd November - INSET Day

Tuesday, 3rd November - Children return to school

Wednesday, 4th November - Dosbarth Oak Crucial Crew Trip

Tuesday 17th November - Year 3 and 4 Scarlets Rugby

Wednesday, 18th November - Christmas Film Night at school 4:30 - 6:30 (arranged by the Friends).

Friday, 27th November - Christmas Bazaar at school - 13:15 start. Class stalls and Friends Raffle.

Thursday, 3rd December - 2pm Panto at the Torch Theatre.

Monday, 7th December - Elf Assembly and Elf Emporium

Wednesday, 9th December - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas play. Afternoon and Evening performances.

Tuesday, 15th December - Musical afternoon at 1:30. Children who play an instrument are invited to perform.

18th December - Last Day of the term

21st December - Christmas Holidays begin

4th January - INSET Day

Tuesday, 5th January - Children return to school

Week beginning 8th February - Half Term

Friday, 19th March - INSET DAY

22nd March - Easter Holidays

Continued ...



Tuesday, 5th January - Children return to school

Friday, 8th January - Break the Rules Day (arranged by the Friends)

Friday, 5th February - Love Day at school. Children to wear what they love to school. Valentine's disco after school (arranged by the Friends).

Week beginning 8th February - Half Term

Monday, 15th February - Children return to school following half term.

Monday, 22nd February - Disgo Tawel (Silent Disco) at school led by Menter Iaith Sir Benfro.

Week Beginning 1st March - Welsh Week

Friday, 5th March - School Eisteddfod. A celebration of Welsh music and poetry.

Week Beginning 8th March - Parent Evenings

Thursday, 18th March - Dosbarth Oak's Easter Performance (afternoon and evening performances).

Friday, 19th March - INSET DAY

22nd March - Easter Holidays

Monday, 5th April - Return to school following Easter holidays.

Monday, 17th May - TAMARR Morning at Greenhill for some year 6 pupils.

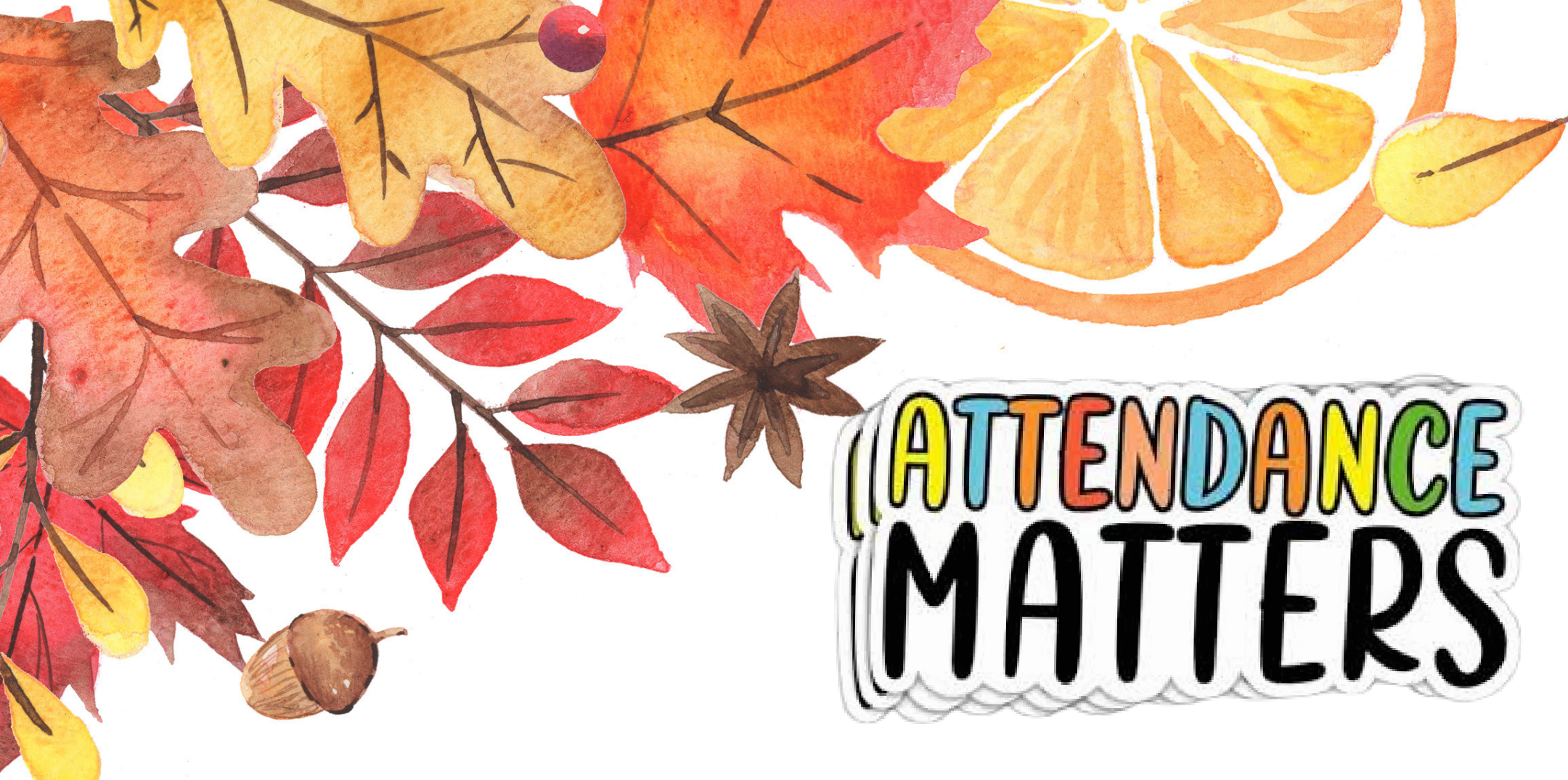
Week Beginning 31st May - Half Term

Monday, 7th June - Return to school following Half Term.

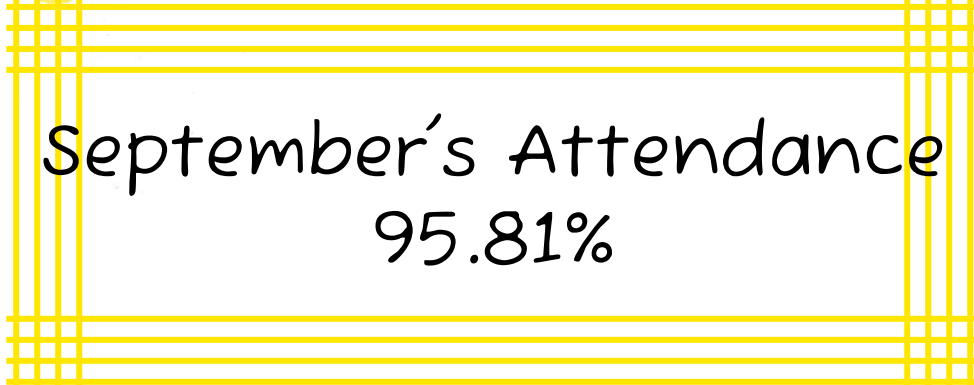
Friday, 9th July - Year 6 Greenhill Transition

Monday, 12th July - Family Fun Afternoon arranged by the Friends.

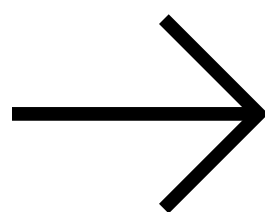
Friday, 16th July - Break up for summer holidays. Last day for pupils and staff.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



September's Attendance
95.81%



Our Target is
96%

Important Reminder About School Attendance and Absences

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the importance of regular school attendance. Every day in school matters, and any absence can have an impact on a child's learning, progress and ability to keep up with the work being covered in class.

Term-Time Absence - Please be aware that term-time absences will be recorded as unauthorised unless there are exceptional or extenuating circumstances.

If you need to request a term-time absence, our school procedure is for parents/carers to complete a Term-Time Absence Request Form, which is available from the school office. Please complete and return this form before making any arrangements.

If Your Child Is Unwell - If your child is poorly and unable to attend school, please let us know as soon as possible on the morning of their absence.

The best ways to inform us are:

- Telephone Mrs Morgan in the school office, or
- Send Mrs Morgan a message directly on ClassDojo.

Please do not rely on sending a message to your child's class teacher. Teachers may work part-time, may be teaching when a message is received, or may not see messages until later in the day. As a result, we cannot guarantee that a message sent to a teacher will be seen promptly.

Safeguarding

It is extremely important that we know where all of our children are each day. If a child is absent and we have not been informed, we will follow our school attendance and safeguarding procedures to establish the reason for their absence.

If we are unable to make contact with a parent or carer to establish where a child is, this becomes a safeguarding concern and will be treated seriously.

We understand that children do become unwell and that there will be occasions when absence is unavoidable. We simply ask that you keep us informed promptly so that we know your child is safe and can accurately record their attendance.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain high levels of attendance and ensuring that our children have the best possible opportunities to learn, make progress and flourish at St Oswald's.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.





Attendance Facts

Please see below the impact a low attendance can have on your child's development.

● Green Band (95% – 100%): Good. The child has the best foundation for social development and academic success.

● Amber Band (91% – 94.9%): Concern. The child is at risk of underachieving and developing gaps in their literacy and numeracy.

● Red Band (Under 90%): Persistent Absentee. Significant learning loss, lower GCSE expectations, and immediate intervention required.



Punctuality Impact

5 minutes late every day = 3.5 days of school missed per year.

15 minutes late every day = 10.5 days of school missed per year.

30 minutes late every day = 21 days of school missed per year (more than a month of education lost)

Family Engagement Officer

We are pleased to continue working with our Family Engagement Officer (FEO), who plays an important role in supporting children and families across our school.

Our Family Engagement Officer works closely with school staff and families to help remove any barriers that may be affecting a child's attendance, engagement and wellbeing. In particular, she will be working with families where attendance is a concern, offering support, guidance and practical advice to help children attend school regularly.

We understand that every family is different and that there can sometimes be circumstances which make regular attendance difficult. Our FEO's role is to work alongside families in a supportive and non-judgemental way, helping to identify any difficulties and explore possible solutions.

This may include:

- talking with parents and carers about attendance concerns;
 - helping families to identify barriers to regular attendance;
 - offering practical support and advice;
 - working with school staff and other professionals where appropriate;
 - helping families to establish positive morning and school routines; and
 - checking in with families to see how things are progressing.
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After school Club

Jeffreyston PlayStation – After School Club

We would like to remind parents and carers that Jeffreyston PlayStation is a separate provision from St Oswald's VA Primary School.

All bookings for the After School Club must be made directly with Jeffreyston PlayStation. Unfortunately, the school office is unable to make or take bookings on your behalf.

To book a place or discuss your childcare requirements, please contact Miss Morton directly:

☎ Telephone: 01646 651530

📘 Facebook: Please contact Miss Morton via the Jeffreyston PlayStation Facebook page.

If you require a place due to an emergency or need to make a same-day booking, please ensure that the booking is **made by 2.00pm** on the day.

Important reminder for parents

Once you have booked a place with Jeffreyston PlayStation, it is your responsibility to inform your child's class teacher that your son/daughter will be attending After School Club. This is particularly important for any changes to your child's usual end-of-day arrangements, so that staff know where each child should be going at the end of the school day.

Please remember that booking a place with PlayStation does not automatically notify the school.

We kindly ask that all parents contact Jeffreyston PlayStation directly regarding bookings, cancellations or queries about the After School Club, and ensure that the school is informed of your child's arrangements.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.





DIOLCH!

🌿 A Very Big Thank You! 🌿

We would like to say a very big THANK YOU to the Turpin-Roach family for generously giving their time to clear the path in preparation for our Harvest Festival. The path is used regularly by members of our school and wider community and provides an important and safe route to and from the village.

We are extremely grateful for the time and effort you have given to make sure the path was safe and accessible for everyone to use. Diolch yn fawr iawn!

We would also like to extend our thanks to all of the parent volunteers who have helped us to maintain and develop our school grounds throughout the year. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful outdoor environment at St. Oswald's, with our gardens, outdoor learning areas and natural spaces providing fantastic opportunities for our children. However, such a special environment also requires lots of care and regular maintenance!

We are delighted to share that we are hoping to work with our local Young Farmers this year, who have kindly offered their time and support to help us maintain and care for our outdoor environment. We are very grateful for this wonderful community partnership and look forward to working together to keep our school grounds such a special place for our children to learn, explore and enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who helps us to make our school and grounds such a wonderful place to learn and play! 💚



Penblwydd Hapus i

Little Acorns

Mya - 4 oed
Eleanor - 4 oed
James - 5 oed
Rory - 5 oed
Luke - 6 oed

Dosbarth Willow

Iolo - 7 oed
Lily B - 7 oed

Dosbarth Sycamore

James - 8 oed
Finley - 9 oed

Dosbarth Oak

Audrey - 10 oed
Jenson - 10 oed
Freya - 11 oed
Erin - 11 oed

Our Right of the Month is

Article 12 - To say what you think should happen and be listened to



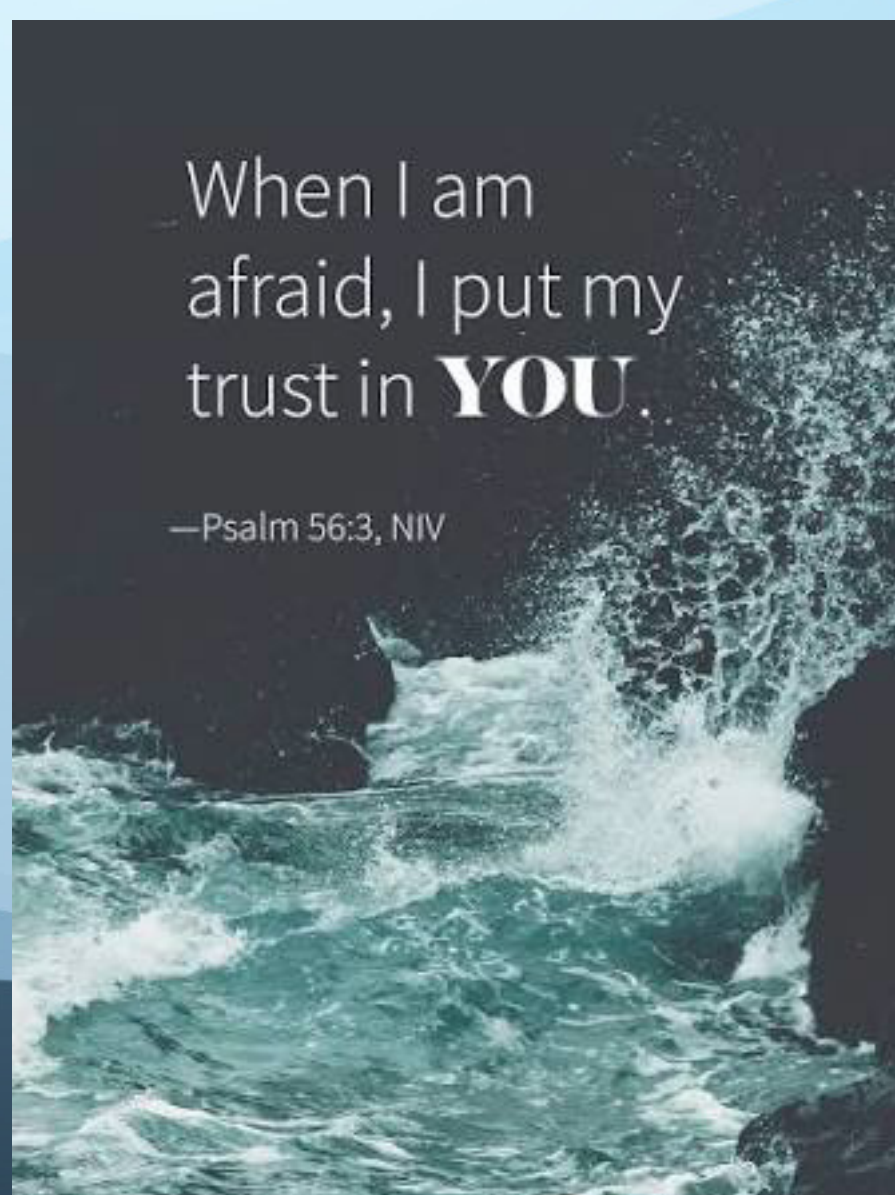
Our Value this term is Trust

A very big well done to all the children who have already completed the home-school challenge shared in our Trust Newsletter and brought their wonderful creations into school!

We have been so impressed by the creativity, time and effort that has gone into making these fantastic boats. They are now taking pride of place on our altar, where everyone can admire them during worship.

As a reward for completing the challenge and sharing their work with us, each child has received 25 House Points!

We are looking forward to seeing even more wonderful creations arriving in school. Keep up the fantastic work!





Prayer of the Month

Dear God,

Thank you for the wonderful world you have created and for all the gifts of the earth that we enjoy.

As we celebrate Harvest,
help us to remember those who do not have enough food,
and teach us to be thankful for what we have and generous towards others.

We thank you for the example of St Francis of Assisi,
who loved you, cared for your creation
and saw your goodness in all living things.

Help us to follow his example
by caring for our world,
looking after animals and plants,
and treating one another with kindness and love.

May we always remember that the world is a precious gift
and that we each have a part to play in caring for it.

Amen.

