



Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well.

Parent Governor Nominations

As you know, we are currently in the process of filling the vacant Parent Governor position on our Governing Body. We have received multiple nominations, so we will be holding a ballot. Each nominee will provide a short summary explaining why they would like to take on the role, and every parent in the school will have the opportunity to vote. I will email their statements next week, and you will then receive an envelope containing a ballot paper, which should be returned to the school.

Thank you to everyone who has put themselves forward for the position - your willingness to contribute is greatly appreciated by the entire school community. More details will follow next week.

School Attendance

As I highlighted at the beginning of the year, school attendance has recently become a significant focus and is now a national priority. Over the past few years, national school attendance has fallen considerably, and the number of persistent absentees (children whose attendance falls below 90%) has risen sharply. At St Oswald's, we are also seeing an increasing number of children whose attendance is dropping below this threshold. Although 90% attendance may sound high, it actually equates to, on average, half a day off every week. Can I please ask that, when children are well enough to do so, they attend school, even if it is just for the last day or two of the week, and that wherever possible, holidays and appointments are made outside of school hours.

Information about the importance of regular attendance, as well as guidance on when to keep your child off school due to illness and when they can still attend, can be found on the school website by following the link [HERE](#). If you would like support or advice regarding your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Every school in Newcastle has been assigned an Attendance Officer who is also available to provide guidance and support if needed.

Thank you for your continued support with this.

Mr Luke

After nearly 37 years at St Oswald's, our caretaker, Mr Luke, has decided to retire when we break up for the Easter holidays. He has been a huge part of our school and will be greatly missed. I would like to sincerely thank him for his incredible contribution to generations of children, and wish him all the very best for the future.

PTA Cake Sale

On Friday 14th February, the PTA are organising a Valentine's Cake Sale after school. We are currently raising funds to develop a Forest School in the new fenced area by the KS1 yard, and all proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards that.

If you are able to donate any bought or homemade cakes (no nuts, please), it would be greatly appreciated! I look forward to seeing you there.

Sacred Heart Children's Liturgy Group

For your information, all children are very welcome to attend the Children's Liturgy Group at Sacred Heart Church during the 10:30am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. The group will start the Mass in the church with the rest of the congregation, and then take part in a separate session in the parish hall.

PTO



Dates for Diaries

Please find below some updated key dates for the Spring term (recently added dates in red):

February

Friday 7th February – Year 4 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Monday 10th February – Year 3 and Year 4 Team Games session in school led by the Newcastle Sports Service

Thursday 13th February – Year 4 First Confessions at Sacred Heart Church 7pm (new date)

Friday 14th February – PTA Valentine's Cake Sale 3pm

Tuesday 18th February – Year 5 trip to St Mary's High School to watch their production of Les Miserables

Friday 21st February – Year 5 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Friday 21st February – Break up for the half term holidays

March

Monday 3rd March – School re-opens for the second half of the Spring term

Thursday 6th March – Year 5 Mini Spiritual Retreat at St Mary's High School (AM)

Friday 7th March – Year 1 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Friday 7th March – Reception and KS1 PTA Disco 3pm (details to follow)

Friday 14th March – KS2 PTA Disco 3pm (details to follow)

Friday 14th March – Year 3 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day 2025

Friday 21st March – Year 6 Celebration of the Word for parents in school 9am

Monday 24th March – Year 6 trip to Safety Works

Wednesday 26th March – Year 4 Stations of the Cross at St Mary's Cathedral with other Newcastle Catholic schools

April

Tuesday 1st April – Year 4 Dance Festival at the Whitley Bay Playhouse (details to follow)

Friday 4th April – PTA Golden Ticket Draw (details to follow)

Monday 7th April – Easter Egg competition in school

Tuesday 8th April – Big Lent Walk (details to follow)

Tuesday 8th April – Parents' Evening (all classes)

Wednesday 9th April – Year 4 & Year 5 Easter Production at Sacred Heart Church 7pm **TBC**

Thursday 10th April – Parents' Evening (all classes)

PTO



Friday 11th April – Reception class Easter Story for parents in school 9am

Friday 11th April – Break up for the Easter holidays

Monday 28th April – School re-opens for the Summer term

With my very best wishes,



P Marley

