

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SPRING TERM 2016

COME AND SEE AT HOME

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This term we will be studying the three themes of Local Church (Community), Eucharist (Relating) and Lent/Easter (Giving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics.

LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

Early Years	CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church.
Year 1	SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family.
Year 2	BOOKS - The books used in Church.
Year 3	JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ.
Year 4	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish.
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism).
Year 6	SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop.
Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

EUCCHARIST - RELATING

Early Years	GATHERING - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist.
Year 1	MEALS - Mass, Jesus' special meal.
Year 2	THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God.
Year 3	LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us.
Year 4	GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion.
Year 5	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice.
Year 6	UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives.
Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

LENT/EASTER - GIVING

Early Year	GROWING - Looking forward to Easter.
Year 1	CHANGE - Lent: a time for change.
Year 2	OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew.
Year 3	GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving.
Year 4	SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life.
Year 5	SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus.
Year 6	DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practice self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity. If you have an older child provide him/her with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross. Ask your child/ren how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.

Our Mission at St Oswald's

"St. Oswald's is a Catholic school fully committed to offering excellence in education."



Our aim is...

that all children should leave St. Oswald's with a love of learning, a thirst for knowledge, an understanding and appreciation of their faith and religion, and the world they live in and, above all, many happy memories.

We will achieve this by...

- encouraging children to grow within the Catholic faith
- promoting the highest possible achievement for our pupils, enabling them to reach full potential, and live life to the full
- establishing the foundations for lifelong learning
- welcoming input from parents to complement the skills and experience of our professional teaching staff
- ensuring that our school is central to the parish, reaching out to embrace the wider community
- uniting all staff, governors and parents in our aim to be a leading school in the borough of Warrington.

A Special Visit

On Friday 8th January 2016, we welcome Bishop Tom Williams to St Oswald's as part of his visitation to Warrington Catholic schools and parishes.

Bishop Tom will visit each class to talk with the children and answer questions that they might have. Each class will treat Bishop Tom to a performance of their favourite hymn when he visits every classroom.

We hope he will feel warmly welcomed at St Oswald's and our singing will fill him with joy.

Sacramental Preparation

This term, our Year 4 children will continue to work hard with Father Dave to prepare for receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion.



Please keep the children and their parents in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this special time.

Class Masses 2016

We will be joining the parish community again for class masses this half term with our Prayer Buddies. Look out for dates on the weekly newsletter.

Formal Assessment

Each term, one of the three RE topics is formally assessed. This term the first topic will be assessed which is a focus on Local Church. The theme running throughout the year groups will be "Community".



Lent

Lent is the season when Christians practise both giving and giving-up, to identify with the complete self-offering of Jesus which is remembered in Holy Week and the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil).

During this special season, we will be offering our children the opportunity to take a Travelling Lenten Prayer bag home to help them reflect on this time with their families.

See the weekly newsletter for more details.

Our Charity Work



Thank you for your generosity towards helping others. We continue to reach out to our community by collecting for the Warrington Foodbank and local charities.

This term we will begin fundraising for the Good Shepherd Appeal during Lent. We will also be helping children internationally by raising money and praying for children in Malawi through Mission Together.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

THE EPIPHANY
January 6th

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
January 10th

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
February 2nd

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 10th (Mass 9:15am)

GOOD SHEPHERD FUNDRAISING
Begins February 29th

ST DAVID, BISHOP, PATRON OF WALES
March 1st

ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
March 19th

PASSION PLAY (in school)
March 21st

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
March 20th

MAUNDY THURSDAY
March 24th

GOOD FRIDAY
March 25th

EASTER SUNDAY
March 27th



The Year of Mercy 2016

Pope Francis has composed a special prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy which will run from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016.

In the prayer, the Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, "with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind."

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.....*

Amen.

