



OSWALD ROAD  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# NEWSLETTER

Inspiration and Success

## CRACKING OUT THE CHRISTMAS JUMPERS FOR CHARITY!



Save the Children  
**CHRISTMAS  
JUMPER DAY**

On Friday 16th December children and staff at Oswald Road Primary School donned their festive knits for Christmas Jumper Day. All day we collected donations from across the school for Save the Children, and our final total was a fantastic £246.10. Thank you to everyone who donated and took part!



Oswald Road Primary School



@OswaldRoad

## WELL DONE, CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS!

A huge well done to our fabulous cross country runners, who did amazingly in the Manchester schools final on 8th November. Out of 146 boys and 147 girls Austin came 20th and Cleo came 8th, meaning they will both go on to represent Manchester in the Greater Manchester Schools Run. Well done, you superstars!



## YEAR 2 GUY FAWKES WORKSHOP

As part of Year 2's exciting 'Snap, Crackle and Pop' topic, the children took part in a fantastic Guy Fawkes workshop. The children loved dressing up in period outfits and learning all about the gunpowder plot!



## PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

A big thank you to everyone who came down to the Christmas Fair on 26th November. It was a great day, filled with human fruit machines, cracking Christmas cribs, a super Santa's grotto, plus some great raffle prizes (well done to the winners!) Thanks to you, we managed to raise an amazing **£3,782** which will go towards improvements for the school hall.

Finally, an ENORMOUS thank you to all the parents and staff members who gave up their Saturday to help make the event such a success. I think anyone who came along will agree that it definitely put everyone in the Christmas mood!



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Children in Reception learnt all about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies. They even decorated some biscuits to make them look like poppies!



# WALKING ON SUNSHINE!



Year 4 celebrated the end of their Autumn 1 topic 'Walking on Sunshine' by having a neon-tastic 1980s party! Your outfits were all amazing!



Top marks go to any parents or carers who can recognise which 1980s TV show opening titles this image comes from!!



# YEAR 1 MAKE THEIR OWN TOYS!

If you're still in need of some last minute Christmas presents, look no further than Year 1, who are our resident Christmas elves. They have learnt how to make their own toys this term as part of a Victorian Toy Workshop. How amazing are these hand sewn puppets? The children also got a chance to practice maths in real life settings- the teachers set up a 'mock shop' where the children had to work out how much money they needed to buy the materials to make their puppets.



Please be reminded that you can now pay for trips and school visits via SIMS Agora. A link to the payment system can be found on the homepage of our website. It is quick and easy to use, so no need to dig out loose change from your wallet at the reception desk!



# NURSERY BECOME FIREFIGHTERS!

Nursery had a fantastic afternoon earlier in the term, learning all about the fire service and the things they do to help in our community. We even got to go in a fire engine, squirt the hose, and try on some of the equipment!

As part of their 'Our Community' topic, Nursery have been learning all about real life superheroes, such as firemen, doctors, nurses and policemen. It was so exciting getting to step into the shoes of real life firefighters, and they taught us a lot of important information about staying safe and what to do if we see a fire.





# CHILDREN IN NEED

We had a great day on Friday 18th November raising money for Children in Need! Thank you to everyone who wore a onesie or pyjamas, or bought a Pudsey bear biscuit. Our grand total for the day was an outstanding £633.51, which will have a huge impact on children in need across the UK.



## MAD SCIENCE!

As part of their 'Mad Science' topic, Reception children took part an exciting workshop this term, where they had the chance to dress up as scientists in lab coats, and join in with all sorts of exciting experiments!



## VICIOUS VIKINGS

Year 5 had a fantastic time learning all about the Vikings in their Portals to the Past workshop this term. We even got to have a go at holding a chain mail vest....which weighs a whopping 22 kgs!!





# HOMEWORK HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS HALF TERM...



Year 2 'My Special Place'



Year 1- Animals



Year 3 'My Manchester'



Year 6 'Human Bodies'



Year 5 'Vikings'



# CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

We hope you all enjoyed watching our Christmas performances this year! Nursery children wowed with their stage debut of 'My First Christmas', while Reception's performance of 'Christmas with the Aliens' was an out of this world take on the classic nativity. Years 1-6 took us on a journey through time to Christmases gone by, with stops off in iconic eras including the 1920s and 1970s. Well done to all the children, and to the parents who joined in with the singing! We're already looking forward to next year's performances!



### Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a parent focus group to support Manchester Healthy Schools in the rewriting and development of their new Safeguarding Curriculum for primary schools. This will be an updated version of 'Growing and Changing'. If you are interested in taking part, the focus group will be held in school one afternoon after Christmas. Please email [d.wealleans@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:d.wealleans@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk).

## PARENT REMINDERS

### Free School Meal (FSM) Checker

We have invested in an Online Free School Meal Checker, which we are asking all parents to complete. The system allows for you to check your FSM eligibility online, without having to complete and submit the paper copy of the form. The link to the online application system can be found at: [www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims)

### School Dinners

Please note that school dinners should always be paid for in advance. If you have any outstanding dinner money payments, or you're unsure of your balance, please come to the school office. If your child is currently on packed lunches and would like to start having school dinners, you will need to give two weeks notice- you can get a form to inform us of changes to your child's lunchtime arrangements in the school office.



**NO DOGS IN  
THE PLAYGROUND**



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

## Helen Wright- Office Manager

---

Hello, I have worked at Oswald Road Primary School for 22 years and I have seen many changes. No two days are ever the same! Here are some notes from my day at Oswald Road....

### Friday 9th December

---



**8.30am** – Strong coffee and open my two email accounts! Check diary for what is going to happen during the day.

**8.45am** – Doors open and the office reception area is very busy with enquiries from parents/carers/children, and phone calls.

**9.15am** – Start to work through tasks for the day- sending out texts to parents/carers, answering emails, dealing with admissions enquiries. Take late children over to the Nursery and Reception. Give antibiotics to several children, administer cream to another, and eye drops to another.

**11.00am** – Year 4 are short of helpers to go swimming! Go on the bus to Hough End Leisure Centre with 4JB (joke with the children on the bus that the water is going to be pink this week – I shouldn't wind them up! Great disappointment when we get there because the water isn't pink!)

**12.00pm**- Back at school. Several Year 10 pupils from a local high school would like to do their work experience at Oswald Road, so I complete paperwork, sort out placements and talk to the volunteers about school expectations and code of conduct. I then sort out clubs for the Spring Term.

**12.30pm**– Office Meeting – we discuss what's working well, and what's not working well.

**1.00pm** - Phew! Lunch!

**2.00pm** – Show a group of potential new parents around the school. It's nearly deadline time for Reception admissions so lots of parents want to look around. They always come away very impressed and loving the school. The children are always on task and well behaved. A credit to us!

**2.45pm** – Talk to Adult Education about running an Adult Literacy course next term. It is always very rewarding seeing the parents enthusiastic and engaged in how to help their children with their education.

**3.30pm** – End of school – busy time for enquiries. Collect children from Reception and take them to their after school clubs. Catch up on the day's work. Clear any outstanding emails and leave desk clear. Plan a 'to do list' for tomorrow!

**4.30pm** –Finish for the day – very content, and having consumed lots of chocolate and biscuits to keep me going!!

# You said | We did

As part of our commitment to improving communication with our families, each newsletter will feature a 'You Said, We Did' section, so you can see how your suggestions have been put into practice...

You felt that sending queries by email felt too impersonal.

We will be trialling a new series of coffee mornings specifically for parents to come in and give their feedback and get questions answered on various topics.

You wanted to do more to help local charities, rather than just national charities such as Children in Need.

Throughout December we have been taking part in Barakah Food Aid's 'reverse advent calendar' campaign. We have been staggered at the amount of food, Christmas presents and toiletries that have been donated!

You wanted information on how to keep your children safe when they are using the internet and digital devices.

We held a pastoral workshop on e-safety in November, and have put loads of useful resources on the Safeguarding page of our website.

You wanted the lost property to be easier to look through and more accessible.

We have a new clothes rail for displaying lost property- this is taken out to the Chill Zone area of the playground (outside the hall) before and after school (weather permitting!!)