

Newsletter

October 2025

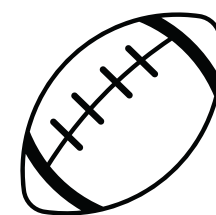
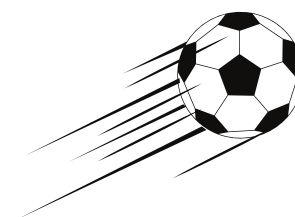


Our first half term is already coming to an end! It's been a busy few weeks filled with learning, laughter and lots of exciting activities across the school. As we head towards a well-deserved break, let's take a moment to look back at some of the wonderful things that have been happening at school throughout October and look ahead to next month...



Sporting Events

It's been a very sporty October here at school! Well done to our KS2 children who took part in the Touch Rugby and / or Football - you showed great teamwork and enthusiasm. A big well done to our KS1 children too who represented us so brilliantly at the Multi-skills Festivals! We're looking forward to our Y5/6 Football and Netball games being rescheduled after Storm Amy stopped play and we can't wait to see what other exciting sporting activities Mrs Jones has planned for us next!



PTA Fun and Fundraising!

Our PTA Movie Night was a great success. Thank you to our PTA for all their hard work in the build-up and on the evening itself. Thank you to all the parents who supported the event by purchasing tickets & to our staff who gave up their time to support too.

We've had a great start to our 'Break the Rules Day'! It's wonderful to see so many rules being so carefully broken - all in the name of fun and fundraising. A huge thank you to all our families for joining in and helping to raise money for our PTA fund. Today we raised £140!

Thanks to events like these, our children benefit in so many ways. For example, our KS2 children now have waterproofs for those rainy days in Forest School and everyone is thrilled to be playing on our recently repaired play stage. It's lovely to see the children enjoying this space once again - and we can't wait for our exciting ***Pantomime trip next half term!***



Keep an eye out for ways you can lend a hand in supporting our **Christmas Fair**, taking place on **Friday 28th November** - we'd love your help to make it a wonderful event!

Playground Clear-Up Success!

A huge thank you to the parents and younger children who were able to stay and help with our big playground clear-up! It made such a difference and we're so grateful for the time and effort you gave. We also know there were many families who would have helped if they could - your support is always appreciated too. We may need to plan another session soon as autumn continues to do its job and the leaves keep on falling!



Our Rise & Shine wraparound care continues to be a success! The children have loved decorating biscuits and iced fingers this half term, showing off their creative flair (and sweet tooth!) as well as lots of sports outside. As the nights grow darker next half term, we're looking forward to even more fun - with painting, gym equipment in the hall and exciting parachute games planned. We're so fortunate to have so much to enjoy both indoors and outdoors.

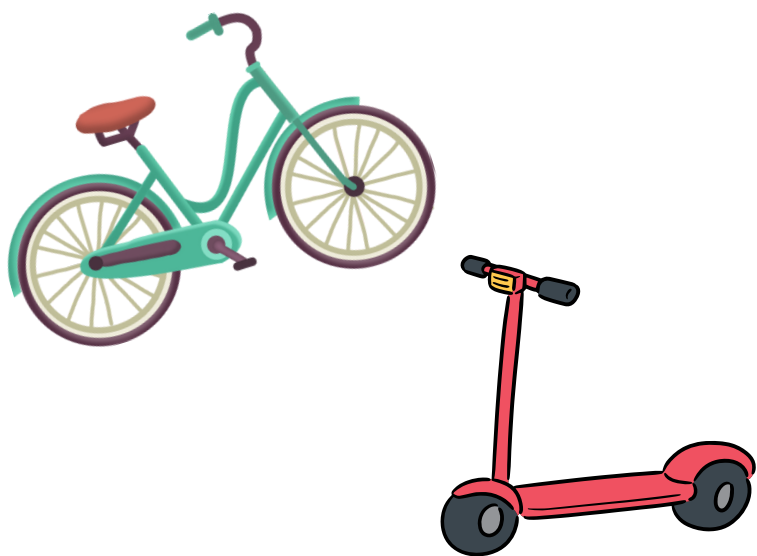


“Rise” from 7:45am - 8:30am

“Shine” early session: 3:15pm - 4:30pm

“Shine” late session: 3:15pm - 6:00pm

Shine club spaces can be booked through the office. No booking necessary for Rise club.



Donation Request

If any families have bikes or scooters that children have outgrown - perhaps being replaced with new ones as Christmas approaches - we would be so grateful for any donations. Your pre-loved wheels could help more children enjoy active play.

Morning Drop-Off

After half term, Mr Conroy will be opening the **school gates at 8:30am** in line with the time our classroom doors open. Please note that this is the earliest time children should come onto the playground, unless they are attending Rise Club.

The gates will close at 8:45am, as this is when morning registers open and children are expected in school.

If you require morning childcare, Rise Club is available each morning and no booking is required. Children can be dropped off at the hall entrance.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep morning arrivals safe.



Please take extra care when driving through the village, especially at busy drop-off and pick-up times. We also ask everyone to park considerately and avoid blocking our neighbours' driveways. Your cooperation helps keep our community safe and respectful for everyone.

Having a Pre-Christmas Clear Out?

We have a 'Donate 4 Sammy' collection booked for **Friday 21st November, 9am!**

All money raised will go towards our PTA fund to support school projects and events.

Children will be bringing collection bags home today, but black bin bags can also be used.

Please do not bring bags to school before this date, as we don't have storage space available.

Thank you for your support! More information can be found at:
<https://donateclothes4sammy.org/>



WE ACCEPT...

- Good quality, dry, clean clothing
- Handbags & accessories
- Bedding & Kitchen and bath towels
- Toys in new & working condition
- Paired, clean undamaged shoes
- Costume Jewellery
- Cosmetics (unused)

WE CAN'T ACCEPT...

- Dirty, ripped or broken items of clothing and underwear
- Duvets and pillows
- Unpaired items of clothing, broken or damaged accessories and bags
- Very used, damaged or broken toys with missing pieces
- Broken and very worn unpaired shoes
- Opened and used cosmetic products
- School and Work Uniforms

Remembrance Month – November

Next month, we will be marking Remembrance Month. From Monday 3rd November, children will be able to make donations to the Poppy Appeal in exchange for various items such as paper badges, slap bands, bracelets and reflective poppies. Suggested donations are between 50p and £1 per item. These will be available at break time each day.

Children are encouraged to bring any cash donations to school from the first day back.

On **Friday 7th November**, our Hummingbirds class will be leading our Remembrance Worship in school. ***Hummingbird parents are warmly invited to attend at 9am.***

Remembrance Sunday Service

Families are warmly invited to join the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Oswald's Church.

Reverend Elaine would like to invite any KS2 children who are attending to take part in the service by reading. If your child would like to be involved, please inform the school office and we will pass this information on.

Thank you for your support.

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH, BACKFORD

Remembrance Sunday Service



Lest we forget

Sunday 9th November
10.50am

<https://www.facebook.com/StOswaldBackford>

We have our next Open Event on **Thursday 6th November**. Please share with families who may be interested in sending their little ones to St Oswald's in September 2026. This event is a free forest school taster session! Places can be booked via the school office or our website. Thank you.



Attendance updates:

29 September - 22 October 2025		
Class	Attendance	Number of lates
Robins	92.5%	27
Sparrows	97.4%	10
Goldfinches	95.7%	6
Hummingbirds	92.8%	4
Whole School Attendance: 94.8%		



Our attendance policy can be found on our website.

Our school day begins at 8:45am, with classroom doors open from 8:30am. Children who arrive after this time will receive a late mark.

*Children who arrive after 9:15am receive an **unauthorised absence** code. Please be aware that an unauthorised absence given for late arrival contributes to the number of unauthorised sessions recorded for your child. Accumulating unauthorised sessions may result in a Fixed Term Penalty Notice being issued.*

Worship:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the wonderful opportunities we have shared this October - for the learning, laughter and time spent together. We are grateful for our school community and for all who help make it so special.

As we begin our October half term, we ask that You watch over our children, families and staff. Keep everyone safe, rested and ready to return refreshed for the new term ahead.

Amen.



Reminder: School reopens Monday 3rd November

Have a lovey half term.



"Love Your Neighbour As Yourself"



@stoswaldce

