



St Osmund's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Love for God ~ Love for Each Other ~ Love for Learning

Homework

Homework plays a vital role in reinforcing classroom learning and developing important skills in our students. As parents, you have a crucial role in supporting your child's learning journey. Here are some effective strategies to help not just 'survive' homework time, but 'thrive'!:

1. **Establish a Routine:** Set aside a specific time and quiet space for homework each day. Consistency and structure will help your child develop good study habits and focus on their tasks. Help them create a schedule or use a planner to plan their homework and other activities.
2. **Be a Guide, Not a Doer:** Encourage your child to take ownership of their homework. Offer guidance, ask open-ended questions, and provide assistance when needed, but avoid completing tasks for them. This allows them to develop problem-solving skills and independence.
3. **Create a Homework-friendly Environment:** A well-lit, quiet, and organised workspace helps. Minimise distractions like TV or phones. Necessary supplies within reach can also enhance their concentration.
4. **Break Tasks into Manageable Chunks:** Help your child break down larger tasks into smaller, manageable ones. This reduces the risk of being overwhelmed and promotes a sense of accomplishment.
5. **Celebrate Effort and Progress:** Recognize and celebrate your child's efforts, regardless of the outcome. Praise their hard work, perseverance, and improvements. This positive reinforcement boosts confidence and motivation.
6. **Communicate with Teachers:** Establish open lines of communication with our staff. Regularly check book bags and Google Classroom for updates. Speak to staff if you have concerns or need clarification.

Most importantly, supporting your child with homework is a team effort between home and school. By working together, we can improve homework completion to support learning, growth, and success.

Spelling in Y3-6

All children should be bringing their spelling flip books home with them **every** day. In the flip books are spellings that your child has misspelt in their independent writing. These words are in addition to the weekly teaching of spelling rules in class. It is very important that they practise their spellings from the flip book **every day** ready for assessment on Fridays.

Attention Young Musicians

The Salisbury Area Young Musicians group are running weekly guitar sessions with Craig Frotnam on Saturday's at 10.00-11.00am starting on 24th February 2024. The weekly group sessions are for young musicians of age 3 – 6 years old who are having lessons in school or privately and are suitable for all experience levels. For more information please click on the link. [Salisbury Area Young Musicians \(saym.org.uk\)](http://saym.org.uk)

Thank you

Alabare have sent us a letter to thank the St Osmund's community, pupils and parents for the 'phenomenally generous shoe box gifts' donated in December. They were blown away by the amount collected!

Ordering Lunches

Please can we ask that where possible you pre-order your child's school lunch on SchoolGrid from home. This will ensure that if your child is late (for example because of unknown roadworks) they will already have a lunch ordered before the system closes for that day. Any child who does not have a lunch ordered but needs one will be provided with a cheese sandwich by the kitchen. If you experience problems with schoolgrid please contact the school office in the first instance.

School Car Park

The school car park gets very busy, particularly at drop off and pick up times. It is important that everyone uses the pavement, and does not walk across the car park.

Star of the Week Awards

Rec: Kingsley-John and Leonardo

Year 1: Ella and Liam

Year 2: Clara and Howard

Year 3: Devanand and Kevin

Year 4: Evie and Shaolin

Year 5: Antoni and Agata

Year 6: Filip and Isabel



Dates for your diary...

[@St_OsmundsCP](http://www.twitter.com)

23.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year 1 ~ Church ~ 10am
30.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year R ~ Church ~ 10am
09.02.24 ~ School breaks up end of Term 3 ~ 3:15pm
19.02.24 ~ School reopens for start of Term 4 ~ **08:40am**
20.02.24 ~ Whole school Mass (distribution of ashes) ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 2pm
04.03.24 ~ Parents Evening
05.03.24 ~ Parents Evening

Mr R Sanderson
Headteacher

Dear Lord,
As Samuel listened and devoted himself to you, please open our ears to listen to your Word, and let it flow through us, enriching our lives and allowing us to stay true to your commandments.

Amen

1 Samuel 3: 7-11

New Start Time

Following on from our letter last term, please remember the new school starting time of 08:40am from Term 4 (Monday 19th Feb 2024). Your feedback was invaluable and we have heard what you have said about getting out on time at the end of the day. Children should be released to you at 3:15pm into the playground.

Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school safeguarding team:

Mr Sanderson – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Chapman – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Sambrook – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Windsor – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

At St Osmund's, the safety and well-being of our children are of utmost importance. We want to remind you of the procedures in place for reporting any safeguarding concerns you may have:

1. **Contact the School:** If you have any concerns regarding the safety or well-being of your child or any other student, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can contact the school office or speak directly with your child's class teacher.
2. **NSPCC Helpline:** In addition to internal reporting channels, the NSPCC offers a dedicated helpline for staff and parents who may have concerns about child protection failures or the handling of concerns within the school. The helpline is available at 0800 028 0285 (Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM) or via email at help@nspcc.org.uk.

By working together and maintaining open lines of communication, we can create a safe and nurturing environment for all our students. Please remember that your vigilance and partnership are crucial in ensuring the well-being of our school community.

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SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

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You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though; they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

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#WakeUpWednesday

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