

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year!

Thinking back to September, the children quickly settled into their new classes and year groups. There is such a happy atmosphere across the school, and the children have been working so hard. We're very proud of them. We've just completed our School Council elections – I can't wait to see what ideas the new School Councillors have to improve our school. We've already started to work on events for Christmas – dates coming soon!

I wish you all a great October half term and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 04 November.

Best wishes

Claire Bennett

Headteacher

### Outstanding Woodsiders



Lacey and Aiden



Olena and Robyn

In Forest School this half term, children in Year one have had a lovely time exploring their senses, taking part in sensory scavenger hunts to discover what they could see and hear, 'feely boxes' to guess the natural objects they can feel, smelling different herbs and tasting foraged blackberries. We have also been talking about how we know it is autumn and the changes we see happening in nature. We even had an unexpected hedgehog visitor when we were thinking about why some animals hibernate! During one very wet week, we embraced the rain and used different natural objects to predict and test which ones would sink or float. The children enjoyed making their own little cork boats to sail.





# Artist—Robert Lawton

Year 5 children spent an afternoon working with ART-efact artist-in-residence, Robert Lawton. They took part in a workshop which focused on designing a flag to represent Oswestry. The children discussed symbolism of colours and motifs, and were asked to consider what colours, objects or shapes they could use on their flag to reference the things that are important to them within the town.



"I represented the Christmas light switch on in Oswestry. I really enjoyed the session."

Matthew

"I found it interesting listening to the things people said they liked about Oswestry."

Florence





## Year 3 Stone Age Workshops



Year 3 children had a great day learning all about Stone to Iron Age times. They were encouraged to come into school dressed up and enjoyed participating in a range of activities. These included investigating artefacts, exploring Stone Age settlements using VR headsets and learning how to card, spin and weave wool. They also had a go at grinding down wheat to make flour as well as weaving a model fence using willow. Finally, they built shelters using natural materials. A great day was had by all!





The children have been interested in growing their own fruit and vegetables and learning about where our food comes from. They have grown and harvested runner beans and strawberries and picked apples to make apple crumble.

This half term, the children have been baking on Wednesday mornings with Miss Feltus and Mrs Hope. They have made pizza, vanilla biscuits and carrot cake muffins so far, and have taken them home to share with their family. The children are excited to continue making more delicious bakes next half term.



# Year 3 Scooter Training



All the children in Year 3 took part in a scooter workshop. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop their safety skills when using their scooters. They were also taught some tricks which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

Buoyed on by the success of our *Welsh Three Peaks* challenge in 2023, we decided to undertake a further fundraising challenge this autumn. On Saturday 28 September, we set off to complete the *Oswestry Round Challenge*; this is an undulating route of 33 miles that follows the Offa's Dyke path. We set off from the Lion Quays in the darkness at 5.30am and returned at 8pm, complete with blisters and aching limbs. Spirits were high at the beginning, despite the cold and the darkness. We had several sustenance stops, and the sun coming out mid-morning really helped us on our way. The route took us up and down several hills, including the Racecourse, along the canal, and through a range of woodland and farm areas. With 10 miles to go, tiredness set in but we kept going, with the knowledge we were raising a lot of money for our schoolchildren. When we finally completed the hike, we were exhausted but elated! We are already planning our third challenge for spring, 2025 – watch this space!

Carrie Sayce, Lauren Sheffield, Nicki New, Hayley Brown and Ellen Williams



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Thank you so much for your contributions for our Harvest collection this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Important Dates**

Friday 25 October—break up for half term

Monday 4 November—Children start back to school

Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 November—Parent/carer consultations

Monday 16 December—Christmas Carol concert at St Oswald's Church 5-6pm

Thursday 19 December—Christmas dinner

Friday 20 December—Children break up for Christmas

Monday 06 January —PD Day

Tuesday 07 January—Children start back to school

**Dates are subject to change**

