



STAR OF THE SEA
PRIMARY SCHOOL
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19th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.
It is lovely to have our family of Star of the Sea back together again.
Here are some reminders/information for you to read.

Year group email addresses

These are being used very effectively as a way of communicating with class teachers. Please continue to use these for any queries your child's class teacher can help with. Thank you.

Nursery	nurseryatsotsrcp2@gmail.com
Reception	receptionatsotsrcp@gmail.com
Year 1	yearoneatsotsrcp@gmail.com
Year 2	yeartwoatsotsrcp@gmail.com
Year 3	yearthreeatsotsrcp@gmail.com
Year 4	yearfouratsotsrcp@gmail.com
Year 5	yearfiveatsotsrcp@gmail.com
Year 6	yearsixatsotsrcp@gmail.com

Absences from school

In all UK schools it is the law that children attend school every day, on time, unless there is a good reason not to such as illness or a funeral. We are monitoring attendance at all times and it is my duty to inform parents when we are concerned about their child's poor attendance. The Local Authority, Governors and OFSTED insist that schools highlight concerns around attendance and so I will be sending letters to families where there is a worry about time away from school. We want children to reach their potential academically and also make good friendships and relationships with their peers. Research unequivocally shows that children who attend the school they are enrolled in, achieve much better academically than those who have poor attendance. It also shows they are generally happier in school. If you need any support with your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office in the first instance.

Mobile phones

Just a few reminders about mobile phones in school as I know some children will have received a new one from Santa Claus:

- Mobile phones must be switched off when on our school grounds and therefore NO PHOTOS or VIDEOS can be taken on phones within school grounds

- Pupils' phones must be handed to a class teacher when entering the classroom – if a child is found using a mobile phone in school time, the parent or carer will be contacted and asked to pick this up from the school office
- Please only allow your child to bring a mobile phone into school if it is absolutely necessary, for example, if your child walks home alone or with friends (usually year 5 and 6 pupils). We cannot take responsibility for mobile phones in school. Thank you.

Extra-curricular clubs

I am pleased to inform you we now have a number of clubs running for different year groups:

- Two sports clubs take place after school for years 3 – 6 with Access coaching, organised by Mr Thompson, our PE lead
- There is a new before school dance club which started this week for year 4 – also organised by Mr Thompson
- We have an introduction to languages after school club run by Lingotots for years Reception, 1 and 2 organised by Mrs Hodgkins, our Modern Languages Lead
- There is a chess club for years 5 and 6 pupils every Tuesday lunchtime, which is run by Mrs Chidlow
- Music lessons available for children: guitar (year 4 and above), Keyboard (year 2 and above), Rocksteady (year 2 and above) and Violin (year 2 and above).
- We also have a school council, an Eco Club and Mini Vinnies in school too.

Wellbeing of our pupils

The wellbeing of our pupils is a high priority in school and we have made lots of changes to support our pupils. The small hall has been changed into a Nurture room with soft furnishings and a wide range of activities which can be accessed by any child who finds lunch or break times challenging. It is a quiet space for children to play or enjoy mindful activities. Our teaching assistant, Mrs Keithlow, runs the lunchtime club and is one of our mental health first aid leads. (We have 4 mental health leads in school).

We now have a sensory room in school which is proving to be very helpful for children with sensory issues or need a quiet space for calmness.

We also pay for a school nurse to attend school every Thursday morning. She has proven to be an invaluable asset for our children and families. Lauren helps with a range of issues including anxiety, anger, bereavement, behaviour, looking for signs of ADHD and autism, to name a few. Please read the attached flyer for more information.

GoSmarter – information

We work closely with Geoff Crackett from North Tyneside's GoSmarter team. He has given us flyers for all families to read and encourages us all to walk, cycle, bike, wheel or scoot to school. We are organising another no car day in the summer term with Geoff, and the Eco Club will send you more details soon.

Unfortunately he has informed us that the Council have received complaints about some of the parking in and around the neighbouring streets, so please be considerate if dropping off or picking up from Arcot Avenue.

Please remember that you can park at Foxhunters (limited spaces next to the sports field or in the pub car park). Thank you.

Children's Liturgy – Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish. Information from the Catechists

Following the successful restart of the Children's Liturgy sessions last year we will be delivering Children's Liturgy sessions for January, February and March at the following Mass times;

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monkseaton - Saturday evening 6:00 pm

21st January, 4th February, 11th February, 11th March, 18th March

St Edwards, Whitley Bay – Sunday morning 10:00 am

22nd January, 5th February, 12th February, 12th March, 19th March

During the session we welcome the children and celebrate the Gospel with songs, discussion and activities. We cater for children between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Pre-school children must be accompanied by an adult or an older sibling. Families with children intending to receive their First Holy Communion this year are strongly encouraged to attend. Please note; a register is kept, for safeguarding purposes, of all children and adults attending and the information is kept securely in accordance with GDPR. Whether you come to Church regularly or just occasionally, all are welcome.

Website

Please remember to use our school website to find information about school, including holiday and medical forms. Your child's class teacher uploads curriculum information each half term alongside a newsletter with important information about the term ahead. Please use this link: <https://www.staroftheseaschool.co.uk/>.

Height and weights checks for children in Years Reception, 1 and 6

Please can I remind you that the School Nursing Team will be visiting school on **Tuesday 24th January** to measure the heights and weights of children in years reception, 1 and 6. If you do not want your child to take part in the National Child Measurement Programme or your child has a medical condition which affects their height or weight please let the School Nursing team know by calling 0191 6438251 or emailing 5-19PHNorthwest@northtyneside.gov.uk. You can also email the school office at starofthesea.primary@ntlp.org.uk if you do not want your child to be measured.

Once again, thank you for all the support you give school.

Kind regards,

Mrs K DiMambro,
Headteacher.