



STAR OF THE SEA R.C.  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our February newsletter. As the mornings and evenings become lighter, things feel brighter and everyone is feeling a little happier.

Lent starts during the half term break and this is a time for reflection, leading up to Easter. Please read the information below.

### **Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent: Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and takes place 46 days before Easter. This also means that Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) is the day before!

### **Children's Mental Health Week 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February**

This is a most important week in the school calendar. All classes will be involved in wellbeing and mindfulness activities and will discuss the importance of their own wellbeing. We are holding a Dress to Express day this Friday so pupils can come to school in clothes they feel comfortable in.

If you feel your child needs any support with their mental health/wellbeing, we have many support mechanisms in place such as the school nurse, mental health first aid leads, the nurture club for play and lunchtime to name a few.

### **Safer Internet Day**

Yesterday, the 7<sup>th</sup> February was internet safety day. All children will have been reminded of the importance of this and also how to keep themselves safe online. You may be interested to click on the link below which states the recommended age for social media apps: for example, **children should be aged 13+ when using Tik Tok and aged 16+ when using WhatsApp.**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>

### **Twitter**

Please can we remind you that our school twitter account can be viewed at [@starseatweets](https://twitter.com/starseatweets).

### **World Book Day: Thursday 2nd March**

We will be celebrating this day in different ways in school and online. This year children will be asked to bring in their favourite bedtime book and can come to school wearing their pyjamas! More information will follow.

### **Red Nose Day: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

This will be a non-uniform day. More details will follow next half term.

### **Valentine's Day and Pancake Day Treats**

Next week, our school kitchen is adding some extra desserts on the following days:

14<sup>th</sup> February: heart shaped cookies

17<sup>th</sup> February: pancakes with a choice of toppings!

I am sure our children will enjoy them.

### **February half term holiday**

School will close on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February** and reopens on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **Holiday Activities**

Please find attached a flyer from Access Coaching about sports clubs during the February half term holiday. Seven Stories, at the Ouseburn, has lots of events on too.

### **Easter Holidays**

School will close on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March for our Easter break. We reopen on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 as Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April is a staff training day.

### **RSC production with year 5 children**

We are delighted to have been invited to work with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) this year. This will involve some of our year 5 children performing part of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Northern Stage Theatre in June. Miss Austin and Mrs Taylor will be leading on this.

### **UNICEF Rights Respecting School**

Star of the Sea always aims to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture; we strive to help develop children's talents and abilities to their full potential. In order that this can be recognised, we are we are hoping to work even harder with this in the coming months and hopefully we will be awarded the Unicef Rights Respecting School award.

### **Pupils' mobile phones**

We regularly remind all children who own a mobile phone that these should be turned off before they come onto the schools grounds, then handed into their class teacher. Unfortunately, we occasionally have a problem with this. Please remind your child about turning their phone off before walking into the school yard. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Colour blindness tests and research with Newcastle University**

All boys from year 2 to year 6 have been invited to take part in this research. The researchers are now coming into school this Thursday as they would like to interview as many boys as possible so please could we ask that you complete the consent form if you would like your child to take part in this. You can return your child's form to school by tomorrow morning. Many thanks.

### Food support for families

The Bread and Butter Thing offers weekly groceries at a fraction of high street prices. They have opened a new hub at Whitley Bay Young People's Centre. Please follow the link below for further information:

<https://www.breadandbutterthing.org>.

Also, if your financial circumstances have changed, you may be able to apply for free school meals. Further information is available at:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/238/free-school-meals>.

### Attendance letters for pupils with less than 90% attendance since September 2022

As advised in my previous newsletter, we want children to reach their full potential and they need to be in school in order to achieve this. This week, attendance letters are being sent to families if your child's attendance has fallen below 90%. If you need support with your child's attendance, please contact school. Thank you.

### Important dates

Dress To Express day	10 <sup>th</sup> February
Half Term holiday	20 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Shrove Tuesday (pancake day)	21 <sup>st</sup> February
Ash Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> February
World book day	2 <sup>nd</sup> March
Red Nose day – non uniform	17 <sup>th</sup> March
Shakespeare Week	w/b 20 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter holiday	31 <sup>st</sup> March to TUESDAY 18 <sup>th</sup> April (Monday is a staff training day)

If you have any queries regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope you have a lovely half term holiday when it comes.

Kindest regards,

*Mrs K DiMambro*

Headteacher.