



STAR OF THE SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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12th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our October newsletter. We have had a very positive start to our school year, everyone is working hard and are very busy. The weather is changing and autumn has arrived!

Term Dates 2023- 2024

After the October half term break, our holidays are in line with the other local authorities in our region.

Absences

If you child will be absent from school please either:

- Ring and leave a message on: **0191 6432088** or
- Use Parentmail to inform us.

Please leave us a message before 9.30am. Thank you.

As you will know, we take good attendance very seriously. We want the best for all children and for them to succeed in all aspects of school life, academically and socially, children need to attend school every day and on time.

0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance

As you can see from the chart above, missed days can quickly add up. We have been informed by the Local Authority that we must send letters out on a more regular basis, every half term.

Next week, some families will be receiving a letter about their child's attendance and hopefully this will have a positive impact for the coming year. We fully understand there are often valid reasons for missing school, but it is my duty to try to support and remind families when attendance is slipping. If you would like to talk with me or a member of the school staff, please contact us and we will support you.

Please find our Attendance policy attached.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

These have taken place this week. Please remember we are always here to talk about your child if you have a concern.

New Admissions Open Evening

We are holding an open evening for new parents who are applying for entry into Nursery and Reception in 2024 on **Thursday, 9th November, 5.30pm until 6.30pm**. This is a great opportunity to come and look around our school and meet our staff.

School Photographer

Please remember the school photographer will be in school on **Wednesday, 15th November** to take individual and family photographs. If pupils have younger siblings who do not attend school, photographs may be taken from 8.30am onwards. Further details will follow.

The new website

I am delighted to inform you that we now have our new website up and running, created by Mr Ashton-Thompson from the BBCET. Some of the information is incorrect as it has changed since the old website closed, but this will be rectified by the end of the month.

Car Park and Road Safety

Please continue to drive and park carefully in our school car park and at the school crossing. We have had reports from the school crossing patrol that a few cars have not stopped on the zebra crossing at the entrance to our school and there has been a near miss again. Also, please remember not to park on any double yellow lines. Thank you.

Parent questionnaire

A questionnaire was completed by some parents during parents evening earlier this year. Here is a 'you said, we did' response to your observations.

<i>Homework set by the teacher should be given feedback</i>	All homework will be given feedback from the class teacher. We have changed from using Showbie as a platform for homework and use books/paper instead.
<i>Does homework challenge children and meet their individual needs?</i>	Sometimes homework is used to reinforce a concept, rather than challenge, but there should be a balance. Teachers will be thinking carefully about the homework set
<i>Better food options</i>	We have changed catering providers.
<i>More information about how my child is doing between parent's evenings would be useful</i>	We will be sending home a progress information sheet every term so you know what progress your child is making. We will continue to offer two parent's evenings every year.

	You can arrange an appointment to speak with your child's class teacher at any time during the school year.
<i>How can I support my child with maths?</i>	The calculation policy on the website can help you with this, or the class teacher will spend time with you, or the maths lead, Mr. Hall
<i>More access for all for the playing field.</i>	We will begin a rota for all children to use the field at the front of school so all pupils can access this, weather permitting.
<i>More photos on twitter</i>	Every class should be tweeting at least once a week.
<i>Information could be shared a bit sooner if possible. Sometimes communications are last minute and lack clarity.</i>	We have a monthly newsletter and also send ParentMails when needed. Unfortunately some things are last minute, but we try to avoid doing this.
<i>How do you deal with bullying?</i>	We take bullying of any form seriously. We have a range of actions in place for any child who feels they are being bullied. Firstly, a robust investigation by the SLT takes place. Sanctions are given when appropriate, parents are asked in for a meeting, external agencies are involved, and all allegations are recorded on our internal safeguarding system.

Operation Encompass

We are an operation encompass school. This means that all domestic abuse incidents which involve the police are sent to into school so we know if we need to support any young person. This is highly confidential and only the designated safeguarding team will know about the incidents. We are also here to support anyone who needs help, even just for a chat and a coffee.

EVF4 parental consent Forms

Can we just remind everyone to complete the EVF4 forms which were sent home at the start of term and send them into school. Many thanks.

Consent forms for social media, the website etc.

Usually we send these forms out annually, but to save you time and paper, we have decided to ask you to contact us if you have changed any of your choices. Any queries about this, please contact the school office.

Mini Vinnies – Foodbank appeal

The Mini Vinnies' would like to ask everyone who can, to bring into school dried foods and tins for the Cedar Wood Trust. This is a community scheme in North Shields who are desperate for donations at the present time. We can also receive toiletries. Please can we have these by the end of next week. Many thanks for your support.

School meals

Our new school meals provider, Mellors, is proving very popular with the children...and staff! If you would like your child to start having hot dinners, please encourage them to try them. Any problems with this, please contact school. If you have any outstanding debt with our previous caterers, Caterlink, we will be applying this onto your ParentMail account so the outstanding debt can be paid.

Flu Immunisations

Please remember these are taking place on Wednesday, 22nd November. Information about this can be found in previous newsletters.

Allergy Information - nuts

Please remember not to send any snacks with nuts in them as we have children with severe nut allergies in school. These include some Kinder and Nutella products. Many thanks for your support with this. Please find attached Mellor's Nut Notification guidance.

Pupil Premium Plus

Schools can receive the Pupil Premium Plus for children adopted from care, or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order (Residence Order). Pupils who were adopted from abroad are also now eligible for Pupil Premium Plus. The Pupil Premium Plus can be used to provide additional resources to help raise attainment. Pupils that are eligible include those:

- that were adopted from care
- that left care under a Special Guardianship Order
- that left care under a Residential Order on or after 14 October 1991 (under the Children Act 1989);
- that left care through a Child Arrangement Order
- that were adopted from abroad and were in state care prior to this.

If your child is eligible and you would like the school to receive this funding, please contact the school office.

PE kits

Please can we remind you that children need to wear the correct PE kits on their PE days. This includes blue shorts or jogging bottoms, a white t-shirt and a school hoody or sweatshirt. Many thanks.

Safeguarding - WhatsApp

Here is some useful information about children using WhatsApp.
Please use this link below:

<https://mcusercontent.com/beff1e29489438b33dc07bf9d/images/05dec253-c0aa-fea9-cbd5-7b208e365a85.png>

I hope everyone has a lovely half term break, (we break up on Friday, 20th October and return on Monday, 30th October) and that we all stay safe and well.

Kindest regards,

K.L. DiMambro

Mrs K. DiMambro
Head Teacher.