



STAR OF THE SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

A belated welcome back! It has been a very busy half term so far with Friendship week this week as well as photographs on Wednesday. Please can I provide you with an update on events that are happening in school over the next half term:

Flu vaccinations: Wednesday 22nd November 2023

The NHS school immunisation will be in school on Wednesday 22nd November to administer flu vaccinations. **Children will only be given their vaccinations if parents have given online consent to receive them.** Please go to: <https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>.

This will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete using the following school code **NB108622. If you decide you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccination, please complete a non consent form.**

Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will be held on **Wednesday 20th December**. Please see the attached menu. Special diets will be catered for as always. The Christmas meal will be £2.40 for pupils in years 3 to 6 or free if your child is in years Reception to 2 or is eligible for income based free school meals. Please pay for your child's school meal through the Parentmail shop: school dinners option. If you have any queries regarding the Christmas lunch please contact the school office. We hope that as many children as possible will join us for Christmas dinner.

Pupil ICT Acceptable Use Agreement

Please find attached the pupil ICT acceptable use agreement which we will be sharing with our pupils next week. We will email a parentmail form to parents next week to ask you to confirm that you have read, understood and accept the agreement.

School Photographers

The school photographers visited school on Wednesday, 15th November. Please order your photographs via Tempest. Details on how to order are on the photographs proofs that your children have brought home this week. Orders need to be placed by **Wednesday 29th November** if you would like free delivery to school prior to the Christmas holidays.

Author Visits

As part of the Northern Children's Book festival, we are excited to confirm that we will have authors visiting school next week and they will be working with all classes.

Lost property

We have coats that have been left in school which are unnamed as well as a huge amount of school uniform which is also unnamed. We understand how expensive it is to replace these items, please could we remind you that all clothing needs to be clearly named. If you have lost an item of clothing please email the school at starofthesea.primary@ntl.org.uk and advise us of your child's name and class and the missing item and its size. Many thanks.

Mini Vinnies – Foodbank appeal for the Cedarwood Trust

The Mini Vinnies would like to ask everyone who brought donations into school for the Cedar Wood Trust. This community scheme, in North Shields, is desperate for donations (dried food and toiletries) at the present time. Any further donations will be greatly received and staff will take them to the Cedarwood Trust. Please send these items in school with your child. Many thanks for your support.

Robinwood

Year 6 had their Robinwood residential trip at the end of last half term. They all had a fantastic time and took part in a range of activities. There are lots of photographs on our twitter page, @starseatweets. We are looking forward to taking our year 5 children next autumn, when they are in year 6.

Stay And Play in Early Years

Our Reception classes are holding a stay and play afternoon on Friday 1st December from 1.45pm. Entrance is via the school office and activities will be in the school hall. Please can we confirm that there is a maximum of 2 adults per child to attend the play session.

Nursery is also having a stay and play morning on Tuesday 5th December from 10.00am to 11.00am. Entrance is via the Nursery and again a maximum of 2 adults per child to attend the session.

Small toys donations

As we prepare for Christmas, please can we request donations of good condition toys for our Reception children to play with: small figurines, i.e. peppa pig, small world play, cars and small toys suitable for children aged 5 years and under will be happily received. Many thanks.

Healthy Snacks

Children can bring one healthy snack, WHICH DOES NOT CONTAIN NUTS, to eat at morning break. Our teachers have found that some children are bringing too many snacks into school and as a result they do not eat their school lunches. If you have any queries regarding this or you need your child to eat more than one snack please speak to your child's class teacher or contact them via the year group email. Thank you.

Parish Children's Christmas party

Our Lady, Star of the Sea Parish is holding a children's Christmas party on 17th December at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for children aged under 11. Tickets will be available at £4 from the back of both churches, from Saturday 18th November, and the parish office. The parish is hoping for a visit from Santa if he is not too busy!!

Key dates reminders – more information may/will be sent to you about these events

Date	Event	Time
22 nd November	Flu Immunisations for YR to Y6	All day
1 st December	Reception stay and play afternoon	1.45pm
5 th December	Nursery stay and play	10.00am to 11.00am
5 th December	Advent service for Y5 and Y6 pupils at St Edward's church	6.00pm to 7.00pm
w/b 11 th December	Swimming week for Y5 pupils	PM
12 th December	Reception Christmas Play Nursery Christmas play	9.15am and 2.15pm 10.45am
13 th December	Y1 Christmas play	2.15pm
14 th December	Y2 Christmas play	2.15pm
15 th December	Y3 Christmas activity for parents Y4 Christmas activity for parents	9.15am (Y3) 2.30pm (Y4)
w/b 18 th December	Party week: Monday – Reception and Years 1&2 Tuesday – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	All day
THURSDAY 21 st December	Last day for pupils/break up for Christmas holidays	Children can leave school between 1pm and 1.30pm Or stay in school until 3.20pm
MONDAY 8 th January	Start of Spring term	Start time for school 8.45am
w/b 8 th January	Swimming week for Y5 pupils	PM

Car Park and Road Safety

Again, please can we all continue to drive and park carefully in our school car park and at the school crossing. Sadly, we have had reports from parents whose cars have been damaged within our car park. Please can you ensure that you take extra care when parking and exiting school as we do not want anyone to be injured and we ask that you let others know if you have accidentally damaged their car whilst on our school site.

Also, please remember not to park on any double yellow lines. Thank you.

St Thomas More Christmas Fair and Newsletter

Please see details about the STM 6th Form Christmas Fair which will be held at St Aidan's Church (North Shields) on **Saturday 2nd December** from 10am to 12pm. All welcome.

Also, please see attached STM's latest newsletter.

Safeguarding

We will be arranging a session for parents and carers about online safety for children. When we have arranged this date, we will contact you about this.

Please remember to check your child's phone so you are aware of what they are accessing and who they are communicating with.

Attendance

As you know all schools have to ensure they are making great efforts to ensure pupils attend school and are on time.

A representative from the Local Authority is coming to discuss attendance this half term with us.

Generally, attendance rates are higher than they were last half term, which is great news. If you need any support with issues around attendance, please contact school.

If you require any additional information about items in this letter please do not hesitate to contact school. I will be sending out a newsletter in a few weeks with details about our Christmas events/activities.

Many thanks.

Mrs DiMambro
Headteacher