



Star of the Sea Primary School
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12th January, 2024

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, all ready to engage with their learning.
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

Our new school houses

We had a very exciting morning in school where all our pupils from Reception to year 6 were mixed up and put into 7 'houses', all linked to a saint. All pupils met with their house leaders and enjoyed learning about their saint and who is in their new 'house'. Please ask your child about this. More information will follow.

Show racism the red card and celebrate our differences day

Next Thursday we will be holding our annual 'Celebrate our Differences' day and Show Racism the Red Card, an anti-racism educational charity, will be working with our year 5 and 6 pupils.
This is a day to challenge racism and celebrate how we are all different from each other, in many ways.

All pupils are encouraged to wear something red to mark this day, either as part of their school uniform or own clothes.

School lunch celebration

There will be a fun day lunch on Thursday, 18th January. The school kitchen will be offering the following menu: beef burger, margarita pizza, sandwiches, jacket potatoes, wedges, beans and salad and chocolate sponge and custard, fruit and salad. As always, special diets will be catered for. Thank you.

Mobile phones

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

- 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.

Online Safety session

Thank you to the parents who attended our Online Safety session which was held this week in the school hall. I hope you found this useful. We will run another session in the summer term. All children will be receiving more Online Safety training next Tuesday, in school.

Extra-curricular clubs

I am pleased to inform you that 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
- We have an introduction to languages after school club run by Lingotots for Years Reception, 1, 2 and 3 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: Rocksteady (year 2 and above) and Violin (year 2 and above).
- We also have a school council, an Eco Club, a Faith in Action club and Mini Vinnies in school too.
- We are hoping to re-start keyboard and guitar lessons soon. Unfortunately, our keyboard teacher, Mrs Richardson, is still unwell. When we hear more about her, we will contact those families who it affects.

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 teachers and teaching assistants run the lunch/break time clubs. We have 4 mental health leads in school to support our children. 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.

Healthy4Life

North Tyneside Council Healthy4Life clubs start on **Tuesday, 16th January** at The Lakeside Centre (ages 8-14 years old) and **Wednesday, 17th January** at The Parks Sport Centre (ages 4-7 years old).

Healthy4Life is a family focussed after school programme which aims to help children and parents/carers make positive changes to their lifestyle to maintain a healthy weight.

To sign up to the programme visit: <https://www.activenorthtyneside.org.uk/healthy4life>

Car parking and GoSmarter information

In school, we work closely with Geoff Crackett from North Tyneside's GoSmarter team.

Unfortunately we have received complaints from residents and parents about some of the parking in and around the neighbouring streets, so please can we request that you be considerate if dropping off or picking up from Arcot Avenue. Please NEVER BLOCK DRIVEWAYS.

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

Also, a member of our school community has raised the issue of car engines being left running while stationary; please remember to turn off your car engines to limit air pollution around school. Thank you.

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

Please find information about First Communions below:

Dear Parents,

Our Lady Star of The Sea Parish - First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Programme for 2024 is currently being planned. We hope to hold the First Holy Communion Mass(es) on Saturday 8th June. The programme is open to children in Year 4, 5 or 6 and consists of five Monday teatime sessions. These will take place during the summer term at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Monkseaton. If you would like to express interest on behalf of your child(ren) please email us

at 1holycommunionolss@gmail.com stating your child's full name and date of birth. We will send you details of how to register your child on the programme.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Best regards,

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catechist Team

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 and 6

Please can I remind you that the School Nursing Team will be visiting school on **Monday, 12th February** to measure the heights and weights of children in Years Reception 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.

Key dates for this half-term

Monday, 15 th January to Friday, 26 th January	Groups of Y5 pupils attend swimming sessions
Tuesday, 16 th January	Online safety sessions for all pupils
Thursday, 18 th January	Celebrate our differences day – all pupils can wear an item of red clothing
Thursday 18 th January	Lunch fun day
Monday, 12 th February	Heights and weight check for Reception and year 6 pupils

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

Kind regards,

Mrs K DiMambro,
Headteacher.