STAR OF THE SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our October newsletter. What a beautiful summer and autumn we have had. We have had a positive start to our school year; everyone working hard and trying their best with all they do.
This newsletter packed with valuable information, so thank you for reading it.
Please remember our school email address is now office@sotsprimary.co.uk. If you email our old email address, it may not reach us. Thank you.

Absences

If your child will be absent from school, please either:

- Ring and leave a message on **0191 3130490** or
- Use Arbor to inform us.

Office opening times

Just a reminder that the office opening times are:
Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 4.30pm
Friday: 8.30am to 4.00pm

Attendance

The Department for Education (DfE) introduced updated attendance guidance for all schools from September 2024. These changes are designed to help schools and families work together to improve attendance where it is a concern.
As you know, regular school attendance is essential in giving children the best possible start to their education. To achieve their full potential, both academically and socially, children need to be in school every day and arrive on time.
At our school, we are committed to supporting every child to attend regularly and enjoy a successful school experience. We work closely with the Local Authority and other partners to promote good attendance and provide support for families whenever this is needed.
Together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive, learn and succeed.

The target for all our pupils is at least 96%. We fully understand that children may be poorly, and this affects their attendance.
Termly attendance letters will continue to be sent to families of children whose attendance has fallen, offering a reminder and support. If you need to discuss attendance at any time this academic year, please contact your child's teacher, the school office or myself. We are here to help.

Attendance: for September 2026

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
Mrs McQuillan YR	98	Mrs Hawthorn Y1	98
Mrs Hudspith Y2	100	Mrs Taylr/Mrs Connon Y2	98
Mr Thompson Y3	98	Mrs Raynor/Mrs Hepplewhite Y3	99
Mr O'Doherty Y4	97	Mr Maguire/Mrs Byrne Y4	97
Mr Hall Y5	95	Ms Austin Y5	95
Mrs Hodgkins Y6	94	Mrs Taylor Y6	94

This month's winner for the best attendance is **MRS HUDSPITH'S class**! Well done everyone.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

These take place on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October. Appointments can be booked on the Arbor App. Please remember we are always here to discuss any concerns about your child outside of these dates.
If you would prefer a phone call to discuss your child's progress, outside the times offered during the last week of term, please email the school office on office@sotsprimary.co.uk and your child's class teacher will contact you.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came to our coffee morning or pledged money to this excellent cause. Together we raised over £300. Fantastic!

Elephants Calling – Cake sale

On Friday 23rd October we are holding a cake sale in the school hall for the children in aid of the *Elephants Calling* project which was delivered free of charge. Money will be split between the Born Free foundation and Jane, the artist's *Drawing for the Planet* charity. We kindly ask for any cake donations (**NO NUT PRODUCTS** please) from **KS2 children only please**. These can be brought into school the day before on Thursday or Friday of next week. All children from Nursery to Year 6 will get a chance to purchase a cake of their choice. If your child has a specific allergy/dietary requirement and you would like to supply your own child's cake, please hand this into the school office where it can be labelled.

New Admissions Open Evening

Tonight, 15th October, 5.00pm -6.00pm, we are holding an open evening for new parents who are applying for entry into Nursery and Reception in 2025**.** This is a wonderful opportunity to look around our school and meet our staff.

Buddy Assembly

The annual buddy assembly for reception and year 6 parents will take place on Thursday, 5th November. This will take place in the school hall at 2.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mini Vinnies – Foodbank appeal

The Mini Vinnies' would like to ask everyone who can, to bring into school dried foods, toiletries, and tins for the Bay foodbank by next Wednesday, 21st October, thank you.

Poppies for sale in school

We will be selling poppies the first week after the half term holiday. Thank you for your support with this.

School Disco

We are holding a pupil Disco on Thursday, 19th November. KS1 3.20pm to 4.30pm. KS2 4.35pm to 5.45pm. Tickets can be paid for on the Arbor App, Thank you.

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.
If a child comes into school not wearing the correct PE kit, we will ask them to change into a clean kit we have in school. Thank you for your support with this.

Year 6 trip to Robin Wood

Well done to all our year 6 pupils who showed great resilience throughout their time away. They experienced lots of amazing outdoor, new activities. Well done everyone.
A special thank you goes to the staff who made this possible, leaving their own families to look after our pupils.

Dinner payments

Unfortunately, some of our pupil's lunch accounts are in arrears. May we remind everyone that lunches should be paid for IN ADVANCE using the Arbor app. Please check your child's account regularly and contact the school office if you have any queries.

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

School Car Park

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE COURTEOUS IN OUR SCHOOL CAR PARK. We continue to have issues with a small minority of drivers, on occasion.

Christmas performances

Reception Christmas play – Tuesday 8th December 9.15am
Nursery Christmas play – Wednesday 9th December 9.15am
Year 1 and Year 2 Joint Christmas performances - Thursday 10th December 9.15am & 2.15pm.
Can we kindly request that owing to numbers if parents and carers could attend **only one of the two performances** suggested below, thank you.
Year One parent/ carers - 9.15am, Year Two parent/ carers - 2.15 pm wherever possible.
Year 3 Christmas Performance – Friday 11th December 9.15am
Year 4 Christmas Performance – Friday 11th December 2.15pm

Date	Event		Time/information
16th October	Y3 - Come, pray and stay		2.45pm
21st and 22nd October	Parent/teacher consultations		3.30pm to 5.30pm
15th October	Open evening for new parents		5pm – 6pm
23rd October 23rd October	Cake Sale Break up for Half term holiday		All day – school Hall 3.20pm
2nd November	Return to school		
5th November	Buddy assembly		2.30pm – school hall
6th November	Y2 - Come, pray and stay		2.45pm
12th November	Flu Immunisations for YN to Y6		
13th November	Y1 - Come, pray and stay		2.45pm
16th – 20th November	FRIENDSHIP WEEK		
18th November	SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS		All day
19th November	DISCO		3.20pm – 4.30pm Reception and KS1. 4.35pm – 5.45pm – KS2
20th November	Children in Need		Non uniform day
20th November	Reception - Come, pray and stay		2.45pm
24th November	Author visit – Ben Mantle		KS1 pupils
27th November	Nursery - Come, pray and stay		2.45pm
1st December	Advent service for Y5 and Y6 pupils At St Edward's church, Whitley Bay		5.30pm to 6.30pm
3rd December	Rocksteady Christmas Concert		2.30pm - school hall
4th December	Non uniform day. Donations for Christmas tombola's etc		More info to follow
w/b 7th December	Swimming week for Y5 pupils		PM
8th December	Reception Christmas Play		9.15am
9th December	Nursery Christmas play		9.15am
10th December	Y1 and Y2 Joint Christmas production Y1 and Y2 Joint Christmas production		9.15am (Y1 parent/carers) 2.15pm (Y2 parent/carers)
11th December	Y3 Christmas production Y4 Christmas production		9.15am 2.15pm
w/b 14th December	**Party week:** Tuesday 15th: Nursery, Reception and Years 1&2 Wednesday 16th : Years 3, 4, 5 & 6		 All day All day
14th December	Christmas evening for parents after school		3.20pm – 4.30pm
14th December	Christmas Jumper Day – Save the children		
16th December	Y4 trip to the Pantomime		PM
16th December	Christmas lunch		All day
18th December	Break up for Christmas holiday		Early pick up
4th January	Inset day – school closed to pupils		All day
TUESDAY 5th January	Start of Spring term		8.45am

I hope everyone has a lovely half term break.
Kind regards and thank you for your support.
Mrs K. Dimambro
Head Teacher