



STAR OF THE SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Seatonville Road, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE25 9EG

Telephone: (0191) 313 0490

E-mail: office@sotsprimary.co.uk

Website: www.staroftheseaschool.co.uk

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead.

A very special welcome to all our new Nursery, Reception and in-year pupils and families joining Star of the Sea. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community and look forward to working with you. The children have settled brilliantly, and it has been lovely to see school full of energy and enthusiasm once again.

Class information packs for the school year

Everyone will be given a class pack including information about timetables, PE days, curriculum etc. on Wednesday the 9th of September. If you pick your child up from school, please pop into the classroom to pick one up and say hello to the class teacher. If you do not pick up from school, we will send a pack home with your child either on the Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Thank you.

Elephant's Calling week – week beginning the 14th September

We are incredibly excited to be working with a wonderful artist called Jane Lee McCracken, who will be coming into school to provide workshops for all children to learn about elephants in Africa and be assisted in drawing their own elephants. The finished drawings will then be collated onto a mural for us to keep and share with everyone.

The charity, Born Free, is helping to provide all resources. More information will be shared, once we have enjoyed our workshops, next week.

School Meals - Aspens

We are pleased to inform you that our school meal provider is now **Aspens**.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they are entitled to a free school meal every day as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme.

For pupils in **Years 3 to 6**, school meals cost **£2.80 per day** unless your child is eligible for benefits-based free school meals.

Menus and dietary information will be shared through our usual communication channels.

Support for Low Income Families

We encourage all families to check eligibility for benefits-based free school meals. If you believe your child may be entitled, please apply through North Tyneside Council. Qualifying families may also receive additional support during school holidays.

If you require assistance with the application process, please contact the school office.

Allergies

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FOOD ITEMS CONTAINING NUTS INTO SCHOOL.

We have children with severe allergies and appreciate your support in helping us keep all pupils safe.

School Milk

School milk is available to all children. It is free for children under five and subsidised for children over five.

To register your child, please visit the Cool Milk website. If your child has been registered but is not receiving milk, please contact the school office.

The School Website

Our website remains the best place to access key information, including:

- School term dates
- Curriculum information
- Year group newsletters
- School uniform details
- Lunch menus
- Policies and forms
- Catholic Life information
- News and events

Please make our website your first point of reference when looking for school information.

Communication and Arbor

We now use **Arbor** as our primary communication system for parents and carers.

Please ensure that your contact details, including telephone numbers and email addresses, are kept up to date. Arbor will be used regularly to share important messages, newsletters, consent forms and school updates.

If you experience any difficulties accessing Arbor, please contact the school office for support.

Absence Reporting

If your child is absent from school, please notify us as soon as possible on the first day of absence.

Please ensure all absences are reported **before 9.30am on 0191 3130490 or by using the Arbor app.**

Thank you.

School Disco – Thursday, 19th November

We are delighted that our school discos will be returning this term. Further information, including ticket details, will be shared shortly.

Reminders

Please remember:

- Label all clothing and personal belongings clearly.
- School holidays cannot be authorised during term time except in exceptional circumstances.
- Children should arrive punctually each morning.
- Please keep contact information updated.
- We welcome donations of good quality uniform that children have outgrown

School Grounds

To help keep everyone safe, we kindly remind all families that:

- Dogs are **not permitted** on school premises.
- Smoking and vaping are **not permitted** on school grounds.
- Electric scooters are **not permitted** on school premises.
- Children should not use school play equipment before or after school.
- Mobile phones should not be used on the school site unless absolutely necessary.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all members of our school community.

School Car Park

Please be considerate when using the school car park and surrounding roads. We ask all members of our community to show the same kindness, patience and respect that we encourage in our children every day.

Safeguarding Team

Everyone at Star of the Sea shares responsibility for safeguarding.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Mrs K. DiMambro**, supported by our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, **Mrs Chidlow, Mr Hall, Mrs Turnbull and Mr Thompson.**

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team immediately.

We are also an **Operation Encompass** school. This partnership enables schools to provide immediate support for children who may have experienced domestic abuse incidents.

Online Safety

Online safety continues to be a key focus across school. All pupils will participate in age-appropriate online safety lessons during the term to help them stay safe when using technology.

Further guidance and resources for parents will be shared throughout the year.

Admissions

If your child is due to start Reception class in September 2027 (deadline 11th January 2027) or is transferring to middle or high school (deadline 30th October 2026) applications are now open. All information is available on the North Tyneside Councils website.

Important Dates

Date	Event	Time/information
9 th September	Class Information packs available from classrooms	3.20pm – 3.30pm
w/b 14 th September	'Elephant's calling' week	Monday – Wednesday
14 th September	Judo sessions begin	3.30pm – 4.30pm
16 th September	Y3 Pedestrian training sessions begin	Morning sessions
25 th September	European day of Languages	All day
12 th to 14 th October	Y6 go to Robin Wood	9.15am depart
21 st and 22 nd October	Parent/teacher consultations	3.30pm to 5.30pm
15 th October	Open evening for new parents	5pm – 6pm
23 rd October	Break up for Half term holiday	3.20pm
2 nd November	Return to school	
5 th November	Buddy assembly	2.30pm – school hall
12 th November	Flu Immunisations for YN to Y6	
16 th – 20 th November	FRIENDSHIP WEEK	
18 th November	SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS	All day
19 th November	DISCO	3.20pm – 4.30pm Reception and KS1. 4.35pm – 5.45pm – KS2
20 th November	Children in Need	Non uniform day
24 th November	Author visit – Ben Mantle	KS1 pupils
1 st December	Advent service for Y5 and Y6 pupils Venue to be agreed	5.30pm to 6.30pm
4 th December	Non uniform day. Donations for Christmas tombola's etc	More info to follow
w/b 7 th December	Swimming week for Y5 pupils	PM

8 th December	Reception Christmas Play	9.15am
9 th December	Nursery Christmas play	9.15am
10 th December	Y1 and Y2 Christmas production	9.15am 2.15pm
11 th December	Y3 and Y4 Christmas production	9.15am 2.15pm
w/b 14 th December	Party week: <u>Tuesday 15th</u> : Nursery, Reception and Years 1&2 <u>Wednesday 16th</u> : Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	All day All day
14 th December	Christmas evening for parents after school	3.20pm – 4.30pm
14 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – Save the children	
16 th December	Y4 trip to the Pantomime	
16 th December	Christmas lunch	All day
18 th December	Break up for Christmas holiday	Early pick up
4 th January	Inset day – school closed to pupils	All day
TUESDAY 5 th January	Start of Spring term	8.45am

Many thanks for your continued support. We look forward to another happy, successful and productive year at Star of the Sea.

Kindest regards,

Mrs DiMambro