



Star of the Sea Primary School
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12th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our February newsletter. As the mornings and evenings become lighter, things feel brighter and everyone is feeling a little happier. Fingers crossed the rain stops soon.

Lent starts next week and this is a time for reflection, leading up to Easter.

Please read the information below.

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent: Wednesday, 18th February

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on the 18th of February. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and takes place 46 days before Easter. This also means that Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) is the day before. We have encouraged children to do something extra during Lent such as say an extra prayer, or make their bed every day for example, instead of giving something up.

Children's Mental Health Week 9th to 13th February

This is a most important week in the school calendar. All classes will be involved in wellbeing and mindfulness activities and will discuss the importance of their own wellbeing.

If you feel your child needs any support with their mental health/wellbeing, we have many support mechanisms in place such as the school nurse, mental health first aid leads, the nurture club for break times, a sensory room, the quiet space outside my office, to name a few.

Nut free school

We have children within school who have severe allergies to nuts. Please can you ensure that children's snacks do not contain nuts or nut extracts. Thank you.

World Book Day: Thursday 5th March

We will be celebrating this day in different ways in school. As you will know it is a priority that we foster the love of reading for children. 2026 is the year of Reading. On world book day children can come to school wearing their pyjamas (with their favourite bedtime story book) or as their favourite character, or just in their own clothes with one of their favourite books.

Comic Relief Red Nose Day: Friday 20th March

This will be a non-uniform day. More details will follow next half term.

Children's Common Conditions

We sometimes get enquires about head lice and threadworms, which are both common conditions in children which spread easily. Please can we remind you to check your child's hair regularly for head lice and if you would like advice on head lice or threadworms, please visit the following NHS website:

[Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[Threadworms - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

RSC production with year 5 children

Once again, we are delighted to have been invited to work with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) this year. This will involve some of our year 5 children performing part of The Tempest at the Northern Stage Theatre in July. Miss Austin and Mrs Taylor are leading on this again.

Pupils' mobile phones

We regularly remind all children who own a mobile phone that these should be turned off before they come onto the schools' grounds, then handed into their class teacher. Unfortunately, we occasionally have a problem with this. Please remind your child about turning their phone off before walking into the school yard. Thank you for your support with this.

Attendance letters for pupils with less than 90% attendance since September 2025

As advised in previous newsletters, we want all children to reach their full potential, and they need to be in school to achieve this. This week, attendance letters are being sent to families of pupils whose attendance has fallen below 90%. The Local Authority has contacted school about some of our persistent absentees (attendance of below 85%) and will be asking to speak with some of our parents /carers. They have asked for the names of pupils whose attendance is below 85%.

If you need any support with your child's attendance, please contact school. We are here to help. Thank you.

Arbor – our new communication system

Thank you to everyone who has logged onto this new system. 94% of families have done, so far. This will be the system we use for booking Parent's evening, paying for trips, ties, meals etc. Also, please remember to check your email inbox for information from us. Any problems, please contact the school office.

Safeguarding

Safer Internet Day: Tuesday, the 10th of February, was internet safety day. All children were reminded of the importance of this and how to keep themselves safe online. I am re-sharing the link below about children's use of social media apps: for example, **children should be aged 13+ when using Tik Tok and aged 16+ when using WhatsApp.**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>

Important dates

DISCO!	12 th February
Half Term holiday	16 th to 20 th February
Shrove Tuesday (pancake day)	17 th February
Ash Wednesday	18 th February
World book day	5 th March
Dance Festival	16 th March at 6.30pm
Rocksteady concert	19 th March at 2.30pm
Comic Relief	20 th March
Parents Evenings	25 th and 26 th March – details to follow
Easter holiday	3 rd April (Good Friday) to 20 th April (early finish)

If you have any queries regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact school. I hope you have a lovely half term holiday.

Kindest regards,

Mrs K DiMambro

Head teacher