



Star of the Sea Primary School
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January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas. Everyone has come back to school eager and ready to learn. Here are some reminders/information for you.

Arbor

Most families are now signed up to our new communication system, Arbor. Thank you.

If you have yet not done so, please sign up ASAP. If you experience any problems, please contact our school office.

When you log onto the Arbor App, you will be able to see your child's attendance, information such as the most up-to-date telephone numbers and addresses we have for your child, pay for school lunches and trips etc and register absences for your child.

Arbor will send you emails into your inbox, but please check these do not initially go into your Junk box.

Dangerous weather

If we had to close school due to severe weather conditions or for other reasons, we would contact you via email. This is most unlikely, but we have a plan in place should this ever occur.

Mobile phones

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

AT SCHOOL: Please remind your child about our mobile phone rules in school.

- Mobile phones must be switched off when on our school grounds and therefore NO PHOTOS or VIDEOS can be taken on phones in school.
- Pupils' phones must be handed to a class teacher when entering the classroom – if a child 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.

AT HOME:

- We continue to deal with children who are upset by something in a WhatsApp message, on Snapchat or TikTok. Please can we ask you to check your child's phone on a regular basis and

remember that the legal age for a child to have WhatsApp is sixteen, Snapchat is thirteen, as is TikTok. PLEASE monitor your child's online behaviours and what they access. It is difficult for us to address issues which happen outside of school, online, between pupils.

School Uniform

Once again, thank you for sending your child into school wearing the correct school uniform. Our Uniform Policy is on the school website. Please use the link below.

<https://www.staroftheseaschool.co.uk/uniform>

As you know, we now allow BLACK trainers to be worn for school alongside black or brown school shoes. No other coloured trainer is allowed. During the dangerous weather, we understand that walking boots may be worn for safety reasons.

We have noticed that some of our older pupils are wearing false eye lashes, make up and false nails. These are not part of our dress code and would not be allowed in the high school either. It is our duty to prepare our pupils to be ready for high school and follow the same principles as they do.

Car Park

This is a plea to everyone.

Please be kind and patient when using the school car park. Everyone is generally in a rush to get somewhere and so can become impatient and short tempered. Please drive and park carefully, with respect to others.

Can I also remind everyone that only Blue badge holders should use the disabled bays in the parent's car park. Thank you.

For your safety, please use the path around school and please do not walk through our car parks. We have had near misses as cars and vans regularly make deliveries in the staff car park.

Extra-curricular clubs

I am pleased to inform you that we now have several 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.
- There will be a chess club for Years 5 and 6 pupils every Tuesday lunchtime, led by Mrs Chidlow
- We also have a school council, an Eco Club, a Faith in Action club and Mini Vinnies in school too.
- Mrs Richardson delivers our key board sessions for year 2 and above, every Wednesday.
- Rocksteady offers music lessons for year 2 and above every Thursday.
- We have a coding club for year 3 pupils ran by staff from Newcastle Building society. Mr O'Doherty organises this.
- Miss Austin and Mrs Taylor run a LEGO club every Wednesday, after school.
- Mrs Connon leads a craft club every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime, for KS2.
- Mrs Tickell offers a Violin club for pupils from year 2 to year 6 every Monday.
- Girls football sessions are offered to year 5 and 6 girls, led by Mr Watson, every Friday after school.
- Lingotots - teaching French – is about to be offered. Details to follow.

Term dates for 2026 – 2027

Please find the term/holiday dates for next academic year attached. They can also be found on the school website.

Celebrate our differences day – Friday 13th February.

We will be holding our annual 'Celebrate our Differences' Day on Friday, 13th February.

This is a day to challenge racism and celebrate how we are all different.

Children and staff will come into school wearing their own clothes on this day.

School lunch celebration

There will be a fun day lunch on Thursday, 15th January. Please find the menu attached.

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 valuable information about the term ahead. Please use this link:

<https://www.staroftheseaschool.co.uk/>.

Height and weights check for children in Years Reception and six

Please can I remind you that the School Nursing Team will be visiting school on **Tuesday, 10th 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 office@sotsprimary.co.uk if you do not want your child to be measured.

Healthy4Life

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. The sessions will be delivered throughout January-March 2026. The programmes will be starting the w/c 19 January. Please follow this link for more information. <https://www.livingwellnorthtyneside.co.uk/services/124>

Active North Tyneside free sessions

North Tyneside Council are offering a range of free sessions to families such as weekly swimming sessions. They have asked us to promote these and the flyers containing the information, can be found on their website: <https://www.activenorthtyneside.org.uk/>

Potholes at entrance to school

Once again, the potholes at the entrance to school are becoming dangerous. This is not our land, but our neighbouring school have been advised of the problem and hope to address this issue as soon as possible. Please be careful when driving near the high school entrance.

Key dates for this half-term

Tuesday, 6 th January to Friday, 23 rd January	Groups of Y5 pupils attend swimming sessions
Thursday 15 th January	Lunch fun day
Monday 19 th January & Thursday 22 nd January	Year 3 and 4 pupils learn about the Romans with 'That History Bloke', who is coming into school
Thursday 5 th February	Year 6 pupils learn about WW1 with 'That History Bloke', who is coming into school
Monday 9 th to Friday 13 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10 th February	Heights and weight check for Reception and year 6 pupils
Tuesday, 10 th February	Internet Safety Day
Thursday 12 th February	Disco! 3.20pm - 4.30pm Reception and KS1 4.30pm – 5.45pm KS2 (details to follow)
Friday 13 th February	Celebrate our differences day – non uniform day. Break up for half term holiday

Monday 23 rd February	School reopens
Thursday 19 th March	Rock Steady concert – 2.30pm
Wednesday 25 th and Thursday 26 th March	Parent/teacher consultation. Appointments will be booked through Arbor, nearer the time.
Thursday 2 nd April	Break up for the Easter holidays.
Monday 20 th April	School reopens

Safeguarding

All pupils will receive teaching on internet safety this half term.

The NSPCC have published many excellent resources for parents. If you would like to read the information online, please use the link below:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/leaflets/parent-leaflets>

Kindest regards,
Mrs K DiMambro

