



STAR OF THE SEA
PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Website: www.staroftheseaschool.co.uk

April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here is our April newsletter containing important information and dates for you.

Attendance by class since September 2025

Our school target is 96% for all pupils.

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
Nursery	94%	YR – Mrs McQuillan	96%
Y1- Mr Maguire / Mrs Hepplewhite	94%	Y1/2 Mrs Hudspith	97%
Y2 – Mrs Hawthorn	97%	Y3- Mr Thompson	95%
Y3 /4 Mrs Byrne /Mrs Connon	94%	Y4- Mr O’Doherty	97%
Y5 – Miss Austin	95%	Y5- Mr Hall	94%
Y6 – Mrs Hodgkins	92%	Y6 – Mrs Taylor	95%



Congratulations to Mrs Hawthorn’s class, Mrs Hudspith’s class and Mr O’Doherty’s class for having the best attendance this year so far!

School Communications

Our new school telephone number is **0191 3130490** please can you update your contact information for us.

Our email address is office@sotsprimary.co.uk.

Year 6 SATs Week

Year 6 SATs begin on Monday, 11th May and finish on Thursday, 14th May. If your year 6 child is poorly during this week, please contact school immediately by telephone, email, or Arbor App. Many thanks. As usual, we will offer a breakfast and a drink for all our year 6 children, starting at 8.30am, Monday to Thursday. This takes place in the school hall and ensures everyone is settled, mixing with their friends, before the school day begins. There is no charge for this.

43rd Children's Cancer Run: Sunday, 17th May 2026

Just a reminder that Mr Thompson is organising this once again. If you would like to take part, entries can be made online at www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk. If you want to run as part of the school team, please follow the links and make sure that you select 'Star of the Sea' from the drop-down menu.

Open evening for new Nursery and Reception parents for September 2026

This will take place on Thursday, 11th June 2026. Our new parents will be invited to a welcome evening in the school hall at 5pm for Nursery parents and 6pm for Reception parents. This will offer parents the opportunity to find out more about our school and meet the staff.

Sports Day: Friday, 22nd May 2026

Early Years and Key Stage one will take part in races and activities in the morning – starting at 9.15am and Key Stage two will begin their races and activities in the afternoon, at 1.15pm. All families are welcome to attend. We are holding this event early in the summer term so if we must postpone it, we have more time to rearrange the day.

Parking outside school – on and around Arcot Avenue and Grindon Close

Please can we remind you not to park over residents' driveways and always be courteous when parking outside our school gates, and in our school carpark. Thank you.

Water Bottles

May I remind everyone to send children into school with their water bottles every day. Please can all water bottles have their child's name on them. The children have access to drinking water in school and are encouraged to refill their bottles regularly.

Sun cream

We are hoping for lovely weather over the coming months so please can we also ask you to apply sun cream to your children on sunny days to prevent sunburn. Sun hats or caps are also a good idea during the sunnier months.

Optional early pick up this Thursday

If you would like to pick your child up early this Thursday, please do so between 1pm and 1.30pm. After this the gates will be **closed**, and pupils can leave at the usual time of 3.20pm.

If your child walks home and you would like them to leave early, please email the year group email letting us know this, or we cannot let your child leave school. Thank you.

School Uniform

Can I remind parents/carers to send children into school wearing the correct uniform as, for example, a small group of children are wearing sports tops and tracksuits instead of PE t shirts and school PE hoody. If you need to discuss our school uniform for any reason, please contact me. I must add that generally our pupils look **incredibly smart** coming into school and we thank you for this.

TIES are part of our school uniform (years 1 to 6) and can be paid for on the Arbor app for £3.50 then collected from the school office.

We plan to hold a uniform giveaway of clothing that has been donated to school, and we would like to recycle on **Friday, 22nd May** at Sports Day. However, please come to the school office at any time if you would like any preloved uniform.

Please remember to order any uniform direct from Emblematic, <https://emblematic.co.uk/> or visit the shop on Benton Industrial Estate, opposite the Asda store in Benton.

First Communion programme

If anyone has any queries, please contact the parish office by email: 1holycommunionolss@gmail.com

Safeguarding reminder

Safeguarding everyone in school is our priority, both pupils and staff. The Safeguarding team at Star of the Sea are Mrs DiMambro, Mr Hall, Mrs Chidlow, Mrs Turnbull, and Mr Thompson. Our Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Brachtvogel. Governors conduct safeguarding walks around school and talk with staff and pupils to ensure we are all safe in school. If you have any safeguarding worries, please contact school and a member of the Safeguarding team will telephone you.

Also, we are an **Operation Encompass** school. The police inform us of any incident they have dealt with when they have been involved with a family.

Fundraising

Thank you so much to everyone who brought in cakes/biscuits for our Lenten cake sale in aid of St Cuthbert's Care. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and raised £456.54.

We still have many cakes left over which we will all be enjoying during breaktimes this week!

We also raised £271.23 for Comic Relief. Thank you!

Food menu for Thursday, 2nd April

Reminder our catering team have planned a fun Easter menu for this Thursday, with a chance to win Crème Eggs!

Payments for school lunches

PLEASE remember to pay for your child's school lunches in advance. We continue to have outstanding balances which need to be paid ASAP. Thank you for your support with this.

Important dates for your diaries:

Date	Activity
Thursday 2 nd April, break up for Easter holiday	Early pick up optional 1pm -1.30pm NON-UNIFORM AND WEAR A SPLASH OF PURPLE FOR LENT
Monday 20 th April	School reopens
Monday, 4 th May	Bank holiday School Closed
Monday, 11 th to Thursday, 14 th May	Y6 SATs week – with breakfast club for Y6 in school hall
Sunday, 17 th May	Children’s Cancer Run
Monday, 18 th to Friday, 22 nd May	Health and Wellbeing week. Children to wear PE kits all week Walk, scoot or cycle to school week
Wednesday 20 th May	M&M travelling theatre company visits school
Thursday, 21 st May	Photographer to take Nursery, Reception and Year 6 class photographs
Friday, 22 nd May	SPORTS DAY - Break up for half term holiday
Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday, 1 st June for 3 days	Art week – elephants and African animals
Wednesday 3 rd June to 5 th June	Y4 retreat to Youth Village
Saturday, 6 th June	First Communion celebration
Monday 8 th June	Scholastic Book Fair in school
Wednesday 10 th June	Y6 mass at Immaculate Heart church 10am
Thursday, 11 th June	5pm - meeting for parents of new nursery children 6pm – meeting of reception parents
Friday 12 th June	Year 3 and 4 assembly for parents – 9.15am
Monday 15 th June to Friday 19 th June	Careers week
Wednesday 17 th June	Year 5 mass at Immaculate Heart church at 10am
Wednesday 24 th June	Year 4 mass at Immaculate Heart church at 10am
Friday 26 th June	Year 5 assembly for parents – 9.15am
Wednesday 1 st July	Year 3 mass at Immaculate Heart church at 10am
Wednesday 1 st July	3.20pm – 4pm parents/carers invited to look around school with their children and celebrate this year
Thursday 2 nd July to Friday 3 rd July	2 transition days for year 6 pupils to STM
Friday 3 rd July	Reception summer stay and play 2.15pm
Friday 3 rd July	RSC at the Northern Stage
Tuesday 7 th July	Nursery end of year graduation/party
Thursday 9 th July	Rocksteady concert
Friday 10 th July	Y6 leavers’ assembly for parents 9.15am
Monday 13 th July	Leavers’ party for y6, in school (PM)
Thursday, 16 th July	Final day at school for pupils
Friday, 17 th July	Staff training day – school not open to pupils

Summer trips

Our summer trips are being booked and each class will be sent information about these soon.

Summer Term Masses

Key Stage two children will be attending some of the Wednesday masses at Immaculate Heart Church this term. Families are more than welcome to attend.

Mass begins at 10am, so on the day your child is attending mass, could all children be in school by 8.45am so we can walk to church. Thank you.

Happy Easter

We hope you all enjoy a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you on Monday, 20th April. If you have any queries regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

K. Dimambro

Mrs DiMambro

