

Issue 10  
February 2015



# Our Lady Star of the Sea Newsletter

# Spring 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our school continues to work hard to provide your child/ren the best possible education, however, in order for children to reap the benefits of this, their attendance must be good. i.e. attendance should not fall below 95% (5% is equivalent to 10 days absence). I am therefore encouraging everyone to ensure that children are not missing school unnecessarily or for holidays during term time. The school understands that there are times when children are poorly and unable to come to school and I believe, as you do, that being at home is sometimes the only option. However, I am asking everyone to support the school and their child's education by ensuring good attendance. Can I remind parents to make contact with the school by 10 a.m. on the first morning of absence in order for us to try to ensure the safeguarding of the children.

I am also requesting that children are punctual for school and are in the school yard by 8:50am. As a reward for punctuality children will be receiving certificates at the end of February for being in school on time every day during this month and a punctuality badge for children being on time every day throughout March.

Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Miss J. Jones  
Exec. Headteacher

Day	Activity	Year group
Tuesday	Cookery Club (coming soon) Gardening Club (coming soon)	Y5 and 6
Wednesday	Booster Classes Games and Puzzles	Y6 YR, 1 and 2
Thursday	Booster Classes Dance Club (26/2/15) For six weeks only	Y6 Y1/Y2
Friday	SVP Football Training	KS2 Y1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

## **Dates to remember!**

**School closes 3.00pm on Friday 13th February  
and reopens at 8.50am on Monday 23rd February for teaching purposes**

Tuesday 10th February—Safer Internet Day—parents invited into school at 2.15 p.m.

Monday 23rd February—Chinese New Year Carousel of activities (pupils only)

Wednesday 25th February—Year 3 only—Road Safety training

Thursday 26th February—A team of Y2 to Hoopstarz Festival at Peterlee College

Thursday 26th February—Dance after school club to start for six weeks with Peterlee Sports Partnership for Years 1 and 2 children

Tuesday 3rd March—A team of Y3/4 children to Soccarena for Football Festival

Wednesday 4th March—Lenten Mass in school at 2.15 p.m. All welcome!

Wednesday 4th March—Y3 Road Safety training

Thursday 5th March—World Book Day—a chance for everyone to dress up as their favourite book character

Tuesday 10th March—A team of Y1/2 children to Soccarena for Football Festival

Monday 23rd March—Easter Craft Day for KS1. Parents are invited to come into school at 2—3 p.m. Enjoy helping your child to make an Easter Bonnet.

Tuesday 24th March—Easter Craft Day for KS2. Parents are invited to come into school at 2—3 p.m. Enjoy helping your child to make an Easter Bonnet.

Friday 27th March—Easter Bonnet Parade. Children to bring their decorated bonnets into school for an Easter Parade.

**Friday 27th March school closes at 3 00 p.m. and reopens for teaching  
purposes at 8.50 am on Monday 13th April 2015**

## **POLLING DAY—7th May 2015**

The school will be used as a Polling Station in the General Election on Thursday 7th May and therefore will be **closed** for teaching purposes. It will re-open as normal on Friday 8th May 2015.

Thank you for making our Walk to School campaign such a success! The children are really reaping the health benefits from walking and enjoying receiving badges each month in assembly. Class 2 have been Champions every month so far!

Come on Classes 1, 3 and 4 give them a challenge!!



### **FOOD BANK**

Following the huge success of the previous collection for the local Food Bank, the Mini SVP group are once again asking for your help in donating non perishable foods, e.g. tins, packets of dried food, etc

Their aim is to present as much food stuff to those local families in need in the name of all the children, staff and parents of Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School. There is a box situated in the main entrance of the school for your donations.

Please support this worthwhile project.

Thank you.



## HOMEWORK

We would like to ask parents if they could check their child's bag for any homework which needs to be completed. The following gives you an idea of when homework is set:

### Reception/Y1:

Reading books are sent home each evening in a reading folder/book bag. In addition to a reading book the children have a number/literacy sheet to complete and hand in for Tuesday.

### Y1/2

Each Wednesday a list of spellings and literacy/number activities will be sent home for the following Tuesday. Recommended reading time: Y1: 5 – 10 minutes per night. Y2: 10 minutes per night.

### Y3/4

Recommended reading time: Y3/4: 15mins. per night Every Wednesday the children will also take home a spelling list/tables work and a maths/literacy sheet to complete for Monday.

### Y5.

A minimum of 20 minutes per night should be spent on reading/discussion. The children will also take home spellings, literacy and numeracy activities each week. Homework will be set on Wednesday and collected in on Monday.

### Y6

Y6 children will be expected to read at least 30 minutes per night. Spellings, literacy and numeracy activities will be given each week on Wednesday for the following Monday.

*Each child has received a Homework Pack so they have the necessary equipment to complete any homework set by the school. This pack includes:*

*Pencil case, handwriting pen, pencil, pack of coloured pencils, pack of crayons, eraser, pencil sharpener, scissors, glue stick, ruler, plain jotter and a lined book.*

*All of the above will be replaced by the school on production of the empty, broken or used items.*

We would like to remind you that the school **does not** permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children. Girls are encouraged to have long hair tied back.



## Holocaust Remembered

At 11 a.m. on Tuesday 27th January 2015 all children and staff congregated in the school yard to say a prayer and remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.



**Medicines**— If it is necessary for a child to be given prescribed medicine during school time, parents must complete the necessary forms which are available from the school office. Thank you.

[www.olsots.durham.sch.uk](http://www.olsots.durham.sch.uk)

*We have recently updated our website (address above) with Curriculum maps, events and photographs. Please take the time to have a look and let us know if there is anything you would like to see in future updates.*

*Thank you.*





Breakfast Bonanza is our breakfast club which is open daily for the children to come along and enjoy eating together at the start of the day.

The breakfast club is open from 8.00 a.m.— 8.40 a.m. each morning. Please do not send your child into school before this time as there will be no supervision for your child on the school premises.

A variety of breakfast items are available, e.g. cereal, toast, pancakes, crumpets, juice and milk for £1 per child per day (payable in advance on a Monday morning)



Can we please remind everyone that **the School Uniform is:**

black trousers or skirt (pinafore if preferred),

pale blue polo shirt (available from school).

royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (available from school).

**black school shoes must be worn**

white socks or

black or royal blue woollen tights for girls

grey socks for boys

**In summer:**

girls may wear a blue gingham dress or pale blue polo shirt, black skirt and white socks

boys may wear a pale blue polo shirt, black trousers or black shorts and grey socks.

**PE uniform:**

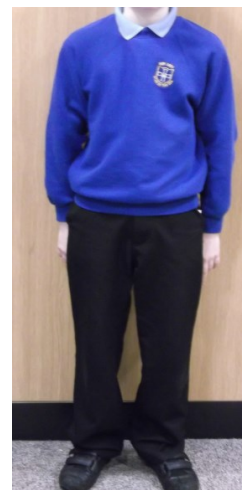
Plimsolls KS1, trainers KS2

Royal blue PE shorts

White T-shirt

This should be brought to school on a Monday morning and may be taken home on Friday afternoon.

All items of clothing – including shoes and wellingtons – should be clearly marked with the child's name.



## School holidays for the 2014/2015 academic year

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching
Summer 2014	Friday 18 July 2014	Tuesday 2 September 2014
Autumn half term 2014	Thursday 23 October 2014	Monday 3 November 2014
Christmas 2014	Thursday 18 December 2014	Monday 5 January 2015
Spring half-term 2015	Friday 13 February 2015	Monday 23 February 2015
Easter 2015	Friday 27 March 2015	Monday 13 April 2015
May Day 2015	Friday 1 May 2015	Tuesday 5 May 2015
Summer half term 2015	Friday 22 May 2015	Tuesday 2 June 2015
Summer 2015	Friday 17 July 2015	To be determined

Please note: Five days within the above school terms are to be used for school training activities.

Training Days:	Monday	1st September 2014
	Friday	24th October 2014
	Friday	19th December 2014
	Monday	1st June 2015
	Monday	20th July 2015

A quick reminder that new guidelines regarding headlice state schools should not be sending out 'alert letters' to parents when an incidence of headlice is reported.

However, can we urge parents to carry out regular checks on their child's hair. Should you require any advice on treating headlice please contact the school nurse (03000 261700) or your nearest pharmacy.