

Issue 13
January 2016



Our Lady Star of the Sea Newsletter

Spring 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of myself, staff and governors I wish you a very happy and healthy New Year and a successful 2016.

As you know the school implemented the New Primary Curriculum in 2014 and new assessment system in 2015. As a consequence of the new assessment system the school will no longer inform parents the level children have achieved at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2, rather you will be informed whether your child has achieved or not achieved the 'standard' for their particular year group. Further explanation will be provided during parent/teacher meetings and in the end of year school report. The school will endeavour to make the changes from levels to 'standard' as clear as possible.

Many thanks to all parents and parishioners who contributed money at the end of the Christmas Carol Service. This money was well spent (*see article within the Newsletter and in the Northern Cross Newspaper*) by the Mini-SVP who purchased food for the Feed Project in Peterlee. Your kindness and generosity, as always, was much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Miss J. Jones (Exec. Headteacher)

	Club	Year Group
Monday	Fencing Club 3–4 p.m.	Y5/Y6
Tuesday	Reading Club 3- 4 p.m. Literacy Booster Class 3–4 p.m.	Y2 Y6
Wednesday	Games and Puzzles 3 - 4 p.m. Numeracy Booster Class 3–4 p.m.	Rec, 1 and 2 Y6
Thursday	Change for Life multi skills 3 - 4 p.m.	3, 4 and 5
Thursday	Football Training 3.15- 4.15 p.m.	3, 4, 5 and 6
Friday	SVP	Nominated Juniors

Dates to remember!

Monday 8 February

International Day — the children will be involved in a carousel of activities to celebrate Chinese New Year.

School closes at 3.00pm on Friday 12th February 2016

for the start of the half term holidays

School re-opens for teaching purposes at

8:50 a.m. on Monday 22nd February 2016

Tuesday 1st March

Y3/4 Football Tournament at Soccarena, Durham
(10.00—12 noon. Team to be advised)

Thursday 3 March

Mother's Day Lunch in School Hall followed by coffee/tea served in the Meeting Room as part of Fair Trade fortnight

Friday 4 March

Reception class vision tests in school (info to follow)

Tuesday 8 March

Y1/2 Football Tournament at Soccarena, Durham
(10.00—12 noon. Team to be advised)

Wednesday 16 March

Classes 1 and 2 Family Easter Craft Afternoon
from 2—3 p.m.

Wednesday 17 March

Classes 3 and 4 Family Easter Craft Afternoon
from 2—3 p.m.

Tuesday 22 March

Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Competition

Wednesday 23 March

Y6 pupils to Youth Ministry Trust Retreat
(overnight stay, more information to follow)

Wednesday 23 March

Class 3 — Dance Festival (times and venue to follow)

School closes at 3.00pm on Thursday 24th March 2016

for the start of the Easter holidays

School re-opens for teaching purposes at

8:50 a.m. on Monday 11th April 2016

ADVANCED WARNING

The school will be used as a Polling Station in the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections on Thursday 5th May 2016 and therefore will be closed for teaching purposes on this day.

Mrs Huntington and the SVP Group

Our Key Stage Two children held a carol concert featuring the story of the Nativity in our local parish church.

The concert was enjoyed by parents and members of the parish. In this time of need in the local area it was decided to hold a retiring collection and donate the proceeds to the East Durham "Feed Project".

In total £200 was raised from the collection and arrangements were made for the SVP group to visit Asda in Peterlee to do a mammoth shop. The children shopped thoughtfully in order to provide valuable food parcels for the project. Special attention was given to the time of the year and some seasonal provisions were included. The donation was gratefully received by the staff from The East Durham Trust. A huge thank you to all who donated so generously



Christmas Activities 2015



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.



There have been some issues reported by youngsters using the ooVoo app, who have received offensive and sexually explicit contacts from strangers.

Children and parents should be advised that the app is not suitable for children under the age of 13 and that the default privacy settings (which allow complete strangers to videoconference with the user) can render it quite hazardous even to older children.

ooVoo 's terms and conditions limit the use of the app to children over 13. However this does not make its use illegal, just in breach of their agreement with ooVoo.

We would like to remind parents to regularly check their children's devices, discuss the use of social media apps with their children and to ensure parental controls are enabled on devices.

For older children it would be wise to change the privacy settings so that they set them so no strangers can contact them. In the settings section, go to 'Privacy & Security' and it asks 'When people search ooVoo, who can find me?' They should then either select 'People who know my email address or ooVoo ID' or 'No one' .

If a child reports either receiving or being asked to share sexually explicit images this should be regarded as a safeguarding concern, the device should not be used (to preserve any evidence) and your local police should be informed in the usual way.

A reminder to parents:



Although we no longer send out 'alert letters' to parents when an incidence of headlice is reported, we would like to remind you to check your child's hair on a weekly basis. If you require any advice on treating headlice, please contact the school nurse on 03000 261700 or your nearest pharmacy.
Thank you!

Advice for Parents
Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School
The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

Parents have a **legal duty** to ensure that their child receives full time education. You must ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time .

You will be **committing an offence** if your child fails to attend their place of education regularly and punctually, and if your child's school has not given authorisation for the absences or late arrival.
You can be prosecuted for this offence

A fixed Penalty Notice can be issued where unauthorised absences occur due to:

- Holidays in term time
- Persistent late arrival after the register has closed
- Overt truancy (including pupils found during truancy sweeps)
- Inappropriate, parentally condoned absence.

For further advice or support on attendance issues, please contact either the school or the Education Welfare Officer in the ONE Point Service on 03000 26 11 11

Can we please remind everyone that **the School Uniform is:**
black trousers or black skirt (black 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

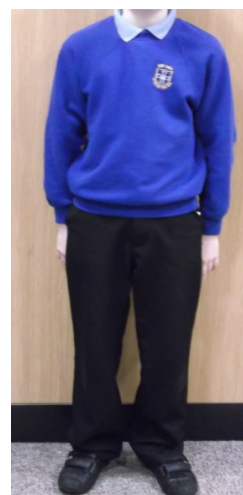
black or royal blue woollen tights for girls

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 2016

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching
Spring half-term 2016	Friday 12 February 2016	Monday 22 February 2016
Easter 2016	Thursday 24 March 2016	Monday 11 April 2016
May Day 2016	Friday 29 April 2016	Tuesday 3 May 2016
Summer half term 2016	Thursday 26 May 2016	Monday 6 June 2016
Summer 2016	Wednesday 20 July 2016	Tuesday 6th September 2016
Autumn half-term 2016	Friday 21st October 2016	Monday 31st October 2016
Christmas 2016	Friday 16th December 2016	Wednesday 4th January 2017

Training Days:	Friday	27th May 2016
	Monday	5th September 2016
	Monday	19th December 2016
	Tuesday	3rd January 2017
	Monday	10th April 2017
	Friday	21st July 2017

A gentle reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school premises.

Thank you.

