

Issue 16
March 2017



Our Lady Star of the Sea Newsletter

Spring 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks to all parents/carers who ensure that their child/ren regularly attend school. As you know it is vitally important that children have at least good attendance in order to ensure that they progress well with their education.

Good attendance is considered to be 95% this means that over the year children have no more than 10 days absence.

Our school's aim is to have all children with at least 95% attendance over each academic year.

In order for us to achieve this we need your help and support. We would therefore appreciate it if you did not arrange holidays during term time and that children are not 'kept off school' for minor ailments. Obviously, we understand that at times children are not well enough to attend school and we would not expect them to do so.

The children have been told at the beginning of the academic year that any child with 95% attendance or above will be taken on a free trip to Cineworld at Dalton Park. It would be great if every child in the school had 95+% attendance so that we could arrange to take every child.

Looking forward to improved attendance.

Best Regards

Miss Jones

Dates to remember!

Tuesday 21 March	Basketball Competition for selected Y5/6 children—East Durham College
Wednesday 22 March	Mother's Day lunch in school
Thursday 23 March	Class 2 to visit 'Seven Stories', Newcastle
Saturday 25 March	First Reconciliation Service for children making First Holy Communion (time to be advised)
Tuesday 28 March	Class 2 to Dance Festival, Glebe Centre, Murton (after lunch)
Monday 3 April	KS2 Easter Craft afternoon in school from 2 p.m.—parents welcome!
Tuesday 4 April	KS1 Easter Craft afternoon in school from 2 p.m.—parents welcome!
Wednesday 5 April	Music Concert, Welfare Hall, Horden (more information to follow)
Thursday 6 April	Easter Bonnet and Egg Decoration Assembly

**School closes at 3.00pm on Friday 7th April 2017
for the start of the Easter holidays
School re-opens for teaching purposes at
8:50 a.m. on Monday 24th April 2017**

After School Clubs

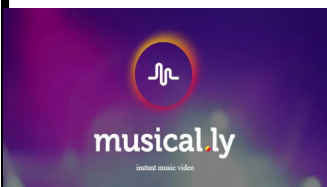
Day	Club	Year Group
Monday		
Tuesday	Games and Puzzles 3–4 p.m.	Rec, 1 and 2
Tuesday	Science Club 3–4 p.m.	5
Tuesday	Literacy Booster session 3–4 p.m.	6
Tuesday	Art Club 3–4 p.m.	3 and 4
Wednesday	ICT Club 3–4 p.m.	3, 4 and 5
Wednesday	Maths Booster session 3–4.30 p.m.	6
Wednesday	First Holy Communion preparation	
Thursday	Peterlee & District Football League	School Team
Friday	SVP	Nominated Juniors
Friday	Gardening Club 3.15 - 4.15 p.m.	Volunteers/Parents

esafety

Musical.ly App

What parents need to know

As yet another app that has caught the imagination of over 70 million people world-wide, Musical.ly allows teens to make and share 15 second music videos. These feature users lip-syncing to the latest songs provided by the app, singing their own songs or doing comedy skits.



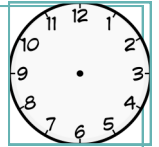
7 things you can do to keep them safe on the app

1. Talk to them about Cyberbullying - Users can leave comments on videos posted so, this may leave your child open to receiving negative messages. Giving them guidance about what to do if they are cyberbullied or see other being cyberbullied will help them to keep themselves safe.
2. Make their musical.ly account private – make sure that your child sets their account to be private by going to the cog icon on the right hand side and selecting ‘settings’.
Once in ‘settings’ scroll down to ‘Private account’ option and turn it on. This will ensure that all videos that are posted can only be seen by approved followers but the profile will stay public.
3. Make sure they are Share Aware – help them to think more carefully about what they post and who it may be seen by so that they protect themselves.
4. Get familiar with the community guidelines – to make sure you know what is and isn’t accepted on the app you and your child can read through the guidelines to help them to be informed about what they can and can’t do on the app.
5. Switching ‘hide location info’ option on – this will make sure that their location is not shown when they post a video
6. Make sure they know accounts cannot be totally deleted – there is currently no option to delete a musical.ly account but this may be available in the future.
7. Be aware of explicit songs on the app – some of the songs featured on the musical.ly app may have explicit language ... and sexual content that may not be suitable for your child. It is best to review the app together with your child beforehand. More information can be found on the school website.

Our school website address is
www.olsots.durham.sch.uk

Lateness

School starts at 08:50 a.m.



Your child will receive a late mark if they arrive after this time. The register closes at 09:00 a.m. If your child arrives after this time, they will receive an unauthorised absence mark.

-ooOoo-

If Your Child Is Absent You Must:

Contact school on the
first morning of absence by 10 a.m.



Send a note into school when your child returns
with the reason for absence.

Keep school informed on a regular basis if your
child is absent for a long period.

**Failure to do these things may result in your child's absences
being unauthorised**

Unauthorised absences can be recorded on the register when there is no valid reason given for absences, a holiday not approved by the school, lateness after the register closes or illness without medical evidence.

-ooOoo-

Medical Appointments

If it is possible, any appointment should be made out of school time. If this is not possible, your child should miss the minimum amount of school time necessary.



**If your child is
well enough to go back to school following the
appointment they should do so.**

School holidays for the 2016/2017

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching
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
Spring half-term 2017	Friday 17 February 2017	Monday 27 February 2017
Easter 2017	Friday 7 April 2017	Monday 24 April 2017
May Day 2016	Friday 28 April 2017	Tuesday 2 May 2017
Summer half term 2016	Friday 26 May 2017	Monday 5 June 2017
Summer 2016	Thursday 20 July 2017	To be determined
Training Day	Monday 10th April 2017 Friday 21st July 2017	

Our Year 3/4 children in their new strip represented our school at a football festival at Soccarena in Durham.





WORLD BOOK DAY
2ND MARCH 2017

School Uniform for Summer is:

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.

Black school shoes must be worn

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.



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!

Activities from last term





Here are just a few photographs taken at some of the many events the children attended last term. They include:

Peterlee Fire Brigade visit to discuss Bonfire Night safety, Class 2 visit to Tweddle Farm, SVP children handing over the donations to the FEED project, Christmas Jumper and Christmas lunch day, Key Stages 1 and 2 Christmas Craft afternoons, Key Stage 1 visit to Beamish, Key Stage 1 Christmas Party, International Day with children making Polish dumplings, Key Stage 1 Nativity play, Key Stage 2 residential to the Youth Village and Class 4 completing a first aid course.

HEALTHY PACKED LUNCH



Fruit and
Vegetables

Include at least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetables or salad every day



Meat &
Alternatives

Meat, fish or another source of non-dairy protein should be included every day. Non dairy sources of protein include lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, hummus, peanut butter and falafel.



Oily Fish

Include oily fish, such as salmon, at least once every three weeks.



Starchy Food

A starchy food such as any type of bread or pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes or other cereals, should be included every day



Milk and
Dairy Food

Include a dairy food such as semi-skimmed or skimmed milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais or custard everyday



Drinking Water

Free, fresh drinking water should be available at all times.



Healthier Drinks

Include only water, still or sparkling, fruit juice, semi-skimmed or skimmed milk, yoghurt or milk drinks and smoothies

Avoid including these foods in packed lunches



Snacks and
Confectionery

Chocolate bars, chocolate coated biscuits and sweets.



Meat Products

Meat products such as sausage rolls, pies, corned meat and sausage/chipolatas should be included only occasionally

Homework



Well done to Lucy Naisbett—the winner of the homework raffle draw last term. Lucy won a family ticket to Cineworld, Dalton Park. Well done Lucy!!

Class homework will continue to be handed out every Wednesday for completion ready to be handed into school the following Monday.

Years 1—6 will have spellings to learn each week and we also ask that your child reads with an adult for at least 10 minutes a day.

We will continue to hand out raffle tickets to everyone who completes and returns their homework on time. A raffle ticket is drawn every week for each class with the winner receiving a small prize. At the end of each term a draw is made and one lucky child gets to share an adventure with their family (e.g. trip to Lickerty Split, cinema tickets, ice skating, Tweddle Farm passes) as a thank you for your support.

Mr Danny Dunleavy—Chair of Governors

We would like to send our grateful thanks to Mr Dunleavy who has been a governor at Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary for over twenty five years.

He has given his time and experience on a voluntary basis to ensure the wellbeing of the staff and children in the school.

We hope Mr Dunleavy knows how much he is appreciated by everyone in the school.

