

Issue 18
October 2017



Our Lady Star of the Sea Newsletter

Autumn 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks to all parents/carers who responded to our recent 'Parent Survey'. We appreciate all your comments and suggestions and are delighted to see that 100% of parents feel that their children are happy in school and are making good progress.

We have included the analysis of the survey in this news letter for your information and I will be discussing the contents with staff and governors.

In response to areas we could improve on:

- ◆ the school currently is unable to offer nursery provision due to having no classroom or toilet facilities for this age group.
- ◆ Curriculum information is provided on the school website in the form of Curriculum Maps — copies of the curriculum maps for each year group will be sent out to parents.
- ◆ More trips and experiences — the school tries very hard to ensure that all children are offered quality trips and opportunities — in 2016-17 we spent over £8500 on school trips and enrichment opportunities. All trips, for the last 6 years, have been fully funded by the school except for Y5/6 residential trips which have been either free or heavily subsidised. The school will continue to make every effort to provide quality trips and opportunities for all pupils.
- ◆ School meals: The school works closely with Taylor Shaw Catering to ensure that all children have a wide selection of choices. Any issues regarding school meals will be passed onto Taylor Shaw to be addressed.
- ◆ Wrap around care: The school is currently unable to provide wrap around care - this is due to staffing and cost, however, we will look into provision requirements and costs for parents.
- ◆ After school clubs: The school endeavours to provide quality after school club provision, however, due to the small number of staff and rooms available this is limited. There are currently no charges for after school clubs and this limits opportunities to employ additional coaches.
- ◆ More facilities on the playground — £2000 was spent in Spring 2017 on playground equipment as requested by Playground Leaders.
- ◆ More Sport activities — 2016/17 £9,777.76 was spent on Sports and children were involved in football, tag rugby, gymnastics, dance, judo, hula hooping, basketball and cross country. This would be considered good in any setting.

Once again many thanks for your feedback - we will look closely at what we can do to improve further.

Miss J. Jones (Exec. Headteacher)

Dates to remember!

**School closes at 3.00pm on Friday 20th October 2017
for the start of the half term holidays
School re-opens for teaching purposes at
8:50 a.m. on Monday 30th October 2017**

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Wednesday 1 November | Parents Evening |
| Thursday 16 November | Y6 to Safety Carousel, Newton Aycliffe |
| Thursday 23 November | Reception Children hearing tests in school |
| Friday 24 November | Class 3 to Youth Ministry Liturgy |
| Monday 27 November | Flu immunisation for children in years R — 4 (further information to follow) |
| Wednesday 29 November | Christmas Fair at 3 p.m. |
| 4 December | Bikeability lessons—Class 4 |
| Monday 11 December | KS1 (Classes 1 and 2) Craft afternoon 2—3 p.m. |
| Tuesday 12 December | KS2 (Classes 3 and 4) Craft afternoon 2—3 p.m. |
| Wednesday 13 December | KS2 Carol Concert at Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Church (TO BE CONFIRMED WITH FR. NEYLAN) |
| Thursday 14 December | Y6 Residential trip to the Youth Ministry Trust |
| Friday 15 December | Christmas Jumper Day |
| Tuesday 19 December | KS1 (Classes 1 and 2) to Beamish, Christmas Traditions |
| Tuesday 19 December | KS2 (Classes 3 and 4) Party Day |
| Wednesday 20 December | KS1 (Classes 1 and 2) Party Day |
| Thursday 21 December | Whole School to Sunderland Empire 9—12:30 p.m. 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pantomime |

**School closes at 3.00pm on Thursday 21st December 2017
for the start of the Christmas holidays
School re-opens for teaching purposes at
8:50 a.m. on Monday 8th January 2018**

esafety



Meet our E-cadets!



This year in school, our ICT club have decided to become part of the E-Cadet programme which is an online scheme that trains and supports our pupils to become the school's online safety experts.

This is achieved through online activities and challenges. Each activity includes a training film and editable resources. Our E-Cadets then present to their classmates and together the whole school will learn valuable skills for a safe digital life.



Meet our Parent Governors



Miss Kay Chapman has been a Parent Governor in the school since December 2015.

Miss Chapman has one child in our school.



Mrs Gemma Parish is our newest Parent Governor. She volunteered to become a Governor at the end of the summer term.

Mrs Parish has two children in the school.

We look forward to working with Mrs Parish.

School holidays for the 2017/2018

| <i>Holiday</i> | Closing Date | Date re-open for teaching |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Summer 2017 | Thursday 20 July 2017 | Tuesday 5 September 2017 |
| Autumn half-term 2017 | Friday 20 October 2017 | Monday 30 October 2017 |
| Christmas 2017 | Thursday 21 December 2017 | Monday 8 January 2018 |
| Spring half-term 2018 | Friday 9 February 2018 | Monday 19 February 2018 |
| Easter 2018 | Wednesday 28 March 2018 | Monday 16 April 2018 |
| May Day 2018 | Friday 4 May 2018 | Tuesday 8 May 2018 |
| Summer half term 2018 | Friday 25 May 2018 | Monday 4 June 2018 |
| Summer 2018 | Friday 20 July 2018 | Tuesday 4 September 2018 |

Training Days

Monday 4th September 2017

Friday 22nd December 2017

Thursday 29th March 2018

Friday 13th April 2018

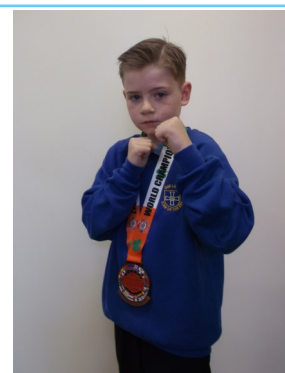
Monday 23rd July 2018



We send huge congratulations to Bradley Birks, one of our Y5 pupils, for his outstanding achievement in the recent Creative/Traditional Weapons section of the WMO World Championships 2017 held in Dublin, Northern Ireland.

Bradley (pictured here wearing his bronze medal) came up against competitors from all over the world.

Well Done Bradley!!!



The results of the recent Parents Survey are set out below. We sent out 79 survey (one per family) and had 24 returned (30.4%) by the set date of 21st September 2017. Thank you for your responses.

| Statement | Strongly Agree % | Agree % | Neither agree nor disagree % | Stongly disagree % | Disagree % | Other % |
|---|---------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| My Child(ren) is/are happy at school. | 18 - 75 | 6 - 25 | | | | |
| I believe my child(ren) is/are making good progress overall. | 12 - 50 | 12 - 50 | | | | |
| The arrangement for starting my child(ren) at school worked well. | 16 - 66 | 7 - 30 | | | | 1 - 4 |
| I believe the current level of school/parish co-operation is good. | 9 - 38 | 10 - 42 | 4 - 16 | | | 1 - 4 |
| I feel that my child(ren) is/are safe in school. | 17 - 71 | 6 - 25 | | | 1 - 4 | |
| The school keeps me well informed. | 14 - 58 | 9 - 38 | | | 1 - 4 | |
| I think a termly newsletter is a good idea. | 19 - 79 | 5 - 21 | | | | |
| I have enough opportunity to talk to the teaching staff about my child(ren) | 10 - 42 | 10 - 42 | 2 - 8 | | 2 - 8 | |
| Does your child attend any of the clubs or take part in sport training? (Yes/No) | | 4 - 17 | | | | 3 - 12 |
| I feel welcome when I visit the school. | 21 - 88 | 3 - 12 | | | | |
| The school shows it cares for my child(ren) | 19 - 79 | 5 - 21 | | | | |
| I would like more information about what is taught. | 10 - 42 | 8 - 34 | 2 - 8 | | 2 - 8 | 2 - 8 |
| The school has high expectations of my child(ren) | 12 - 50 | 9 - 38 | 3 - 12 | | | |
| I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches. | 14 - 58 | 10 - 42 | | | | |
| The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education. | 7 - 30 | 13 - 54 | 3 - 12 | | 1 - 4 | |
| The school enables my child(ren) to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education. | 7 - 30 | 15 - 62 | 2 - 8 | | | |
| The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)s progress in Religious Education. | 5 - 21 | 10 - 42 | 8 - 33 | | 1 - 4 | |
| The homework system is clear and efficient. | 12 - 50 | 8 - 34 | 2 - 8 | | 1 - 4 | 1 - 4 |
| I think my child(ren) get enough homework. | 12 - 50 | 10 - 42 | 1 - 4 | 1 - 4 | | |
| I have the opportunity to be involved in school life (if I want to be) | 12 - 50 | 11 - 46 | 1 - 4 | | | |
| I have helped in school (PTA, trips, classroom, etc) | | | | | | |
| The school asks for too much money from me. (Given that we try to keep this to a minimum already) | | | 3 - 12 | 13 - 54 | 8 - 34 | |

Parents Survey Feedback (contd)

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--------|-------|--|-------|
| My concerns/complaints are dealt with satisfactorily. | 12 - 50 | 5 - 21 | 4 - 17 | 1 - 4 | | 2 - 8 |
| As far as I am aware the school has a good reputation locally. | 11 - 46 | 13 - 54 | | | | |
| I would recommend the school to a friend. | 16 - 67 | 7 - 29 | 1 - 4 | | | |
| Do you know who our Parent Governors are? Yes/No | Yes 1 | No 23 | | | | |

Approximately how often do you come into school?

| Every day – twice a week % | Twice a week – twice a month % | Twice a month – twice a term % | Twice a term – 3 times a year % | Once a year - never | Other % |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 7 - 30 | 3 - 12 | 7 - 30 | 3 - 12 | | 4 - 16 |

1. What do we do well

- Make children feel welcome.
- Everything.
- This is a great school and the way you teach kids who need extra care is fantastic.
- Know each child as an individual.
- Highly approachable with any matter and helpful.
- Good level of trips and activities.
- School plays/music sessions have been amazing.
- All staff are always nice and well mannered, friendly, approachable and caring.
- Reporting head/facial accidents/incidents.
- Trips and activities for the children.
- Christmas/end of year plays.
- Breakfast Club/After School clubs/Sports Day/Schools Fairs.
- Excellent, outstanding admin staff
- Very friendly, approachable, knowledgeable Headteacher
- Mrs Taylor always gets things done.
- Make my children happy.
- Our child feels happy and safe, making excellent progress and excited to learn.
- Communicate well with parents.
- Give the children good opportunities to learn.
- Homework is given weekly.
- Concerns are addressed promptly.

2. What we don't do well

- Child expressed they don't get enough homework.
- Nothing at all.
- Would like further information/guidance on what is being taught.
- Never informed when my child has been hurt in school.
- I don't feel like I am informed regularly enough about progress
- Safety – checking children to parents.
- Communication parents send into school not passed efficiently to correct person.
- Homework could be explained better.
- Not enough after school choice for little ones.
- Change child's reading books more frequently.



Parents Survey Feedback (contd)

3. We would welcome your thoughts on the following: Assemblies for parents to attend/Friends of the School events, playground, etc

Just the correct amount of assemblies to attend but maybe need more notice of when they are happening.
More Friends of the School events, unsure which are FOS events.
I have enjoyed the events I have attended and look forward to more in the next year.
Assemblies are a very good way of finding out stuff and good to give our views.
Great idea if your child is getting a certificate.
Don't know if the Friends of the School is still going.
Although we enjoy things like Mother's Day lunch etc, I would like you to remember that some parents work full time.
More class based invites would be nice.
Family days/socials/BBQ/games would be nice.
Would like to have seen 'Who let the dogs out' performed in school.
More selection of fun things to play with at playtime/playground.
Assemblies drag on way too long, same thing repeated.
My children really enjoy the outside areas.
ICT/E-safety assemblies are an excellent way to pass on information.
Craft afternoons are fun and well attended.
Playground is well equipped for the children to have fun.
When having a new class teacher, have a meeting for parents to meet them and get to know their teaching methods.
Halloween disco, Children in Need
More incentives for children

4. Finally..... If you were able to do one thing to improve OLSOTS for as many children as possible over the next three years, what would it be?

The school would benefit from having a nursery.
Can't think of anything.
Maybe more regular reports home and awareness of curriculum
To continue to offer more opportunities to take part in more pastoral areas such as dance/arts and outdoor projects.
More trips and experiences.—Wouldn't mind contributing more for trips, camping etc.
More food/options at lunch.
More updates on progress.
Childcare/wrap around childcare until 6 p.m. with link to school holidays.
More options on after school clubs.
More facilities on playground.
More Sports activities.

Any further comments:

- Keyskills stages are not explained very well or classes/year groups.
- To be able to read a letter and not have to ring up and ask what certain things mean and have them explained in an everyday way would be nice.
- A lovely school, helpful and friendly staff who are keen to sort out any issues we have. Our child is happy, well fed and has lots of friends. The school is well equipped (resources/playtimes) and all trips are funded. Thank you for all you do.
- Couldn't answer some questions as my child has only been attending for a week when we received the survey.
- I have no complaints. My daughter really enjoys being at the school. I think the teachers' have got a lovely attitude – very welcoming and puts your mind at ease.
- I'm happy I chose this school for my daughter and she's making really good progress with her work. Thank you!

Results of Pupil's Survey on Awards Assembly

1. Did you enjoy our annual awards assembly with parents?

| | | | | |
|---------|-----|--------------|----|-----------|
| Class 1 | Yes | 19/20 (95%) | No | 1/20 (5%) |
| Class 2 | Yes | 24/25 (96%) | No | 1/25 (4%) |
| Class 3 | Yes | 28/29 (97%) | No | 1/29 (3%) |
| Class 4 | Yes | 21/21 (100%) | No | 0 (0%) |

2. What did you like most about the assembly? (A sample of comments taken from the survey)

- * Collecting my award
- * Seeing my family
- * Seeing my friend get a trophy
- * Because we were all together
- * People come and clap
- * The teachers have recognised you for your hard work
- * You get to keep the trophies
- * The idea of getting gift cards for attendance

3. What would you do to make the assembly even better? (A sample of comments taken from the survey)

- ◆ Sit on a mat
- ◆ Put music on
- ◆ Every single teacher should get an award
- ◆ Have a party
- ◆ Nothing
- ◆ Have more parents attend
- ◆ Give everyone a well done sticker
- ◆ Give trophies for school clubs, e.g. football and gardening

Activities from last term

Y2 Outdoor Challenge Day



Year 3—Road Safety



Sports Day!



Class 2 visited Hartlepool Marina dressed as pirates!



Horden In Bloom Winners receiving their prizes from Councillor Roberts



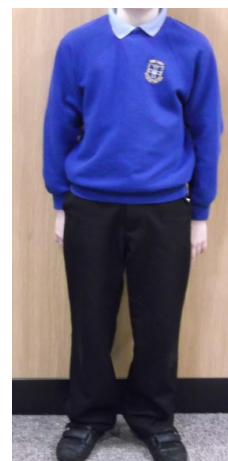
Alice in Wonderland



The School Uniform is as follows:

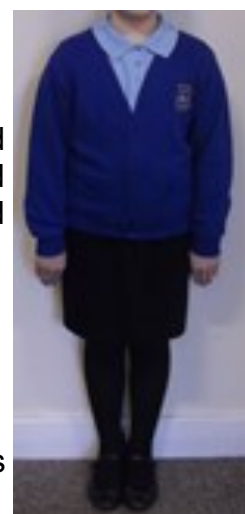
Winter (September – Easter):

Royal Blue School Sweatshirt with school logo or
Royal blue cardigan with school logo,
pale blue school polo shirt with school logo,
black trousers, or black skirt
black or royal blue tights
black school shoes.



PE kit:

Plimsolls or trainers, PE shorts (royal blue) and T-shirt (white) are essential for PE. This should be brought to school on a Monday morning and may be taken home on Friday afternoon.



Please ensure that all items of clothing – including shoes/wellingtons – are clearly marked with your child's name.

Jewellery

For Health and Safety reasons children are discouraged from wearing any form of jewellery unless it is specifically required for medical identification or religious purposes. Children who have their ears pierced are only allowed to wear studs and these must be removed by the wearer for swimming and PE lessons.

Extreme Haircuts

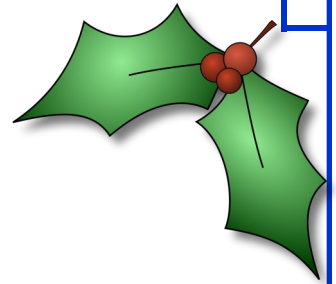
The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children.

Children are encouraged to have long hair tied back.



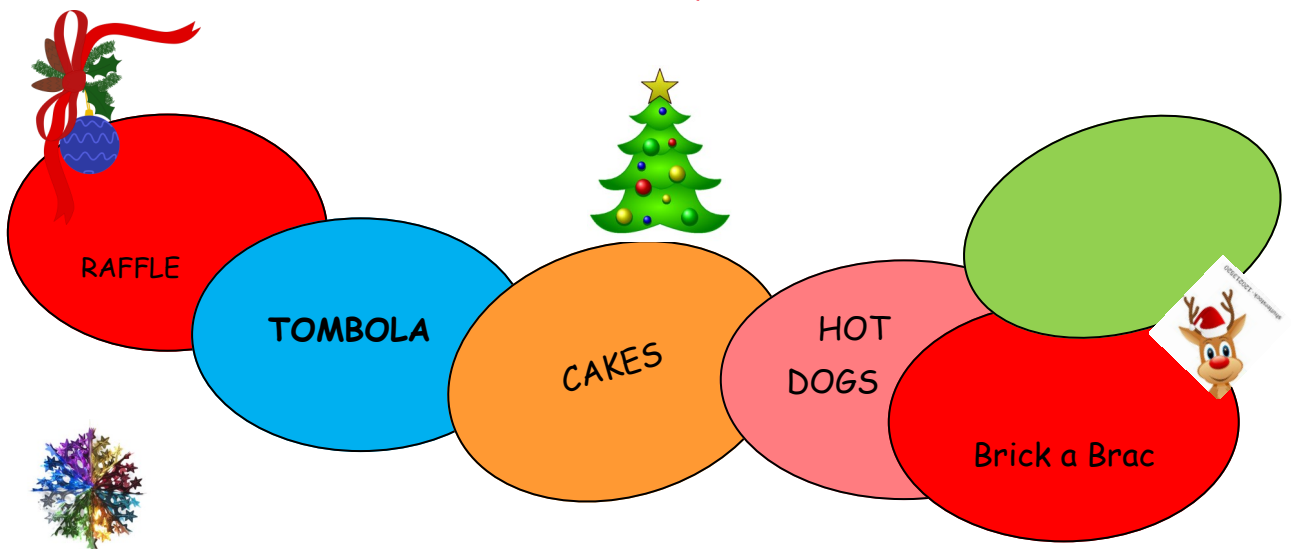


Christmas Fair



Wednesday 29th November 2017

at 3 p.m.



We would welcome any donations to our raffle, tombola and cake stalls. Please come along and support us in our effort to raise funds for the School Fund.

Homework

Well done to Ruby Milner-Jones — the winner of the homework raffle draw last term. Ruby won a family ticket to Lickerty Split. Although Ruby and family haven't used their ticket yet, Ruby said, "We are really looking forward to going."

Keep up the great work Ruby!!



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.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Mini Police

We are running a Mini Police programme in schools with our Y6 children. It is run by the Police Youth Development Workers and aims to educate our young people so they are better equipped to make good choices in life, develop a sense of community and allow them to feel a sense of achievement.

This is achieved through confidence building and team activities. It is a 7 week programme which will include a number of safety topics, a whole school presentation and a community organised event.

Please meet our Mini Police and their trainers.



A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes and turned up to our coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



We had a wonderful time and raised £400 for this magnificent cause.

