

Issue 17
May 2017



Our Lady Star of the Sea Newsletter

Summer 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know education is a vital part of all our lives. It provides us with the skills not only to cope with everyday life and problems, but, it gives us the skills to be confident, independent and successful citizens.

At OLSotS we strive to ensure that all our children receive the best possible education to succeed. Learning the basic skills in Literacy and Numeracy and applying these to other curriculum areas is only a part of what we teach our children. Conforming to school rules regarding wearing the school uniform, behaviour, attendance and punctuality and making the right choices are elements of your child's education that it essential to success.

In order to achieve this, children must:

- wear the school uniform and adhere to the Uniform Policy
- follow the school and class rules
- attend school regularly and have at least 95% attendance
- be punctual – arrive in school by 8:50am

Parents are therefore requested to make sure that children have good attendance and understand that rules and policies must be followed.

Any child with 95+% attendance at the end of this academic year will be treated to a free trip to Cineworld at Dalton Park.

Many thanks for all your support

Yours sincerely,

Miss J. Jones (Exec. Headteacher)

Dates to remember!

**School closes at 3.00pm on Friday 26th May 2017
for the start of the half term holidays
School re-opens for teaching purposes at
8:50 a.m. on Monday 5th June 2017**

Wednesday 7 June	Induction meeting for parents of children starting in Reception in September 2017 @ 5 p.m.
Thursday 8 June	School closed - POLLING DAY
Saturday 10 June	First Holy Communion Service
Tuesday 13 June	Sports Day starting at 1.p.m.
Monday 19 June	Healthy Eating and General Health Talk for Y6 (School Nurse)
Tuesday 20 June	International Day in school
Wednesday 21 June	Puberty Talk for Y6 (School Nurse)
Tuesday 27 June	Children starting school in September 2017 to visit (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.)
Tuesday 4 July	Children starting school in September 2017 to visit (9:30 - 2:30 p.m. to include lunch)
Tuesday 4 July	End of Year Production. There will be two performances of Alice in Wonderland at 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Friday 7 July	Music Concert in school (more information to follow)
Thursday 13 July	Awards Assembly by invitation only
Friday 14 July	Summer Fair starting at 3 p.m. in school

**School closes at 3.00pm on Thursday 20th July 2017
for the start of the Summer holidays
School re-opens for teaching purposes at
8:50 a.m. on Tuesday 5th September 2017**

esafety



Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School would like to remind parents that it does not allow pupils to bring mobile phones, tablets or cameras into the school as they can distract pupils from their learning and damage children's privacy.

If a child needs to bring a phone into school they should hand the phone to Mrs Watt/Fullard in the School Office for safekeeping during the school day. The school may impose sanctions on pupils who break these rules.

Parents will also want to help ensure that their children are safe when using their phone or tablet at home, and will want to know about what they are sharing online. Any Social Media site used by children will have inherent risks; the website **net-aware.org.uk** provides advice on many popular sites along with a suggested minimum age.

If our pupils see unpleasant or hurtful comments they have been taught to take a screenshot and show a trusted adult. Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School will treat cyberbullying seriously and may impose sanctions on pupils.

Our school website address is

www.olsots.durham.sch.uk

Remember to download the School App too!

Leave of Absence in Term Time

The law about Holidays/Leave of Absence in Term Time says that from 1st September 2013, Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Head Teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Under the Education Act 1996, parents commit an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular school attendance. Taking a child out of school for a holiday without permission is viewed as failing to ensure your child's regular attendance at school .

Durham County Council's Fixed Penalty Notice Protocol acknowledges that regular and punctual attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities.

Circumstances where a Penalty Notice might be issued include unauthorised holidays in term time. You can be prosecuted if you receive a fine and it is not paid.



Punctuality

After a visit to school from the Attendance Improvement Officer last week, we will be introducing the following procedures regarding punctuality.

School starts at 8:50 a.m. with registration closing at 9 a.m. If your child arrives at school after 8:50 a.m. but before 9.00 a.m. a late mark (L) will be entered on the register.

If your child arrives after 9.00 a.m. when registration is closed, a U will be entered on the register.

The Attendance Officer will be monitoring the punctuality of all students and if there are ten or more Us entered on the register in a rolling 12 week period, further action will be taken.

Please support us in our efforts to meet Government targets.



GENERAL ELECTION

The school will be used as a Polling Station in the
General Elections on
Thursday 8th June 2017
and therefore will be closed for teaching purposes on this
day.

School holidays for the 2017/2018

Holiday	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

Year 5 and 6 Residential Visit to Derwent Hill

19th—21st May 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

Safer Internet Day



Class 3 had a visit from Flat Stan First Aid. They were shown how to administer CPR and put their friends into the recovery position.



Easter Bonnet and Decorated Egg Day



Easter Craft Days



Mother's Day Lunch



World Book Day



Sporting Festivals Attended in Spring 2017



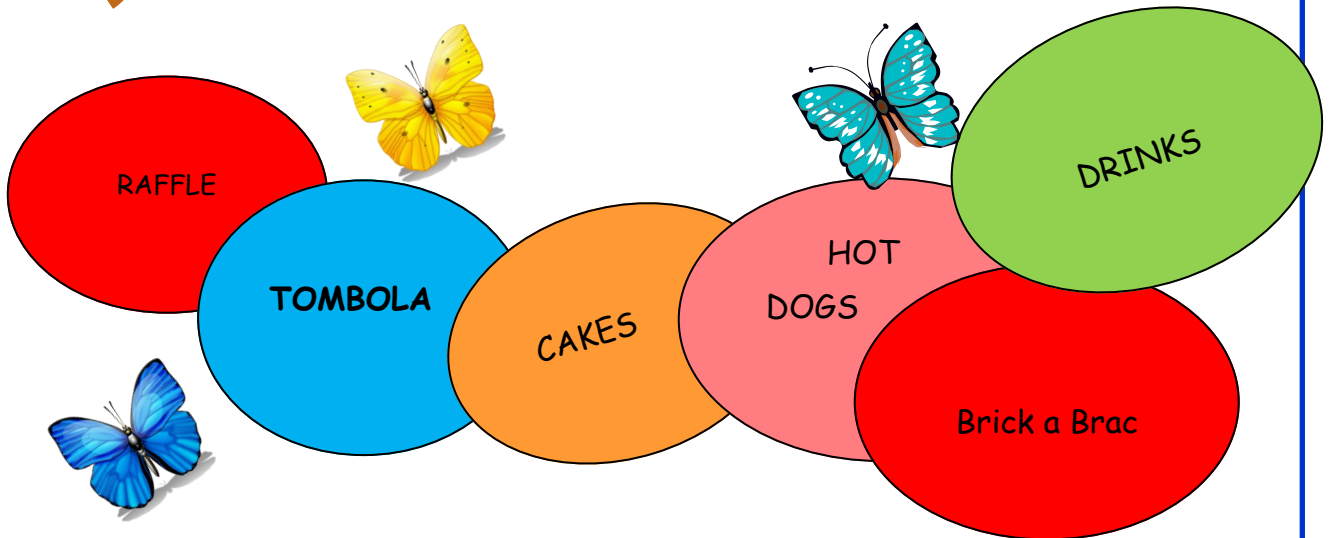
Y5/6 Basketball Festival, Y1/2
Football Festival at Soccarena, Y3/4
Football Festival at Soccarena and
Class 2 Dance Festival

Summer Fair

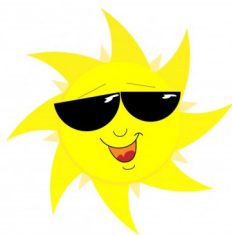


Friday 14th July

3 p.m.



Please come along and support us in our effort to raise funds for the School Fund.



The summer is on its way and we are looking forward to spending lots of time outside for playtimes and lessons! However on really hot days we can't offer the protection of shade to every child so it is incredibly important that children bring their sun hats into school every day.

We also ask that all children wear sun cream to school which is applied before they arrive in the morning as this offers protection during the school day.