

Issue 22
March 2019



Our Lady Star of the Sea Newsletter

Spring 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The school understands the importance of getting children into good routines and practices and has over the year continued to encourage children to:

1. Conscientiously carry out the school's expectations regarding Homework.

To support parents in this area we have provided Homework Guidelines to ensure that everyone knows what the expectations are. In addition, we have implemented a system of rewards to recognise the efforts children and family members make.

Despite our best efforts we continue to have groups of children who make little effort to do or hand in homework. Consequently, I remind all parents/carers of the importance of Homework – which helps to consolidate children's learning and prepares them to be independent learners.

Please ensure that homework is completed and returned to school every week.

2. Wear the school PE kit.

Every child in the school was provided with a school PE kit at the beginning of the year – parents are reminded that PE is very important for children's health and well-being.

*All children **must** bring a school PE kit into school and wear it during PE lessons.*

3. Conform to school Uniform Policy.

Please refer to guidelines provided inside this Newsletter.

*All children **must** adhere to the Uniform Policy of the school as agreed when children were admitted into the school.*

4. Have good attendance and punctuality.

It is extremely important that all children arrive in school on time and have good attendance. Children who are regularly late and have poor attendance often fall behind in their education.

The school is a warm, caring community and want the very best for your children. It is important that you ensure that your child/ren arrive in school before 8:50am and do not miss school through holidays of minor illnesses.

The school plans to reward all children who have 95+% attendance.

Please make sure your children arrive in school on time and attend school regularly.

Please support the school in the above matters since it will help to ensure that your child/ren develop good practices and make at least good progress.

Many thanks.

Miss J. Jones
Exec. Headteacher

Dates to remember!

Friday 15 March	Y3/4 Skipping Festival (9:30—11:45) at St. Bedes, Peterlee
Wednesday 27 March	Mother's Day Lunch (further details to follow)
Friday 29 March	Class 2 trip to Beamish
Monday 1 April	Class 1—Palm Sunday Assembly 9:00 a.m. Parents welcome.
Tuesday 2 April	Class 2—Last Supper Assembly 9.00 a.m. Parents welcome.
Tuesday 2 April	KS1 Easter Craft Afternoon — 2—3 p.m. Parents welcome.
Wednesday 3 April	Class 3—Garden of Gethsemane Assembly 9.00 a.m. Parents welcome.
Wednesday 3 April	KS2 Easter Craft Afternoon — 2—3 p.m. Parents welcome.
Thursday 4 April	Class 4B—Crucifixion Assembly 9:00 a.m. Parents welcome.
Thursday 4 April	Easter Bonnet Parade and Decorated Egg Competition Children have the opportunity to decorate hats and boiled eggs at home and bring into school for judging.
Friday 5 April	Class 4A—Resurrection Assembly 9:00 a.m. Parents welcome.

**School closes at 3 p.m. on Friday 5 April 2019
for the start of Easter holidays
School re-opens for teaching purposes at
8:50 a.m. Tuesday 23 April 2019**

Monday 13 May	Y6—SATs week begins
Friday 17 May	Y5/Y6 Residential trip to Lakeside (activities to include 'King Swing,' kayaking, archery, Crate stacking, etc)

TikTok app safety – What parents need to know

This social network app is from the creators of Musical.ly. As Musical.ly officially went offline earlier this year, TikTok (known as Douyin in China) has taken its place offering the user the ability to watch musical clips, create short clips up to 60 seconds and add special effects to them. All the content that was hosted on Musical.ly is now on TikTok. So if your child had a Musical.ly account they will now be able to access this content on TikTok.

What is TikTok? It's a social media app that gives users the opportunity to share 60 second short videos with friends, family or the entire world. Like Twitter-owned Vine and Musical.ly before it, videos shared range from funny sketches to lip-sync videos featuring special effects. Currently, the app is available in 34 languages with 150 million active users. Like Musical.ly before it, it is most popular with under 16s.

What can you find on the app? Videos featuring comedy sketches or lip-syncs featuring the latest songs or voices over extracts from films.

What is the minimum age for TikTok app? 13 is the minimum age according to TikTok's terms and conditions.

How does TikTok work? When you download the app, you can instantly see the videos that others have posted on the channel but are not able to share or post anything until you have set up your own account.

How to create an account

Click on the 'person' icon and you can choose to sign up with an email, phone or existing Google, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account. Once you have selected an option, you are then asked to enter your date of birth if it is below the age of 13, the app displays the following message: "Sorry, looks like you're not eligible for TikTok. But thanks for checking us out!" Your feed highlights what is going on in your community and a separate 'For you' feed shows tailored recommendation for you. There is also a digital wellbeing element which alerts users who have been on the app for more than 2 hours

What do other parents say about the app? **Seeing inappropriate content** - Parents have expressed concern around the inappropriate language of some of the video posted which may make this less suitable for younger children. **Contact from strangers** - Predators seeking to connect with children is another risk that parents have said their children.

What should parents be concerned about? When you download the app **users can see all the content without creating an account** although they are not able to post, like or share anything until they've set up an account on the app. You can set up your account by using your existing Google, Facebook, Instagram account, via email or phone. **By default all accounts are public** so anyone on the app can see what your child shares. However, only approved followers can send them messages. Users can like or react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other. There is the risk that **strangers will be able to directly contact children** on the app. Children may be **tempted to take risks to get more of a following** or likes on a video so it's important to talk about what they share and with who. To delete an account you have to request a code from the app using a phone number.

Does Tik Tok have any safety features? Like Facebook and Instagram, it has a **digital wellbeing element** (which is password protected) which alerts users who have been on the app for more than 2 hours. You can also turn on 'restricted mode' to filter out inappropriate content on the app. Also, you can **set an account to be private** so that all videos can only be seen by the creator and no one else on the platform. With a private account, you can approve or deny users and limit incoming messages to followers only. Please note that even with a private account, your child's profile photo, username, and bio are still visible to all users on the platform. You can **manage who can comment, duet and direct message** your child on the app

How to report inappropriate content on the TikTok app? You can **report content** that doesn't follow TikTok's **community guidelines** within the app, click here to find out how to do it on the app. You can **delete followers or 'Fans'** by choosing the fan you'd like to remove and selecting 'Block' from the menu of options.

Autumn Term was a very busy time in school. A very grateful 'thank you' to the Friends of the School' who organised and helped supervise Christmas Craft afternoons, Polar Express Film Night and the Autumn Film and Craft Night.



School holidays for the 2018/2019

<i>Holiday</i>	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching
Summer 2018	Friday 20 July 2018	Tuesday 4 September 2018
Autumn half term 2018	Friday 19 October 2018	Monday 29 October 2018
Christmas 2018	Thursday 20 December 2018	Monday 7 January 2019
Spring half-term 2019	Friday 15 February 2019	Monday 25 February 2019
Easter 2019	Friday 5 April 2019	Tuesday 23 April 2019
May Day 2019	Friday 3 May 2019	Tuesday 7 May 2019
Summer half term 2019	Friday 24 May 2019	Monday 3 June 2019
Summer 2019	Thursday 18 July 2019	Tuesday 3 September 2019

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

Training Days

Monday	3rd September 2018
Friday	21st December 2018
Monday	8th April 2019
Friday	19th July 2019
Monday	22nd July 2019

Winner of the Homework Raffle Ticket Draw



The winner of the homework raffle at the end of last term is Ava from Class 1. Ava's prize was a family ticket to the cinema at Dalton Park. Well done Ava, keep up the good work!

Raffle tickets will continue to be handed out to everyone who completes and returns their homework on time. A ticket will be drawn every week for each class with the winner receiving a small prize. At the end of each term a draw is made where one lucky child receives a prize to share with their family (e.g. farm passes, Lickety Split vouchers, ice skating vouchers, cinema tickets) as a thank you for their support.

Balanced packed lunches

Eating well is very important. Children need to eat well as it will give them energy and nutrients to grow and develop, be healthy and active. A healthy, enjoyable lunch gives children the energy they need to learn and play at school. Here is a quick reminder of what a packed lunch should include:

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 every day.

Drinking Water Free, fresh drinking water is 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.



After School Clubs this half term

Day	Club	Year Group/Class	Time
Tuesday	Football Training	Y4 and 5	3 – 4 p.m.
Tuesday	Maths Booster	Y6	3 – 4 p.m.
Wednesday	SVP	Nominated Juniors	3 – 4 p.m.
Wednesday	Art club	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	3 – 4 p.m.
Wednesday	Games & Puzzles	KS1 (Rec, Y1, Y2)	3 – 4 p.m.
Wednesday	Maths Booster	Y4	3 – 4 p.m.
Thursday	Story Writing	Y2	3 – 4 p.m.
Thursday	ICT Club	Y5 and 6	3 – 4 p.m.
Friday	Swimming Club	Y5 and 6	3.00—4.45 p.m.

School Uniform

The school prides itself on its uniform, however, we have a number of children coming in to school not wearing a proper school uniform. From Tuesday 23 April 2019 any child coming into school without the correct uniform will be given a letter and a copy of the school uniform policy — teaching staff will highlight any areas of concern on the policy.

Also, in order to alleviate issues in cloak areas we have asked the children to use school PE and book bags instead of oversized bags which are difficult to store in cloak areas. Can we please ask for your co-operation in this matter and request that large bags are not brought into school. The school will be happy to supply PE bags to those who need them.

The School Uniform is as follows:

Winter (September – Easter):

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

Summer (Easter – July):

As above or with the option of:
Black school shorts or blue and white Gingham Dress, White socks.

PE kit:

Plimsolls or trainers, PE shorts (royal blue) and T-shirt (white) will be required 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 and 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.

The school encourages parents who wish their children to have their ears pierced to do so at the beginning of the summer holidays.

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



An important reminder to parents

Although we should no longer send out 'alert letters' to parents when a case 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!

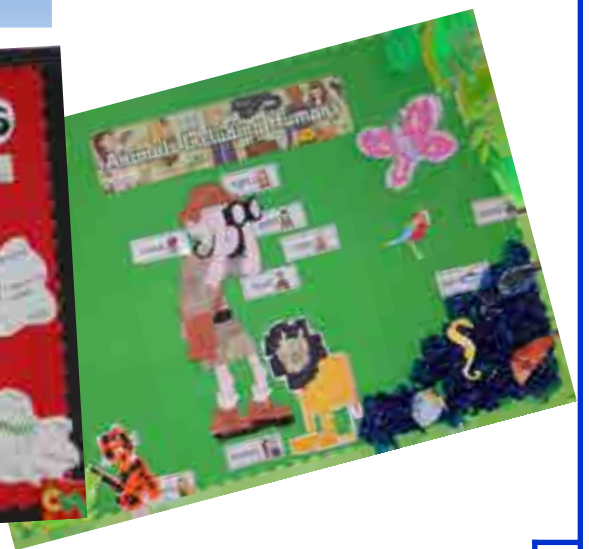
Take a look at some of the work the children are doing in class

C
L
A
S
S

1



Class 2



Class 3



Class 4A



Class 4B



Activities from last half term



Class 1 visited Our Lady Star of the Sea Church where Fr Neylan told them all about Baptism. They all got dressed for the occasion—didn't they look splendid!

They also made a visit to Down at the Farm in December. They stroked animals, played games and had a meeting with Santa!



Class 2 recreated scenes from *The Great Fire of London*



MacMillan Coffee Morning—what a wonderful turnout! The amazing sum of £500 was raised for this very worthwhile charity. A huge thank you to all who supported us.



World War I - One Hundred Years Ago! We held a whole school assembly to mark the centenary of the end of WWI. We sang songs and read stories from the period and recited poems and read prayers. All children had painted a 'poppy' stone which were placed in front of Our Lady creating the number 100.



As a whole school we took part in the European Languages Day where we got to decorate and model a T-shirt with words and drawings from a chosen European country. We had a talk from Peterlee Fire Brigade on the safety of Bonfire Night and an assembly with staff from the NSPCC.



December was an extremely busy time. Our choir took part in a festival at Ushaw College, the children in Key Stage 1 enthralled us with their Nativity play whilst Key Stage 2 children showed us all the true meaning of Christmas with their candle-lit Carol Service. We also had time to squeeze in a bit of fund raising with our Christmas Jumper Day—£100 was raised.



Fitness and Sport

Our Sports Award Board is filling up nicely with all of our talented youngsters. Keep up the good work!



The school football team being put through their paces at training with Brian Honour.



All pupils had a great time learning some judo moves with the coaches from Destination Judo.



Class 2 had a wonderful time at the Gymnastics Festival held at East Durham College.

Forest Schools/looking after our environment

Class 4B have been busy making heart decorations from pine cones. Don't they look attractive?



They have also been making fat balls to hang around school to ensure the birds don't go hungry.

Our bulb planting has been successful this year; making the school grounds look beautiful!



We have a new mud kitchen in the infant yard and nine new planters in the garden area. The children will be busy planting flower and vegetable seeds/bulbs over the next few weeks.



R.E. and Collective Worship



Fr. Hastie (Dean of the Parish) and Mrs Vicky Bramley visited our school to address the children from the Youth Council. They discussed ideas and vision of the Youth Council.



Class 4A display their work on the Bible for everyone to see.



Our Prayer Corner is open to staff and children for quiet time and prayer.



Our SVP Group meet every Friday with Mrs Huntington where the children discuss their journey through faith. The SVP are well known for their personal service of the poor and our junior members try to follow this example.