

Issue 25
February 2020



Our Lady Star of the Sea Newsletter

Spring 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The new School Council was elected on the 11th October 2019 and are now well established in the school. As a consequence of their meetings with staff and children they have identified a number of areas for improvement. These include:

- Review of the lunch menu
- Having juice with their dinners at lunchtime
- Wider variety of fruit for their snacks
- Winter PE kit
- Additional resources and equipment to play with at break times

Following discussions with the School Council and Management Team we have agreed to address the requests which have been made on behalf of the children.

We are now currently under discussion with Taylor Shaw Catering Services to create a menu which includes meals requested by the children and to provide a juice option during lunchtime meals.

The school has also included a wider variety of fruit which is available during Breakfast Club sessions.

At the request of the children we have also sourced and issued a winter PE kit to the children. Which is currently being stored in the school and will be used by the children during outside PE sessions in the winter, tournaments and school trips (when casual clothes are required). See photo in Sports section.

Additional resources and equipment for the school yard will be looked into when the new budget is set in May 2020. The school is currently looking into cleaning and resurfacing of the old school yard.

Many thanks to the School Council who have been excellent in carrying out their roles and have brought valuable suggestions to the attention of the school Management Team.

Additional news: The Year of the Word

The school has purchased a Bible for every child in Year 2 to Year 6. This is to support children during the *Year of the Word*. Children will be carrying out work in school based on Bible stories and will then be allowed to take the Bibles home.

We look forward to a very productive and happy 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Jones'.

Miss J. Jones
Exec. Headteacher

Dates to remember!

Tuesday 17 March	Mother's Day Lunch
Wednesday 18 March	Anthony Wooton - Children's Author in school
Monday 23 March	Y5/6 Cycling Proficiency starts in school (up to and including Thursday 26 March)
Wednesday 25 March	Service of Reconciliation at Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Church at 4 p.m. Everyone welcome to come along and support our children taking their First Holy Communion
Friday 27 March	Y4 Cycling Proficiency in school
Monday 30 March	KS1 Craft afternoon in school from 2 - 3 p.m. (Classes 1 and 2) Parents welcome
Tuesday 31 March	KS2 Craft afternoon in school from 2 - 3 p.m. (Classes 3 and 4) Parents welcome
Tuesday 31 March	Class 1 (Miss Reineck) Palm Sunday Assembly at 9 a.m. Parents welcome to attend.
Wednesday 1 April	Mass in school at 10 a.m. Everyone welcome to attend.
Thursday 2 April	Class 2 (Miss Hutton) Last Supper Assembly at 9 a.m. Parents welcome to attend.
Friday 3 April	Class 3 (Mr Laws) Good Friday Assembly at 9 a.m. Parents welcome to attend.
Friday 3 April	Easter Parade in school for staff and children. Easter bonnets and Decorated eggs to be displayed in the school hall.

**School closes at 3 p.m. on Friday 3 April 2020
for Easter holidays**

**School re-opens for teaching purposes at
8:50 a.m. Monday 20 April 2020**

Monday 20 April	Class 4 (Mrs Taylor) Resurrection Assembly at 2.30 p.m. Parent welcome to attend
Wednesday 6 May	Mass in school at 10 a.m. Everyone welcome to attend.
Thursday 7 May	Possible school closure for Police Commissioner Election. We will inform parents as soon as we are made certain of this Election taking place.



Safety Tips for Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping their social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them which more importantly! keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allowed time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Bath is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high-profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



NEW FOR 2020 FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This involves managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCE: www.tiktok.com



Our School Stars

Well done to two of our former pupils who have been celebrating success in their chosen secondary schools. This is what Shotton Hall had to say about Sheryl and Eden:

All Rounder – Sheryl

Sheryl is an exceptional young lady who comes into school with the best attitude to learning. Sheryl is an excellent friend and role model for other students; she is mature in her approach to studies having an excellent academic record. She balances this with the ability to make people smile and has an infectious laugh you can't help but join in with. Sheryl has thrown herself into every aspect of school joining drama club and attending all the school events. We consider ourselves extremely lucky to have Sheryl as part of our year 7 family.



Sept Awards – Eden

In the few months Eden has been at Shotton, she has embraced everything about Shotton life. She has joined numerous clubs and volunteered to help with various school events, taking in everything the school has to offer. Due to this, Eden has made a host of new friends here and it is fantastic to see her thrive. I can't wait to see what else Eden chooses to embrace as she continues through the school, but I know whatever she chooses it will be done with her whole heart.



Huge congratulations to Ethan and Darcy who came away with a host of medals from the National and World Martial Arts Championships. We are so lucky to have such talented children in our school. Well done to you both!



Our school football team was presented with a new strip from The Premier League Primary Stars. The team plays in the Peterlee and District Schools Football League and are putting in winning performances. We wish them well for the rest of the season.



School holidays for the 2019/2020 academic year

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-opens for teaching purposes
Summer 2019	Thursday 18 July 2019	Wednesday 4 September 2019
Autumn half term 2019	Friday 25 October 2019	Monday 4 November 2019
Christmas 2019	Thursday 19 December 2019	Monday 6 January 2020
Spring half-term 2020	Friday 14 February 2020	Monday 24 February 2020
Easter 2020	Friday 3 April 2020	Monday 20 April 2020
May Day 2020	Thursday 7 May 2020	Monday 11 May 2020
Summer half term 2020	Thursday 21 May 2020	Monday 1 June 2020
Summer 2020	Friday 17 July 2020	Tuesday 1 September 2020

An important reminder to parents

We would like to remind you to check your child's hair on a weekly basis for headlice. If you require any advice on treating headlice, please contact the school nurse on 03000 261700 or your nearest pharmacy.

Can we please ask all children with shoulder length hair or longer, to have their hair tied up in a hair bobble in order to try to prevent the spread of headlice. Thank you!



The school nurse will be in school and available to speak to on Thursday 12th March from 2.45 p.m. if you have any concerns.

After School Clubs commencing week beginning 20 April 2020

	Activity	Year Group	Time
Monday			
Tuesday	Cookery Club	Yr R and 1	3 – 4 p.m.
Tuesday	Bouldering Club	Yrs 3 and 4 (Class 3)	3 - 5.30 p.m.
Wednesday	Booster Class	Y6	3 – 4 p.m.
Wednesday	Games & Puzzles	Yr R, 1 and 2 (Class 1)	3 – 4 p.m.
Wednesday	Holy Communion	For children taking FHC	3 – 4 p.m.
Thursday	Homework Club	Yrs 5 and 6 (Class 4)	3 – 4 p.m.
Thursday	SVP	SVP Members	3 – 4 p.m.
Thursday	Writing Cub	Y2	3 - 4 p.m.
Friday	Book Club	Yrs 4, 5 and 6	3 – 4 p.m.
Friday	Gardening Club	Yrs 1 and 2 (Class 1)	3 – 4 p.m.

Information received from the DfE

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

Yesterday, DfE launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

Some samples of work covered in topics throughout the school this term



Featured Classes this term - Class 1 and Class 4
Take a look at some of the things we've been up to!





Fitness and Sport

The pupils have taken part in numerous activities in and around school. Here are just some of them:

Hoopstarz, Kickboxing, Zumba Kids, Archery, Kurling, Tag Rugby, Yoga and Gymnastics.

Other sports the children have taken part in include football, and judo.



Forest Schools/looking after our environment



The children have been ensuring the bug hotels are in good repair and making bird feeders.

They have also been learning how to make dens and shelters.

Mrs Bentham and the children have been chitting potatoes ready to plant out in the raised beds.

They have been taking care of our school environment by litter picking inside and outside of the school grounds.



R.E. and Collective Worship

After our recent Diocesan Inspection covering two days, the outcome for 'Catholic Life' and 'Collective Worship' was rated outstanding.

The report stated that:

"Our Lady Star of the Sea RCVA Primary is an outstanding Catholic school because:

The quality of Religious Education is good. Overall, good teaching and subject knowledge ensure that pupils make good progress over time. Pupils enjoy their learning and concentrate very well. Behaviour is exemplary.

Our Lady Star of the Sea is a very warm, welcoming and vibrant school where everyone shares the executive headteacher's clear vision. The mission and ethos of Catholic education is at the heart of this faith community

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding because the spiritual and personal development of pupils and staff underpins all that the school does. Pupils are actively involved in a range of activities which support the local and global community, contributing significantly to their moral, social and emotional development.

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. Worship is central to the life of the school. Pupils, guided by skilled staff, demonstrate the skills necessary to deliver high quality acts of worship."

We are all very proud of the findings and a copy of the full report can be viewed on our school website: olsots.durham.sch.uk



Remembrance Day - 11th November. The whole school reflected on the importance of 'Remembrance Day' and our Y6 children prepared a special collective worship which included a minutes silence.

The children in years 2 to 6 were given their own copy of the Holy Bible, supplied by Bibles for Children. Mr Dunleavy, Chair of Governors, came into a special assembly to present them.



The members of the SVP have been very busy as usual.

