



Spring Term 2024

15th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school, after what I hope has been a relaxing and enjoyable break. It was lovely to see the children return to school with such lovely smiles and enthusiasm.

As the new term begins, I would like to remind all families for the need to comply fully with the school uniform policy.

Following the request to consider the wearing of a school tie as part of the school uniform, the majority of the responses which were considered by Governors were that parents and carers would like the school shirt and tie to remain. Governors accepted this. Can I please ask that your child attends school wearing a school tie. If your child needs a replacement tie they are available to purchase in person at Little Gems, High Street West, Sunderland or online at <https://theschooloutfit.co.uk/>

Please ensure children wear black shoes/trainers only, no jewellery of any kind and long hair is tied up.

Also, the Winter term has started as you would expect; cold, dark and wet! With this in mind, please ensure that all children come to school with suitable warm clothing and waterproof coats and shoes. As a reminder, PE clothing can be worn to school on their PE days only. Plain black jogging bottoms only are to be worn. No logo clothing.

After School Clubs

This week sees the start of all of our afterschool clubs. Listed below are the additional activities that your child can participate in:

Please speak to the **office staff** if you would like any information on the clubs and activities.

Clubs listed below are for Spring (Term 1) 2024.

Monday	Violin	Years 5,6
	Gymnastics	Reception, 1,2,3,4,5,6
Tuesday	Violin	Years 3,4

	Clarinet	Years 4,5,6
	Mixed Sports	Reception,1,2,3,4,5,6
	Musical Theatre	Years 3,4,5,6
Wednesday	Football	Years 5,6
Thursday	Glow Stick Dance	Years 1,2
	Prayer Club	Years 3,4,5,6
Friday	Drum Club	Years 4,5,6
	Guitar Club	Years 4,5,6

Please ensure your child is enrolled before attending. Enrolment is available via ParentPay.

School Lunches

If your child is having school meals, please could we ask if every night you are able to go over the next day's menu to check with your child what they would like for lunch the following day – the menu is on our website and we are currently on Week 3 (we use a 3-week rolling menu). Should they not like what is available on a particular day, you are able to send your child in to school with a packed lunch for that day. Previously we did ask parents to either have a school meal or a packed lunch but we now have an updated system whereby you can change between both options. Please contact school if you have any questions.

Meal changes this week :

Wednesday's RED choice will be All Day Breakfast (not Roast Dinner)

Thursday is Italian Themed Lunch Day and choices are as follows:

RED Meatball Marinara with Spaghetti

GREEN Margherita Pizza

BLUE Pepperoni Pizza

<https://www.stjosephssunderland.school/parents/school-meals/>

Attendance

Attendance in school is something we talk about a great deal, and will continue to be a focus this term. Mrs Barnfather is leading and supporting attendance in school and may get in touch if your child is missing sessions and their attendance pattern is causing us concern. Our approach will as always be to support you and your child with improving attendance or lateness. I appreciate that some of you may feel missing a day from school here and there is not that important – but it really does have a massive impact on pupils learning. We start this term with all children back to the starting point and it would be wonderful if we could have more children end this term with 100% attendance than last term!

To help with this, please arrange all dental and medical appointments outside of school hours, where possible, and ensure holidays are taken during the designated holiday weeks.

Details of upcoming events and class newsletters will be shared with you by the end of next week.

We look forward to seeing you across this half term.

Mrs Graham and Mrs Toward