

## Dates for Your DIARY



17th January

**Year 6 visit to the Imperial War Museum**

17th January

**Reception and Year 1 Hogletts Nocturnal  
Animal visit to the Academy**

22nd January

**Year 3 visit to Clip and Climb**

23rd January

**Year 5 Class Assembly**

**Year 5 Stanley Head Parents information  
evening for when children go in Y6**

31st January

**Jamie Knight Freestyle Football  
visit—whole school**

6th February

**Y4 class Assembly**

11th February

**Safer Internet Day**

13th February

**Attendance Reward**

14th February

**Academy closed for one week after today**

24th February

**Academy re-opens**

26th February

**Reception visit to Hoo Farm**

6th March

**World Book Day**

10th March

**Science week—parents invited pm for  
enrichment afternoon**

## A message from the Principal



What a start to the New Year! The snow certainly caused disruption with the unplanned closure. I want to say THANK YOU to all of the parents and carers that supported your children at home with learning and for getting your children into school in the immediate days after.

It was great to see so many smiling faces return after the break and all of the children have worked incredibly hard.

This term, we continue to work on our culture for learning and our focus has been 100% sitting and on task, No Opt Out and Right is Right.

It's been a busy January with many visits or visitors so far. Reception and Year One had a visit from nocturnal animals, Year Two were visited by the Fire Brigade, Year Three went to Clip and Climb, Year Five went to Stanley Head to explore Rivers and Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum.

We are very pleased that Mrs Wedgwood has now joined us as our new Office Administrator. Mrs Wedgwood is still learning her role but will be happy to help in any way that she can.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Parker-Bowen after 19 years at the Academy. Nineteen years is truly remarkable! Mrs Parker-Bowen will be taking up a new role in a local academy closer to her home. On behalf of all the staff at Star, we wish Mrs Parker-Bowen every success in her new role and hope to hear about how she is getting on, once she begins after the February half-

term.

We have some exciting news! We have been lucky to secure new library furniture, 500 new books for our library, a Yoto and a free subscription to the Literacy Trust through the Libraries for Primary Project. Our new resources should arrive during March and April.

The Edurio Parent Survey is now live and we really do value your feedback. The closing date to complete it is 3rd February.

Sadly, our good attendance record for the Academy has significantly declined. The staff work incredibly hard to provide the best education and conditions for your children. However, the attendance is considered by the Government for how well we support our families and their children's education. Please send your children to school. We pride ourselves on being nurturing and we will look after and make adjustments for your children in school.

There is still a Parent Governor vacancy available. Please see myself or Mrs Lewis to find out more.

Wishing you all a fabulous February!

*Mrs Sara Bloor*

**Principal**





## School attendance is important for a child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development.

Evidence shows that students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Establishing good attendance patterns from an early age can help children later on in life.

When children attend school consistently, they are more likely to do well in their work and build strong relationships with the school community.

Parents are legally responsible for making sure that children go to school.

## Why is good attendance and punctuality important?

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

## Authorised or Unauthorised?

If your child is ill, school will need details of their illness. If the reasons for the absence are made known to us, and are appropriate, the absence will be authorised for the first few days. If their illness continues, you may be asked for evidence from your GP. However, school will not authorise non-attendance for illness, if it becomes too frequent. If your child's attendance falls below 90% (persistent absentee), you will also be asked for medical evidence in order to authorise the absence.

## Holiday Taking

Holidays in term time will have a detrimental effect on your child's progress, as they miss chunks of their learning. In line with Star Academy's policy, we will not authorise any holiday in term time.

## Unauthorised Absences

If your child has a number of unauthorised absences, you are at risk of receiving a penalty notice (fine) from the local authority.



## ATTENDANCE FACTS

**Above 97%** Less than 6 days absence a year! Excellent attendance! Pupils with this attendance should achieve the best grades they can.

**95%** Less than 10 days absence in a year! Pupils with this attendance are more likely to achieve their target grades

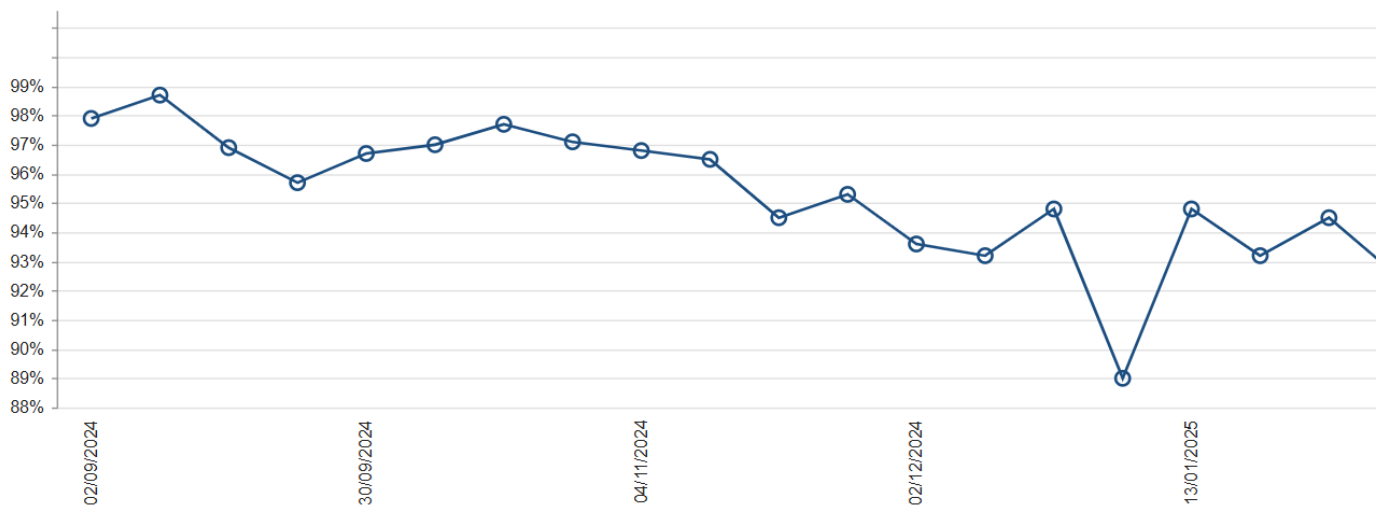
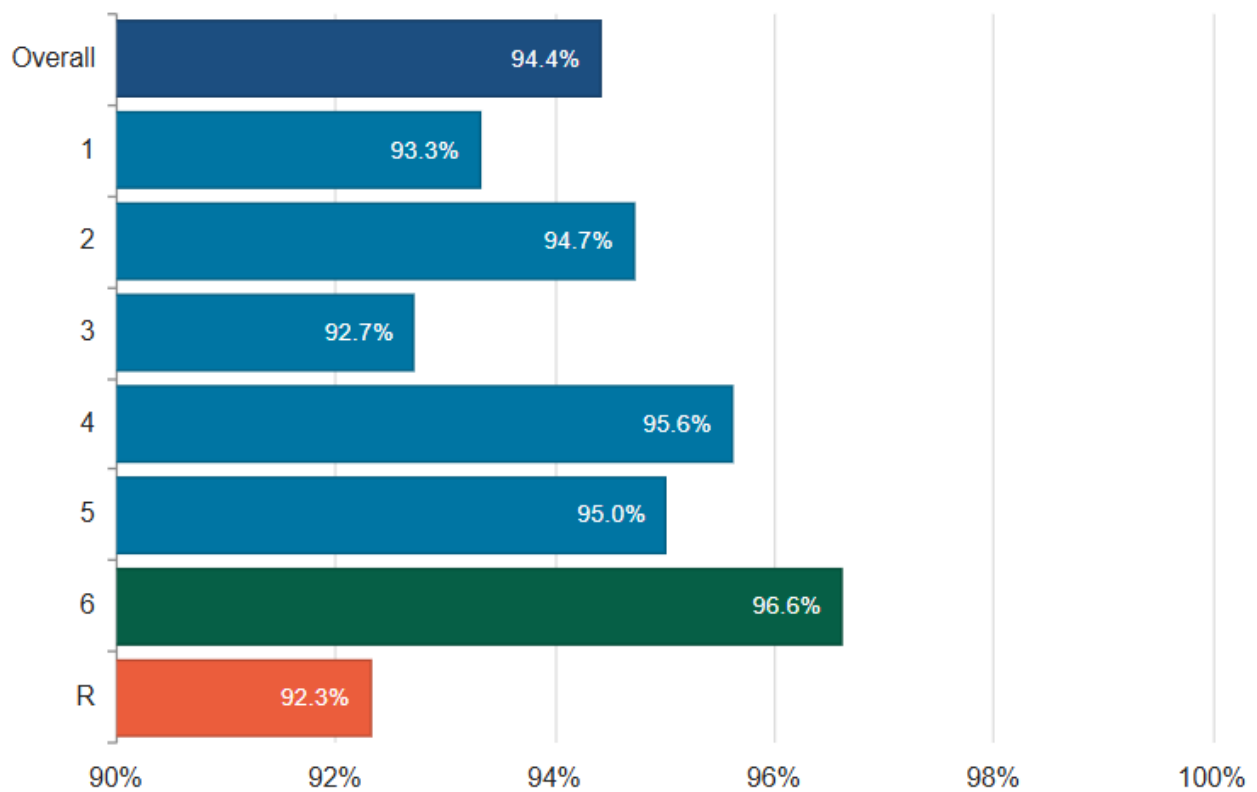
**90%** 20 days absence over the year! Pupils with this attendance are missing approximately a month (20 days) of school per year and may fall behind in Maths, English and other subjects; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.

**85%** 30 days absence in a year! These pupils are missing approximately 6 weeks of school a year! It will be very difficult for them to keep up and achieve their best.

**80%** Pupils with this attendance are missing a day for every week of school! It will be almost impossible to keep up with their work. Parents of pupils with this level of attendance will be well known to the Education Welfare Officer. Your child's attendance will be closely monitored

## Overall

Attendance ▾ ↗



## Over one Academic year





## Meet our Assistant Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



### Mrs Lewis

A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is a person appointed to make sure that schools adhere to their statutory safeguarding policies and duties.

The role of the DSL was specified in the Children Act 2004, stating that every organisation that works with children should have a role dedicated to safeguarding. It's a responsibility that holds both strategic duties within the organisation's frameworks and campaigns, as well as having day-to-day duties to undertake.

Mrs Lewis has been the safeguarding lead at Star for a number of years and her role includes,

- attending meetings with the local authority
- collecting children's views
- training staff on all safeguarding updates
- overseeing early help meetings to ensure parents have the support that they need both at home and at school
- discussing any safeguarding concerns with parents
- ensuring that all pupils feel safe when they are at school.

Mrs Lewis also leads online safety, attendance, culture and behaviour across the school.

*Coffee Morning*  
*Everyone Welcome*



# Safeguarding

## POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS APPS PARENTS / TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

THESE APPS CAN EASILY BE USED AS GROOMING TOOLS BY ONLINE PREDATORS LOOKING TO MEET UP & SEXUALLY ABUSE CHILDREN.

This is not exhaustive, and is updated each year to reflect new risks and dangers (updated 2022). New apps are constantly being created, so it's important to monitor what children download.



<b>FACEBOOK</b> Allows you to connect with others and share comments, photos and videos. You can add friends, write on people's pages and posts, join groups and play games.	<b>SNAPCHAT</b> Is one of the most popular apps in recent years. Whilst the app promises that photo's, videos and stories disappear, others can take screenshots of private photo's.	<b>INSTAGRAM</b> Kids are creating fake accounts to hide content from their parents, according to police. Messages are also deleted once a user leaves a conversation.
<b>WHATSAPP</b> Allows you to send messages, images and videos in 121 and group chats with your contacts. You can choose to share your live location for up to eight hours with one contact or a group.	<b>OMEGLE</b> Is a video chat website where users are matched randomly with strangers.	<b>KIK MESSAGING Kik</b> Is a messaging app that allows content normally filtered on a home computer.
<b>WHISPER</b> Is an anonymous social media app that promotes sharing personal secrets with strangers, (new people). It reveals a users location so people can meet up.	<b>CALCULATOR %</b> Is only one of SEVERAL social media apps disguised as a calculator, the app is actually a secret photo vault to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.	<b>HOT ON NOT</b> Strangers rate a user's 'attractiveness' with the aim of real-world meet ups in your local area.
<b>ASK.FM</b> An app where users can anonymously ask questions and receive answers. The app has been featured in a number of cyber bullying cases.	<b>YUBO</b> Similar to Tinder, the app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other.	<b>BURN BOOK</b> Anonymous rumors can be posted about people through audio messages, texts and photos.
<b>WISHBONE</b> This app allows users to compare kids and rate them on a scale.	<b>SKOUT</b> Is a location based dating app and website. Whilst people under 17 are unable to share private photo's, Children can easily create fake accounts.	<b>MEET ME</b> Is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. The app encourages people to meet.
<b>TELOLYMN</b> Anonymous messenger app. It calls itself "the most honest place on the internet." Age controls are inconsistent and sexual explicit material can be found.	<b>Zoomerang</b> Is a popular app that looks like a harmless messaging app however it allows private anonymous messaging and is location enabled.	<b>TIK TOK</b> Is one of the most popular apps in recent years used for sharing short videos with very limited privacy controls users are vulnerable to explicit material.
<b>FACEBOOK MESSENGER</b> Is one of the most popular message apps in the world. It has already heavily been used by predators and the end-to-end encryption will make it even more unsafe.	<b>BADOO</b> Is a location based dating app and website. Whilst people under 17 are unable to share private photo's, Children can easily create fake accounts.	<b>KIDSCHAT</b> Is one of the most popular apps in recent years used for sharing short videos with very limited privacy controls users are vulnerable to explicit material.
<b>VINE</b> Allows users to watch and post six second videos. While many of the videos are harmless, porn videos do pop up into the feed, exposing your children to sexually explicit material.	<b>POOF</b> Hides other apps on your phone. If children have apps that they want to keep hidden from their parents, all they have to do is download this app and "poof," their screen is clear.	<b>DISCORD</b> A gaming app that allows video sharing and video chat. Bullying is a problem on Discord. Some of the bigger problems include suicidal ideation, hate speech and graphic images.
<b>HOOP</b> Hoop is a dating app that connects to Snapchat and allows 12+ teens to swipe on pictures that they like with the purpose of meeting. This leads to issues with fraud and sexual predators.	<b>GALLERYVAULT</b> GalleryVault and other vault apps hide photos and videos. One of the scarier options on it gives the user access to a secret web browser and alerts the user if someone attempts to break into the app.	<b>PSST!</b> Is a chat room app that prides itself on messages being deleted almost immediately from the server, ID-masking, and secretive private chat. For parents, these features are worrying.

## Parent Governor Vacancy



# Academy Lunch Menus

Star Primary Academy Menu Week One					
Menu for Week Commencing: 24th Feb, 17th Mar, 7th Apr, 12th May, 9th Jun, 30th Jun					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main Option One</b>	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Served with Crispy Wedges & Coleslaw	Chicken Tikka Masala Served with Basmati Rice	Roast Chicken Served with Cabbage, Carrots, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Beef Cottage Pie Served with Chips, Beans & Honey Roast-Parsnips	Southern Fried Chicken Served with Chips, Beans & Peas
<b>Main Option Two</b>	Quorn Bolognaise Served with Wholemeal Pasta, Carrots & Peas	Macaroni Cheese Served with Broccoli & Sweetcorn	Quorn Roast Served with Cabbage, Carrots, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Vegetarian Cottage Pie Served with Green Beans & Honey Roast-Parsnips	Quorn Dippers Served with Chips, Beans & Peas
<b>Daily Available All Week</b>	Jacket potatoes with a choice of hot & cold toppings, Fresh fruit and salad available every day. Ham, Cheese & Tuna sandwiches are available Monday—Thursday.				
<b>Dessert</b>	Berry & Peach Oatley Crumble with Custard	Strawberry Jelly	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Fruity Flagjack	Ice cream

Star Academy Menu Week Two					
Menu for Week Commencing: 3rd Mar, 24th Mar, 28th Apr, 19th May, 16th Jun, 7th Jul					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main Option One</b>	Pepperoni Pizza Served With Crispy Wedges & Coleslaw	Beef Curry Served with Naan Bread with Basmati Rice	Sausage & Yorkshire Pudding Served with Mashed Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots & Gravy	Chicken Fajitas with Crispy Potatoes, Corn on the Cob & Red Cabbage Slaw	Baked Salmon or Fish Fingers Served with Chips, Beans & Peas
<b>Main Option Two</b>	Margherita Pizza Served with Crispy Wedges & Coleslaw	Macaroni Cheese Served with Garlic Bread, Broccoli & Sweetcorn	Quorn Sausage & Yorkshire Pudding Served with Mashed Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots & Gravy	Vegetarian Fajitas with Crispy Potatoes, Corn on the Cob & Red Cabbage Slaw	Cheese & Onion Slice Served with Chips, Beans & Peas
<b>Daily Available All Week</b>	Jacket potatoes with a choice of hot & cold toppings, Fresh fruit and salad available every day. Ham, Cheese & Tuna sandwiches are available Monday—Thursday.				
<b>Dessert</b>	Shortbread	Chocolate & Banana Marble Cake with Custard	Creamy Rice Pudding & Fruit	Pineapple Up-Side Down Pudding with Custard	Ice-Cream & Mini Cookie

Star Academy Menu Week Three					
Menu for Week Commencing: 10th Mar, 31st Mar, 5th May, 2nd Jun, 23rd Jun, 14th July					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main Option One</b>	Chicken Burger Served with Crispy Wedges & Coleslaw	Beef Meatballs Served with Pasta, Broccoli & Sweetcorn	Roast Chicken Served with Cabbage, Carrots, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Beef Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread, Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Crispy Battered Fish Served with Chips, Beans & Peas
<b>Main Option Two</b>	Vegetarian Burger Served with Crispy Wedges & Coleslaw	Cheese & Potato Pie Served with Broccoli & Sweetcorn	Quorn Roast Served with Cabbage, Carrots, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Vegetarian Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread, Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Quorn Dippers Served with Chips, Beans & Peas
<b>Daily Available All Week</b>	Jacket potatoes with a choice of hot & cold toppings, Fresh fruit and salad available every day. Ham, Cheese & Tuna sandwiches are available Monday—Thursday.				
<b>Dessert</b>	American Pancakes	Carrot Cake & Vanilla Custard	Steamed Apple & Syrup Sponge	Mandarin Orange Jelly	Strawberry Mousse



## January Birthday's

Thomas	Kenzie
Archie	Juanita
Alex	Henry
Ayda	Faezah
Sara	George
Tamara	Joshua
Lara	Tawana
Berry	
Jamie	

## Online Reading Books

We can now provide access to the Collins online reading books. Please see the help guide on Dojo and follow this link to login:

[Login - Collins Hub](#)



**Welcome to the Collins Hub Big Cat eBook Library user guide for parents.**  
**This guide will run through how to use the Big Cat eBook Library.**

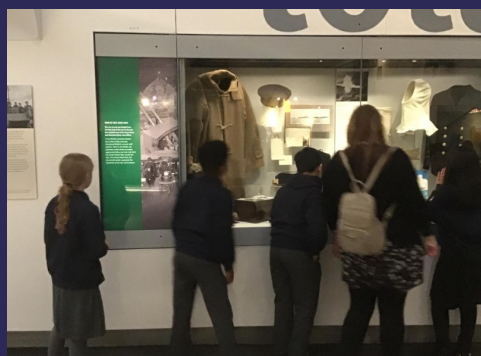
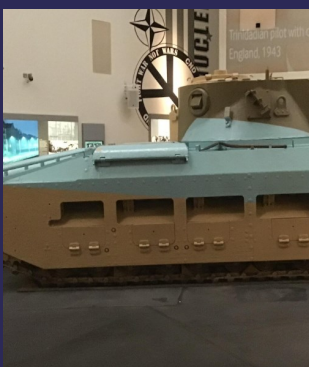
If using a computer or laptop, you can find the login page following the link on our school website (Curriculum > External Websites). Click on the login box 'I am a primary pupil'.



You will be directed to a login screen.



# It's Been a Busy January!



## Club Timetable— Spring 2025 3-3.45pm

Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday

Reception & KS1 - Life Skills - Mrs Homer  
KS2 Art Club - Mrs Maltby  
Y5 & 6 Football Club - Mr Haley & Mr Nicholls  
Y2-Y6 Hands on Club - Mrs Keogh & Mrs Tompkinson

KS2 Netball - Miss Lovatt  
Reception & KS1 Lego Club - Mrs Hobbs  
KS2 Singing Club - Mrs Knowles



### Breakfast Club

We are delighted that so many children are accessing breakfast club. Should you require breakfast club and your children are not currently attending, please enquire at the office to see if places are available.

From 7.30—8 am, breakfast club is charged at £1.

From 8—8.30am, it is free.

**All children MUST be booked online.**

Please complete our

Parent Survey.

See Dojo for the link.

If you have a suggestion for what you would like included in our newsletter, please send a Dojo message or contact the office. We welcome feedback. Please message the school office.

**STAR**  
ACADEMY • SANDYFORD



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Star Newsletter

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