

## A message from the Principal



### Dates for Your DIARY



28th March

Academy closed to children. Staff training day.

1st April

Year 3 Egyptian Day

4th April

Final entry day for egg decorations

7th April

Father Chris Easter Assembly - children only  
Chocolate Bingo (time 2.35pm in the hall)

11th April

Last day of term. Academy closes for 2 weeks

28th April

Academy opens for the summer term

29th April

Y4 One Day Creative Visit

29th April

To be confirmed—Y5 Middleport Pottery Trip

30th April

Coffee afternoon PEGIS

1st May

Coffee morning

5th May

Bank holiday, May Day —Academy closed

12th May

Year Six SATs week begins

15th May

Coffee morning

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the academic year! Firstly, a huge congratulations to our children for their hard work and enthusiasm! We've had a fantastic time with various trips and experiences that have enriched our curriculum and sparked the children's curiosity about the world around them. The progress they've made so far is wonderful. This is because of the children showing the Star Values of being Smart & Safe, Tolerant, Ambitious and Resilient and fully taking onboard our school culture for Cold Calling, No Opt Out, 100% on task and Right is Right. I am immensely proud of you!

Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting your children with their reading and homework at home. The extra practise does make a difference.

This term has been a busy one in Year 6. We will continue to prepare for the May statutory assessments that begin on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Attendance is always of significant importance, even more so as we approach the assessments and during the assessment. Next week, Mr Nicholls will send home how your child scored for the practise tests this term and revision guidance for the children to use over the school holiday. Year Six have worked incredibly hard this year and we are very proud of the progress that all the children have made. Please encourage your children to continue practising over the break. Following the break, we will send out dates for activities, trips, plays, leavers assemblies and their prom.

Please see a message below from the Director of Primary Education at ATT, Mrs Deen. I know many of you may question what this means for the future. Please rest assured that the Academy will be open in September for all year groups from Years 1 to Year 6. The Academy will not be closing and there are no plans to. I will be sending out a survey to try to find out how many children in the school would have siblings that would like to join Star for September 2027 shortly. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

From myself and on behalf of all the staff, thank you for everything this term and we wish you a very Happy Easter, if you are celebrating and an enjoyable holiday for everyone. We look forward to seeing everyone back as Star, bright and early on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April for a busy and exciting term ahead. Enjoy lots of chocolate!

Wishing you all an amazing April!

Mrs Sara Bloor

Principal

### Reception Class for 2025

Unfortunately, due to low pupil numbers, we will not be running a reception class in the academic year of 2025. The Local Authority and potentially affected families have been consulted.

This decision was not made lightly, and it is based on a national decline in the birth rate, which has affected many schools across the country. We understand that this may be disappointing news for some of you, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. We will continue to work with the Local Authority to support the academy moving forward.

Please rest assured that we are committed to providing the best possible education for your children, and we will continue to offer a high standard of teaching and learning in our other classes. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



Please join us for Easter Bingo on Monday 7th April.

Chocolate prizes!

## Meet Mrs Niemczyk



### Executive Trust Principal

Mrs Niemczyk was previously the Vice Principal, before becoming Principal at Sun Academy, Bradwell.

She now works as an Executive Trust Principal supporting Star and all of the other ATT primary academies.

Following your feedback in the parent survey, we be inviting Mrs Niemczyk to some of our parent events. Mrs Niemczyk is very knowledgeable about SEND, Early Years, Phonics and assessment.



# Safeguarding

At Star, we take safeguarding very seriously and ensure at all times that your child is safe and happy.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Lewis, who is our Assistant Principal. Our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Bloor, the Principal and Mrs Eptlett and Mrs Williams, who are our Additional Designated Safeguarding Leads. If you have any concerns, please speak to one of the team.

## The Prevent Duty

If you are ever worried that someone that you know is being radicalised, please visit [www.actearly.uk](http://www.actearly.uk) or speak to a member of the senior leadership team.

### Uniform Reminder

All children are expected to be in the full, correct uniform every day. This includes plain black shoes and a school PE kit.

Please ensure that all uniform has your child's full name clearly labelled in it - the back of the badge is a good place to use for jumpers. We have numerous uniform that goes missing daily and we are unable to locate or find jumpers, cardigans etc if they are not clearly labelled with your child's name to identify it as theirs.

Children can wear a pair of stud earrings but any hoop earrings, rings, bracelets, necklaces and gel/stick on nails are not permitted for health and safety reasons as if these get caught outside on the equipment they pose a serious injury risk. Earring should be removed before school on swimming and PE days - if your child wears earrings on a PE or swimming day they will need to remove them by themselves and be responsible for looking after them. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings nor be accountable for looking after them

### Non Uniform Days

As a Trust, all schools have adopted a more inclusive approach when celebrating and raising awareness of our special days. Many children and parents view non-uniform days as a treat - a day off from having to wear their shoes and school jumpers. For some, it's an opportunity to show off their best clothes and fashion sense.

Sadly, however, for others it's a day that makes them anxious and nervous about coming to school. They're scared about others judging them on their clothing and this can then lead to children not attending school. Children shouldn't be missing out on their education over concerns about their appearance so we will no longer have non-uniform days and will instead celebrate in other ways so everyone can take part



In 2022, an Ofcom report highlighted that over half of 3-17-year-olds are using TikTok. Did you know that TikTok's minimum age for usage is 13? Many of our children in KS2 are sharing that they are using TikTok unsupervised. Please check your children's devices.

### EMOJIS



Emojis may appear harmless. However, in today's world many meanings have developed for them and many of our children may be aware of meanings that we do not know about. Please check your child's device for the use of them in messages, chat rooms and on any platforms that they use. Support can be found online for meanings.

# 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
Main Option One	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 Green Beans & Honey Roast-Parsnips	Southern Fried Chicken Served with Chips, Beans & Peas
Main Option Two	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
Daily Available All Week	Jacket potatoes with a choice of hot & cold toppings. Fresh fruit and salad available every day. Ham, Cheese & Tuna sandwiches are available Monday—Thursday.				
Dessert	Berry & Peach Oatly Crumble with Custard	Strawberry Jelly	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Fruity Flapjack	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
Main Option One	Pepperoni Pizza Served with Crispy Wedges & Coleslaw	Beef Curry Served with Naan Bread with Basmati Rice	Mince & 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
Main Option Two	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
Daily Available All Week	Jacket potatoes with a choice of hot & cold toppings. Fresh fruit and salad available every day. Ham, Cheese & Tuna sandwiches are available Monday—Thursday.				
Dessert	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
Main Option One	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
Main Option Two	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
Daily Available All Week	Jacket potatoes with a choice of hot & cold toppings. Fresh fruit and salad available every day. Ham, Cheese & Tuna sandwiches are available Monday—Thursday.				
Dessert	American Pancakes	Carrot Cake & Vanilla Custard	Steamed Apple & Syrup Sponge	Mandarin Orange Jelly	Strawberry Mousse

## THE MILLION WORD GAP

New research shows the different numbers of words kids will have heard by age 5 based on how often parents read to them:

Never read to: 4,662 words

1-2 times per week: 63,570 words

3-5 times per week: 169,520 words

Daily: 296,660 words

Five books a day: 1,483,300 words

## Why should you READ?!



## 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:

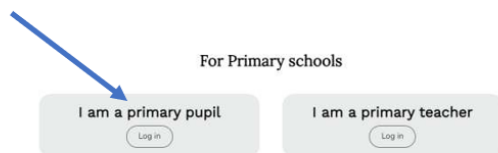
[Login - Collins Hub](#)

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.

## Make Reading Fun!

Click on the link to get more from reading with your child with the help of videos designed to put the fun back into reading. [Make reading fun with Chase Bank](#) | [Words for Life](#)

## Stoke 100 Reads

The city of Stoke-on-Trent is turning 100 years old this year!

Together with [Stoke-on-Trent Libraries](#), we're on the hunt to find our city's 100 favourite children's books to celebrate 100 years of Stoke, as part of our mission to [#GrowAGenerationOfReaders](#). Can you help us?

Click the links to find out more:

[Stoke-on-Trent | National Literacy Trust](#)

[Stoke Reads | Stoke Speaks Out](#)

Are you looking for places to visit?

Click the link for Stoke "Speaks Out"

recommendations: [Places to visit](#) | [Stoke Speaks Out](#)







Mila  
Simon  
Lauren  
Vince  
Leo  
Lola  
Archie  
Gary  
Harry  
Ayan  
Sophia  
Mafaro  
Ann  
Mackenzey  
Anenyasha  
Joey  
Renata

# March in Pictures!

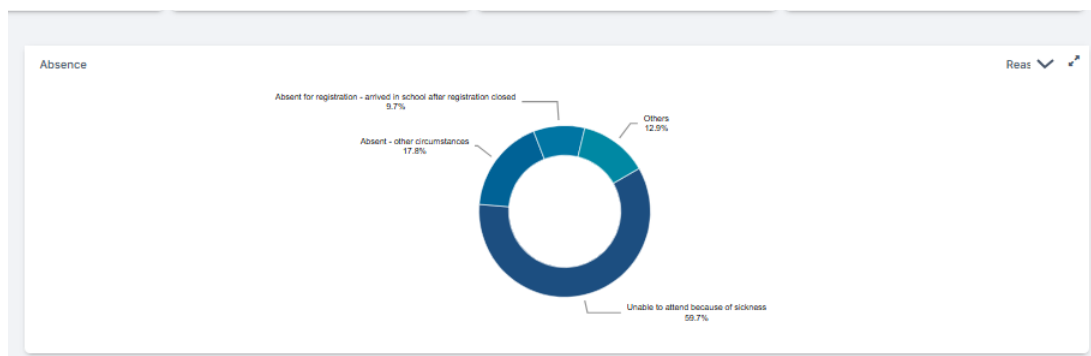
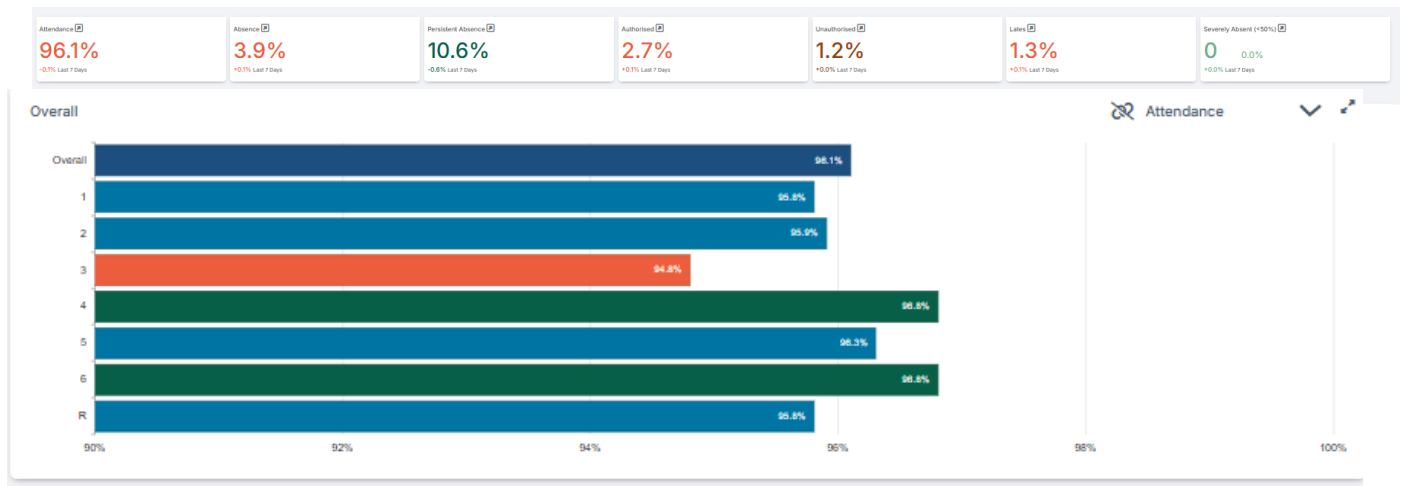
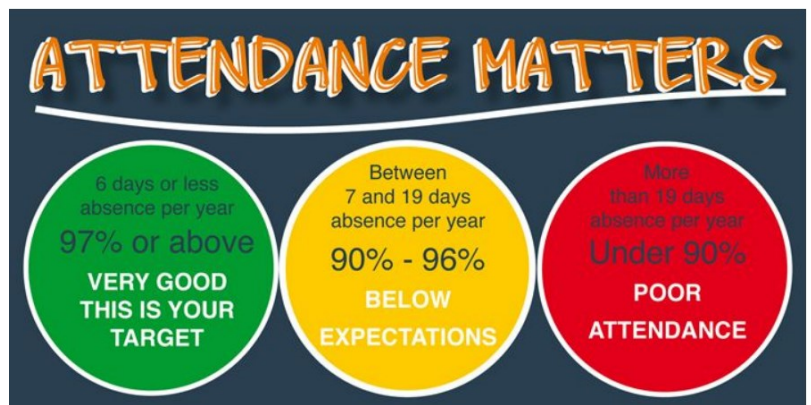


'Hands on Club' have been very busy planting!



To the families,  
who celebrated:





## We are changing the way that we do the Attendance Reward Treat

Attendance rewards will now only be for children with 96% attendance. For all children with 96% attendance, as a special reward they will be participating in a Movie afternoon where they will come to watch a movie in the hall with snacks. This half-term movie will be confirmed shortly. At the end of the next half-term, the treat for our amazing attendance stars will be an attendance disco. Please ensure your child is able to attend the disco by making sure they have 96% or better attendance for the next half term. This half-term there are 70 sessions. Any more than 3.5 days absence would be below 96%. Should you have questions or wish to bring anything to our attention, please speak to us on the gate or make an appointment.

## MOVIE DAY



There is currently to the way that we do our behaviour treat.



### Reporting Absence

Mrs Wedgwood is spending a considerable amount of time calling families that have not reported absence by 9am. This prevents Mrs Wedgwood from being able to do the tasks that she needs to do by certain times and from supporting the wider academy need. As part of our Home School Agreement and Admissions, parents and carers must call or send a Dojo message by 9am.

## Club Timetable— Spring 2025 3-3.45pm

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Reception & KS1 - Life Skills - Mrs Homer

KS2 Art Club - Mrs Maltby

Year 5 & 6 football club has moved to Thursday.

Y2-Y6 Hands on Club - Mrs Keogh & Mrs Tompkinson

KS2 Netball - Miss Lovatt

Reception & KS1 Lego Club - Mrs Hobbs

KS2 Singing Club - Mrs Knowles

Year 5 & 6 football club with Mr Nicholls & Mr Haley.

Parent Governor Vacancy



We are excited to be taking part in the Stoke on Trent centenary camérations. More information will follow shortly.



## 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.**



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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