



St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School
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Friday 10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



Attendance & Punctuality

Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 was 93.26% this week. This means that we are in the **Amber zone** and we are NOT meeting our targets set by the Department for Education. Year 3 won the half termly class prize for Autumn 2 and we are now starting afresh this half term for a class winner for Spring 1!

Attendance	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Week commencing 6 th January	94.62%	93.67%	95.36%	91%	95%	87.67%
Spring Half Term 1	94.62%	93.67%	95.36%	91%	95%	87.67%

Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absence

Please be reminded that from January 2025, pupils who miss 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons, including a term time holidays, will be referred to the Attendance and Placement Team at the local authority and issued a penalty notice.

Following the recent updates to government guidance on attendance, there have been changes to the ways in which schools will handle term time holidays. The fine for taking a child out of school during term time has risen from £60 to £80 per child. If this fine is not paid in the first 21 days following the penalty notice, it will rise to £160. All schools are now required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons, including a term time holiday. This will be doubled if it happens again within three years. Those with a third fine in a three-year period now face prosecution. There is no right to appeal a penalty notice.

Headteachers can only grant an authorised term time absence in exceptional circumstances, which are defined as one-off events that are unavoidable.

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WOW Walk to School Challenge

St Stephen's has chosen to be part of an exciting initiative to encourage more children and their families to walk to school. WOW – the walk to school challenge is delivered by Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, to help as many children as possible experience the benefits of walking to school. The pupil-led challenge enables children to self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel actively (walk/wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride) at least once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that simple!

What are the benefits of walking to school?

- Children feel happier and healthier
- They arrive to school refreshed and ready to learn
- Helps reduce congestion and pollution at the school gates

What if we can't walk to school?

If driving, 'Park and Stride' to help your child earn their WOW badges. Park at least ten minutes away from the school and walk the remaining journey. If using public transport, hop off at least ten minutes away and walk the rest (recorded as 'other' on the WOW Travel Tracker).

Let's swap those school runs for school walks!

Lost Property

We are continuing to receive many items of lost property that remains unclaimed. Please ensure that you check the box at the school office for your child's belongings. Any items not claimed by **Friday 17th January** will be donated. Additionally, there are a number of scooters that have been left at school for a few months to be claimed.

Careers Week 2025

At St. Stephen's, we believe in the importance of children having opportunities to learn about the range of potential careers available to them to raise aspirations for their futures. To do this, we have held a school 'Careers Week' where KS2 pupils go off timetable in the afternoons over the course of a week and engage with a range of different employees in various roles and organisations. In the past, we have had visits to the opticians, vets, florists as well as visitors in school including surgeons, engineers, lawyers, magicians and nurses, to name a few! We are pleased to be offering this again in the summer term during the week 17th -20th February 2025.

We would be very keen to hear from parents or members of our school community who would be able to support the event either personally, or by passing on contact details of someone who would be willing to. Essentially, we are looking for representatives to attend an afternoon that is suitable for them, during the week of 17th -20th February, to talk to groups of children about their career, answering any questions they may have. We can provide guidance on how to structure the talk and can facilitate any use of props/ICT, if needed. We would be grateful to hear from anyone who can offer to support the event by coming to talk to the children about their career. If you are interested or know someone who is, please get in touch with Miss Celardi at the school office (0191 6250900 or office@ststephensrc.org.uk).

Early Years Stay & Play

Please join us for our Chinese New Year themed stay and play session this half term. Sessions usually last half an hour.

Nursery: Thursday 13th Feb 9.00am

Reception: Friday 14th Feb 9.00am

Extra-Curricular Clubs – Spring Term 2025

Timetable for extra-curricular activities for Spring Term (13th January – 4th April 2025):

Day	Lunch Time	After School (3.15pm-4.15pm)
Monday	Maths Club (Year 4, 5 and 6) Mrs Earl and Mrs Massie (25 max attendees)	Dance Club (Year 5 and Year 6) Miss Kinnear (20 max attendees)
Tuesday	Choir (KS2) Mr Neumann	Craft Club (KS2) Mrs Massie (15 max attendees)
Wednesday		Korean Club (KS2) Korean School (Continuing from last term) Last session 26th March 2025
Thursday		Games (KS1) Miss Grigg (10 max attendees)
Friday	Boxercise (KS2) Discover Fitness (Continuing from last term)	Basketball (Year 3 and Year 4) Newcastle United Foundation (20 max attendees)

If you have registered interest for your child to attend a club and they have been allocated a space, you will receive a confirmation message.

School Lunch - Australian Outback Theme Day

See the Australian Outback theme day menu overleaf which will be on offer on **Thursday 16th January** - meals can be ordered via your Appetite account.



Dates for the Diary (as always, dates are subject to change!):

- Thursday 16th January – Australian Outback Theme Day School Lunch
- Monday 20th January – Height and Weight Measurement Programme (Reception and Year 6)
- Monday 27th January – School Photography Day
- Thursday 30th January 9.00am – Awards Assembly
- Wednesday 12th February – Year 6 Maths Workshop
- Thursday 13th February 9.00am – Nursery Stay and Play
- Friday 14th February 9.00am – Reception Stay and Play
- Monday 17th – Thursday 20th February – KS2 Careers Week
- Thursday 20th February – Dogs Trust Workshops (Reception/KS1)
- Thursday 20th February 9.00am – Awards Assembly
- Friday 21st February – SCHOOL CLOSED
- 21st February – 28th February – Half Term