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Friday 15th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance & Punctuality

Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 was 97.77% this week. This means that we are in the **Green zone** and we are meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.



Attendance	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn Half Term 2	96.40%	99.70%	98.60%	95.70%	99.70%	96.30%
Week commencing 11 th November	96.00%	97.35%	97.90%	92.85%	99.50%	97.30%

Phonics Workshop

On **Wednesday 20th November, at 9:15am**, we will be hosting a Phonics workshop for parents of Key Stage 1.

During the session, we will share information regarding the Phonics Screening Check (Year 1), we will share resources and materials to support your child at home, as well as share a range activities to do at home with your child. Phonics is the absolute bedrock of reading, and we would love to share some fun and engaging ideas for you to encourage your child's progress and development in the home.

There'll also be a chance to chat to your child's class teacher too and ask any questions that you may have regarding Phonics and Reading. Come along and learn all about Phonics in Key stage 1! We'd love to see as many of you there as possible!

You can register your interest here: <https://forms.office.com/e/3pt2ZpB19T>

Phonics Workshop - Wednesday
20th November 2024



Book Swap

Our book swap event will take place on **Wednesday 20th November 3.30pm**.

During the event, there will be some fun activities for families to take part in including reading cafes and a raffle.

We would be grateful for donations of unwanted books to support the scheme – please hand these in at school in advance of the event.

We hope that you can make it!

Jewellery

Jewellery (excluding watches) must not be worn to school - this includes earrings. We specifically request that children do not get their ears pierced during the school year. Any child who has had their ears pierced and is unable to remove them because of the 6-week healing process must use a plaster to cover their studs during P.E. lessons. Plasters should be provided by parents. **If this is not adhered to, pupils will not be able to participate in the P.E. lesson.**

Advent Celebration of the Word

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, our Key Stage 2 students will be planning and leading special *Celebration of The Word* services. These services will be held in school and will explore the key themes and messages of Advent. We are pleased to be able to invite parents and carers to join us in this special time of reflection and celebration.

After each service, we will be hosting a *coffee morning* in support of *The People's Kitchen*. All proceeds from the coffee morning will go towards supporting their vital work.

Monday 2nd December 9:15am - Year 6

Monday 9th December 9:15am – Year 5

Monday 16th December 9:15am – Year 4

Advent Mass

On Thursday 12th December, Year 3 will lead us in a special Advent mass, at St. Aidan's Church. After the mass, Year 3 will remain at church, where we will host a coffee morning in the church hall. Parents and Carers of the Year 3 pupils are invited to join us. **Please note not all Year 3 pupils will have a reading, however, all children play a vital role in celebrating the mass. More information to follow.**

Christmas Performances

Don't forget to request your allocated tickets for Christmas performances by Wednesday 20th November.

We are thrilled to be able to invite parents to their children's Christmas performances. Initially, parents will be able to request up to two tickets per child and may be able to get extra tickets should they be available. Please complete the relevant online form or contact the office to request your allocation of tickets by **Wednesday 20th November**. After this, tickets will be given out according to preferences and you will be able to contact the school office to request additional tickets, should there be any available. We understand there is increased financial pressure at this time of year so there will not be a charge for tickets.

EYFS (Nursery and Reception)
Nativity – Wednesday 4th
December 10am and 1.30pm



- EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Nativity – **Wednesday 4th December 10am and 1.30pm**

<https://forms.office.com/e/9rt04P4BhP>

- KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Nativity – **Thursday 5th December 10am and 1.30pm**

<https://forms.office.com/e/1bnt8VhbPQ>

KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Nativity –
Thursday 5th December 10am and
1.30pm



Front Row Seat Raffle

As there is often a demand for front row seats at the Christmas performances, this year parents will be able to buy raffle tickets to win reserved seats in the front row! Each entry holds a chance of winning one of a limited number of front row seats for a chosen performance. Entries cost £1.00 each and can be filled in and paid for by cash or card at the school office. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 2nd December and winners will be notified.

Age- Appropriate Games

Please see notice about age-appropriate games that was in our recent online safety newsletter. All the online safety newsletters can be found on our school website: [Safeguarding & Child Protection | St Stephens](#)

Do you need suggestions on age-appropriate games? You could use either of the following websites to search suitable games.

Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check if it has a communication feature as this might mean you decide a game is not suitable for your child.

- <https://www.askaboutgames.com/find-the-right-game>
- <https://www.familygamingdatabase.com/home>

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

Wednesday 20th November 9.15am – Phonics Workshop
Wednesday 20th November – Book Swap Event 3.30pm
Awards Assembly – Tuesday 26th November 9.00am
Thursday 28th November – Reception Stay and Play 9.00am
Friday 29th November – Nursery Stay and Play 9.00am
Monday 2nd December 9:15am - Advent Celebration of the Word (Year 6)
Tuesday 3rd December – Mr Taylor Bible Stories
Tuesday 3rd December – Wednesday 4th December - Year 3 Residential visit to The Sill
Wednesday 4th December 10am and 1.30pm - EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Nativity
Thursday 5th December 10am and 1.30pm - KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Nativity
Friday 6th December 12.45pm - Year 6 Athletics
Monday 9th December 9:15am – Advent Celebration of the Word (Year 5)
Tuesday 10th December 9.00am - Awards Assembly
Thursday 12th December – Year 3 lead Advent Mass
Thursday 12th December 6pm - KS2 Christmas Carol Service
Tuesday 10th December 2024 - KS1 Santa’s Grotto Rising Sun Visit
Wednesday 11th December 10.00am - Oxford Centre Community Christmas Sing
Monday 16th December 9:15am – Advent Celebration of the Word (Year 4)
Tuesday 17th December 1pm-3pm - Christmas Disco
Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19th December - Christmas Pantomime (in school)
Friday 20th December 9.00am - Awards Assembly